International Network for School Attendance

Inaugural INSA Conference
October 16th - 18th 2019
Oslo, Norway
Welcome

It is truly our pleasure to welcome you to Oslo for this very first INSA Conference. We are glad you are here, to contribute to this unique gathering and return home with inspiration, resources, and new connections at local, national, and international levels. It is our strong belief that it is only through collaboration, via a network like INSA, that we can improve school attendance for all youth.

The INSA website presents our Mission (www.insa.network): to promote school attendance and respond to school attendance problems, by compiling, generating, evaluating, and disseminating information, assessment, and intervention strategies. This Mission is achievable through collaboration, which calls for willingness to engage and scope for communication.

It’s not always easy to collaborate. The Conference Committee experienced first-hand some of the challenges of collaborating across time and space. Video-conference meetings were held when, on one side of the world it was almost time to tuck the kids into bed, and on the other side it was time to take them off to school. But these are small challenges compared to the results.

During this Conference there are many opportunities to engage and communicate, as we listen and respond to the presenters; participate in discussion during the Round Table Discussions; continue conversation during lunches and dinners; plan extra ‘meeting moments’ via the Doodle Wall; stay connected via Twitter (@INSAttendance) using the Conference hashtag (#INSAConference2019); and join in the early morning walks.

We are delighted to present a program covering personal, clinical, practical, theoretical, scientific, and policy-related perspectives on attendance and absenteeism. The generous contributions of stakeholders – youth, parents, practitioners, policy-makers, and researchers – have resulted in this 3 day program. The titles of the presentations are presented in this program, and full descriptions are found at www.insaconference.com (first ‘click to expand’ and then ‘view abstracts’).

School absenteeism: A universal problem in need of local, national, and international solutions

Your participation in this Conference is a key part of our collective effort to establish a flourishing field focused of school attendance and absenteeism. We hope the connections you build here at Holmenkollen will lead to valuable outcomes for the young people we all serve. With best wishes for a collaborative Conference and inspired solutions at local, national, and international levels.

The INSA 2019 Conference Committee
Your Conference Committee

Chairperson, INSA Conference Committee
Dr David Heyne, Developmental and Educational Psychology, Leiden University, The Netherlands

Working to advance the Mission of INSA also fulfils a personal goal: to make research more meaningful for practice. I’m pleased to play a part in speeding up progress in the field of school attendance because there are great needs and there is a sense of urgency.

Chairperson, Scientific Program Committee
Dr Glenn Melvin, School of Psychology, Deakin University, Australia

Education is central to children’s healthy development. By forming a professional network we increase the sharing of knowledge and support the development of new ideas about improving school attendance. This is central to the Mission of INSA and I’m proud to support this Mission.

Co-Chairperson, Social Committee / Scandinavian Logistics Committee
Dr Malin Gren Landell, Department of Education, Norrköping City Council, Sweden

School absenteeism is a universal societal challenge. There is a burning need to work together internationally to promote attendance. We need to collate and share knowledge, data, and experiences. Being part of INSA is my way to take responsibility for ensuring access to education.

Co-Chairperson, Social Committee
Dr Carolyn Gentle-Genitty, Indiana University School of Social Work, Indiana University, USA

One of the most important things we do for our children is ensure their time in education enriches them forever. For this, they need to be present and engaged. My personal goal is to promote proper practice and science for absenteeism and attendance, to interrupt negative pathways for students.

Chairperson, Scandinavian Logistics Committee
Trude Havik, Centre for Behavioural Research, University of Stavanger, Norway

When school is safe and engaging, students can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. I’m really pleased INSA encourages people from different disciplines and countries to meet and work together on the important goal of helping students attend school. We’re better and stronger together, collaborating in the best interests of all our students.
Our Supporters

INSAs extremely grateful to the many people and organizations supporting this Conference

We thank you, valued Conference participant, for taking time out of your work schedule to collaborate during this gathering.

We thank our Keynote Speakers for your substantial contributions to our program, and our symposium presenters and the facilitators of the Round Table Discussions for being prepared to come from far and near to share your work and experience with us.

Special thanks go to our youth representatives from the ‘Change Factory’ in Norway, and our parent representatives from the School Phobia Association in France.

We thank the founding members of INSA for supporting the Conference Committee by engaging in sound-boarding with us, sharing ideas and enthusiasm for this inaugural Conference, and helping with the work of the Conference Sub-Committees.

Thank-you to the symposia Chairpersons, we appreciate your willingness to take on this role.

Thank-you to the young people who contribute their skills and talents: students from the Elvebakken Upper Secondary School who made an assignment out of doing the filming and photography for us, and University of Oslo students supporting the Conference Committee.

With thanks also to Jan Tore Sanner, Norwegian Minister of Education and Integration, for taking time out of a busy schedule to share your thoughts with us at the start of this gathering.

We are grateful to Svend, Tor, and Per at JobbAktiv, the company that has done so much background work in setting up the registration website, managing registrations, liaising with the hotel, and responding to our 100s (and 100s) of email requests. We are also grateful to the staff at Scandic Holmenkollen Park for looking after us during our stay.

Thank-you to those who have added their touch to our social program, including Kristin Gärtner Askeland for the walking tours and Kristine Emilie Krüger for your musical talents.

We are very pleased to have the support of two official sponsors, ‘Continuity in Education’ and the ‘European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry’. 
Your Program

We are delighted to offer a rich program. The Conference features keynote addresses each day, 13 symposia to choose from, and numerous options for informal dialogue during the Round Table Discussions. To sign up for a topic in the Round Table Discussions please add your name to the lists near the Doodle Wall. Due to the format of these discussions there will be a limited number of places for each topic. The abstracts for symposia presentations can be found at www.insaconference.com (first ‘click to expand’ and then ‘view abstracts’). After the Conference, pdf copies of the PowerPoint presentations will be made available via www.insa.network.

Day 1, Wednesday 16th October

9.30 - 10.00  Opening
Official welcome to the inaugural Conference of the International Network for School Attendance

10.00 – 11.00  Keynote Address [Saga Hall]
School climate, positive school discipline, and school attendance
(Associate Professor Carolyn Gentle-Genitty, Indiana University School of Social Work, USA)

11.00 – 11.30  Morning Tea

11.30 – 13.00  Symposium 1: Hearing the Voices of Youth and Parents [Saga Hall]
Chairperson: Trude Havik

1. My experience of school and the helping system. (Youth Representatives from Forandringsfabrikken [The Change Factory], NORWAY)
2. What ten years in the parent association for school refusal taught us: Shared experiences. (Odile Mandagaran & Luc Mathis, Association Phobie Scolaire [School Phobia Association], FRANCE)
3. We want you to listen: What young people want us to know about school refusal. (Lisa McKay-Brown, University of Melbourne, AUSTRALIA; Judy Ring & R. McGrath, Travancore School, AUSTRALIA; C. Mitchell, Royal Children’s Hospital, AUSTRALIA)

13.00 – 14.00  Lunch

14.00 – 15.30  Symposium 2: Using School Attendance Data so Everyone Benefits [Room A]
Chairperson: Christopher Kearney

1. School attendance teams in action: Strategic use of data within an RTI / Multi-Tiered System of Supports framework. (Patricia Graczyk, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA)
2. Targeting students at high risk for non-attendance: A school-based model to prevent absence and increase school completion among upper secondary school students. (Robin Ulriksen, Statped - National Service for Special Needs Education, NORWAY)
3. An essential companion: Leveraging system wide data to transform approaches to school attendance. (Catherine Munro, R. Gorbach, & D. Walker, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, AUSTRALIA)

Symposium 3: How Schools Can be Supportive When Attendance Problems Already Exist [Room B]
Chairperson: Kirsten Hancock

1. Unlikely companions: Introducing one way mirrors and reflective teams into school systems for work with vulnerable students and families. (Heather Dalby, R. Gorbach, C. Munro, & D. Walker, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, AUSTRALIA)
Symposium 3 continues...:
2. Scared of the school gate? What schools can do against school refusal. (Gino Ameye, Centre for Child & Youth Mental Health Karus Melle / HOGENT, BELGIUM; G. De Nys, F. Van Drongelen, & N. De Stercke, University College Ghent, BELGIUM)
3. Tuuve: Supported online teaching for students who refuse to go to school. (Johanna Sergejeff, Valteri Center for Learning and Consulting, FINLAND)

15.30 – 16.00 Afternoon Tea

16.00 – 17.30 Symposium 4: Prevention and Early Intervention for Absenteeism - Working in Tiers 1 and 2 For Primary and Secondary School Students [Room A]
Chairperson: Malin Gren Landell

1. The first years in upper secondary school are often challenging: Can a good psychosocial environment mitigate the challenge? (Torill Bogsnes Larsen, University of Bergen, NORWAY)
2. What do ‘parental monitoring of adolescents’ and ‘parental involvement with adolescents’ have to do with school absence? (Kristin Gärtner Askeland, NORCE - Norwegian Research Centre, NORWAY)
3. Preventing absence by providing caring and safe schools for all students. (Trude Havik, University of Stavanger, NORWAY)
4. School attendance team in Bergen: A project to prevent school non-attendance. (Marion Stava Bjørgan & Annett Lyngtu, Educational-Psychological Service [PTT] Bergen, NORWAY)

Symposium 5: How Helping Professionals Can be Supportive When Attendance Problems are Severe or Complex [Room B]
Chairperson: Martin Knollmann

1. Planning for school re-entry following psychiatric hospitalization. (Patricia Graczyk, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA)
2. Medication for school refusal: What role does it play? (Michael Gordon, Monash Health, AUSTRALIA; Glenn Melvin, Deakin University, AUSTRALIA)
3. Supporting school-refusing adolescents with (mild) intellectual disability via a research-based treatment protocol. (Floor Sauter, De Banjaard/Youz, THE NETHERLANDS; David Heyne, Leiden University, THE NETHERLANDS; C.L.M. van Vliet, De Banjaard/Youz, THE NETHERLANDS)

Day 2, Thursday 17th October

9.30 – 10.00 Welcome to Day 2
Did You Miss This on Day 1? + Q&A + Looking Ahead to Day 2

10.00 – 11.00 Keynote Address [Saga Hall]
A bird’s-eye view of school attendance and absenteeism: Moving from fragmentation to reconstruction. (Professor Christopher Kearney, Distinguished Professor and Chair of Psychology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA)

11.00 – 11.30 Morning Tea

11.30 – 13.00 Symposium 6: The Marriage Between Education & Mental Health Care – Which of the German, Australian, and Dutch Examples Demonstrate True Partnership in Intervention for Absenteeism? [Room A]
Chairperson: Carolyn Gentle-Genity

1. Love at first sight? The Essener Manual as a multi-professional approach to intervention for school absenteeism. (Volker Reissner & Martin Knollmann, LVR-Clinic Essen / University of Duisburg-Essen, GERMANY)
2. In2School: A shared response to school refusal. (Lisa McKay-Brown, University of Melbourne, AUSTRALIA; J. Ring & R. McGrath, Travancore School, AUSTRALIA; C. Mitchell, Royal Children’s Hospital, AUSTRALIA)
Symposium 7: Second-Wave and Third-Wave CBT – Examples from Denmark, France, Germany, and the United States [Room B]
Chairperson: Glenn Melvin

1. Back2School: A feasibility study of a modular cognitive behavioural intervention for youth with school attendance problems. (Johanne Jeppesen Lomholt & Daniel Bach Johnsen, Aarhus University, DENMARK; Wendy Silverman, Yale University Child Study Center, USA; David Heyne, Leiden University, THE NETHERLANDS; Pia Jeppesen, Mental Health Services in the Capital Region of Denmark, DENMARK; Mikael Thastum, Aarhus University, DENMARK)
2. School refusal in adolescence: Effectiveness of a cognitive behavioural outpatient treatment program in France. (Hélène Denis, University Hospital, Montpellier, FRANCE)
3. Implementation of schema therapy in an inpatient unit for adolescents with absenteeism and mental health problems. (Ursula Neumann, LVR-Clinic Essen / University of Duisburg-Essen, GERMANY)
4. Re-thinking interventions for school attendance problems: Implementing Dialectical Behaviour Therapy and web-based coaching. (Brian Chu & L. Rizvi, Rutgers University, USA; E. A. Zendegui, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, USA; L. Bonavitacola, Cognitive Behavioral Consultants, USA)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Round Table Discussions [Saga Hall]
In-depth dialogue with other Conference participants. Round 1 commences at 14.00, Round 2 commences at 14.50. Places are limited in each group; sign-up earlier in the day, near the Doodle Wall.

15.30 – 16.00 Afternoon Tea

16.00 – 17.30 Symposium 8: Educational Projects and Psychiatric Projects in Germany, and an Effectiveness Project in the Netherlands [Room A]
Chairperson: Brian Chu

1. Inpatient and outpatient treatment for youth with school absenteeism and mental disorders. (Daniel Walter, University Hospital Cologne, GERMANY; Eva Möhler, University of Heidelberg, GERMANY; M. Döpfner, GERMANY; F. Resch, GERMANY)
2. Bridging the gap: Fostering transitions between outpatient and inpatient treatment for youth with severe absenteeism. (Volker Reissner, Martin Knollmann, & Johannes Hebebrand, LVR-Clinic Essen / University of Duisburg-Essen, GERMANY)
3. Educational concepts and interventions for school absenteeism in Germany. (Heinrich Ricking, Karsten Speck, & Gislea Schulze, University of Oldenburg, GERMANY)
4. The highs and lows of translating a research-based treatment protocol for school refusal to a real-world setting. (Cynthia Defourny, Evelyne Karel, & Hilde Hermes, De Berkenschutse Centre of Expertise for Special Education, THE NETHERLANDS; David Heyne, Leiden University, THE NETHERLANDS)

Chairperson: Johanna Sergejeff


17.30 – 19.30 Informal Time
Use the Doodle Wall and the @INSAttendance Conference hashtag (#INSAConference2019) to arrange a meeting of an interest group, national group, or something totally unrelated to school attendance.
**Day 3, Friday 18th October**

9.30 – 10.00  
**Welcome to Day 3**  
Did You Miss This on Day 2? + Q&A + Looking Ahead to Day 3

10.00 – 11.00  
**Keynote Address [Saga Hall]**  
Addressing absenteeism: Myths, methods, and morals. (Professor Michael Gottfried, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA)

11.00 – 11.30  
**Morning Tea**

11.30 – 13.00  
**Symposium 10: School Attendance in Youth With a Disability – Challenges and Opportunities [Room A]**  
Chairperson: Floor Sauter

1. Hear our stories: Voices of students with neurodevelopmental disorders that have been school non-attendees. (Elisabeth Øverland, Maren-Johanne Nordby, & Espen Langbråten Wilberg, Statped - National Service for Special Needs Education, NORWAY)
2. How sensory difficulties might influence school refusal behaviour in students with neurodevelopmental disorders. (Hedda Gjesti Tjäder, Statped - National Service for Special Needs Education, NORWAY)
3. School attendance in Australian school students with an intellectual disability. (Kylie Gray, Monash University, AUSTRALIA; Richard Hastings, University of Warwick, UK; David Heyne, Leiden University, THE NETHERLANDS; Vaso Totsika, University College London, UK; Bruce Tonge, Monash University, AUSTRALIA; Glenn Melvin, Deakin University, AUSTRALIA)
4. School non-attendance among UK children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. (Vaso Totsika, University College London, UK; Richard Hastings & Yoko Dutton, University of Warwick, UK; Alison Worsley & Glenn Melvin, Deakin University, AUSTRALIA; Kylie Gray, University of Warwick, UK; Bruce Tonge, Monash University, AUSTRALIA; David Heyne, Leiden University, THE NETHERLANDS)

**Symposium 11: Who is Missing and Why? Profiles and Integrative Models [Room B]**  
Chairperson: Martin Karlberg

1. Who are we missing? Characteristics and different profiles of youths with school attendance problems. (Daniel Bach Johnsen, Johanne Jeppesen Lomholt, & Mikael Thastum, Aarhus University, DENMARK)
2. Who else is missing from our classrooms? Migrant students, chronic absenteeism, and implications for school leaders. (Joshua Childs, University of Texas at Austin, USA)
3. The relationship between pedagogical climate, social climate, and absenteeism: A multilevel study of 101 Swedish schools. (Martin Karlberg, Uppsala University, SWEDEN; Kirsten Hancock, University of Western Australia, AUSTRALIA; Filip Andersson & Melody Almoth, The Karolinska Institute, SWEDEN; Nina Klang, Uppsala University, SWEDEN, Christopher Kearney, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA; Maria Rosaria Galanti, The Karolinska Institute, SWEDEN)
4. Parents, adolescents, peers, and school policy: A multi-level analysis on the effect of their interplay on authorized and unauthorized absenteeism. (Rene Halberstadt, Ingrado / Erasmus University, THE NETHERLANDS)
Symposium 12: Instruments to Screen and Assess School Attendance Problems [Room A]
Chairperson: Jo Magne Ingul

1. The School Non-Attendance ChecKlist (SNACK): A screening for non-attendance type. (Glenn Melvin, Deakin University, AUSTRALIA; Kylie Gray & Richard Hastings, University of Warwick, UK; Vaso Totsika, University College London, UK; Bruce Tonge, Monash University, AUSTRALIA; David Heyne, Leiden University, THE NETHERLANDS)
2. The School Refusal Evaluation Scale (SCREEN) for Adolescents: Construction, validation, and feedback from the field. (Marie Gallé-Tessonneau & K. Gana, University of Bordeaux, FRANCE)
3. The School Refusal Assessment Scale-Revised: Psychometric studies carried out in three Spanish-speaking countries. (Carolina Gonzálvez Maciá & Ricardo Sanmartín López, University of Alicante, SPAIN)
4. Identification of profiles derived from the School Refusal Assessment Scale-Revised. (Ricardo Sanmartín López & Gonzálvez Maciá, University of Alicante, SPAIN)
5. Assessing forms and functions of school absenteeism: The Inventory of School Attendance Problems. (Martin Knollmann, Volker Reissner, & Johannes Hebebrand, LVR-Clinic Essen / University of Duisburg-Essen, GERMANY)
6. Assessing the outcome of treatment for school refusal: Are we measuring up? (Johan Strömbeck, Magelungen Utveckling AB, SWEDEN; David Heyne, Leiden University, THE NETHERLANDS; Martin Bergström, Lund University, SWEDEN; Katarina Alanko, Åbo Akademi University, FINLAND; Robin Ulriksen, Statped - National Service for Special Needs Education, NORWAY)

Symposium 13: Research That Can Guide our Grassroots Work [Room B]
Chairperson: Joshua Childs

1. Is the rate of school absence changing as society changes? A study based on Finnish national data. (Katarina Alanko, Åbo Akademi University, FINLAND)
2. Differentiating between nonproblematic & problematic school absenteeism: How much absence is too much absence? (Gil Keppens, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, BELGIUM)
3. Is school absence related to milder mental health problems in adolescence? (Kristin Gärtner Askeland, NORCE - Norwegian Research Centre, NORWAY)
4. Relationships between emotional disorder and absence from school in the British Child and Adolescent Mental Health Surveys Surveys. (Katie Finning, O. Ukoumunne, D.A. Moore, & T. Ford, University of Exeter, UK)
5. An overview of school refusal in France: The first national health survey, and how we made it possible. (E. Chan Sock Peng, University of Paris-Saclay, FRANCE; C. Barry, French National Institute of Health and Medical Research [Inserm], FRANCE; P. Nadin, University of Paris Descartes, FRANCE; M.R. Moro, French National Institute of Health and Medical Research [Inserm], FRANCE; B. Falissard, University of Paris-Saclay, FRANCE; L. Benoit, French National Institute of Health and Medical Research [Inserm], FRANCE)
Opportunities for Connection and Collaboration

We hope this gathering in Oslo will also be socially engaging and connecting. To help out a bit, we’ve organized a few facilities and activities:

**Throughout the Conference**

**Doodle Wall**
Throughout the Conference there will be a Doodle Wall where everyone is welcome to share questions, thoughts and ideas, ongoing projects, proposals for collaborations/meetings, websites, resources, etc.

**Exhibitors**
Exhibitors have been invited to be present during the Conference so you can learn more about their services and products.

**15th October**

**Informal Pre-Conference Dinner**
If you arrive in time for dinner at the Holmenkollen hotel on Tuesday 15th and would like to meet up with other participants, please look for the people wearing the INSA badges. We’ll be near the hotel reception desk between 18.45 and 19.00. Participants are asked to cover their own dinner costs.

**16th October**

**Ski Jumping!**
Those of you who already signed up for ski jumping in response to our Welcome letter are asked to meet us at the reception desk at 17.45 pm for the walk to the ski-jump location. If extra spaces are available we’ll be sure to announce this on the morning of the 16th.

**17th October**

**Morning Walk**
Meet at the reception desk at 8.30 am for a 30 minute walk. In case of rain, snow, or heavy wind the walk will be cancelled.

**Pre-Dinner Entertainment**
For those of you who registered for the Conference Dinner, we welcome you to join us for pre-dinner entertainment in the Saga Føaje at 19.30 pm. Young musician Kristine Emilie Krüger will be performing. Kristine is a violinist, singer, pianist, and composer from Stavern, Norway. Only 16 years old, she already has several performances as a solo artist. Her passion for music brought her to a semi-final performance in Telenor Arena in front of 15,000 people for Norway’s Got Talent, and playing as violin soloist in front of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon, on three occasions no less! Kristine is also violinist in a national orchestra and two regional orchestras.

**Conference Dinner**
The dinner starts at 20.00 pm in The Gallery, situated in the dining area; ‘business casual’ dress code.
18th October

Morning Walk
Meet at the reception desk at 8.30 am for a 30 minute walk. In case of rain, snow, or heavy wind the walk will be cancelled.

Extra activities
We invite you to use the Doodle Wall during the Conference to make plans with colleagues old and new, for post-conference drinks at the hotel, or an activity in downtown Oslo.
Helpful to Know

• Photography and filming will occur throughout the Conference. Excerpts will be available for INSA Members via the INSA website. A few Round Table Discussions will be voice-recorded to provide a record that facilitates the work of INSA as we go forward (e.g., decision-making about how to achieve consensus, involve stakeholders, disseminate material). As this is a public conference, consent to be filmed or recorded is not needed. However, if for a specific reason you would want to be excluded please email info@insa.network.

• If you left something at home or an urgent matter arises while you’re away, ask for support from JobbAktiv staff (our local Conference organizers) at the registration desk, or one of our team wearing the INSA badges. INSA is not liable for any on-site or off-site emergencies.

• Disclaimer: INSA’s Mission encourages us to disseminate as much information as possible, without judgement. This should not be seen as an endorsement by INSA. Please access and use the information with proper judgement. Information shared remains the right of those who authored it and they maintain such right even when you access the information via the INSA website. Please contact presenters directly with questions or suggestions.

• INSA is a new network, established in March of 2018. We have been operating on a shoe-string budget during these early days and will scale up in the next two years (e.g., broader international reach, more resources and platforms available via the website). If you are committed to INSA’s Mission and would like to get involved, please send an email to info@insa.network. We seek hard-working volunteers able to commit at least 2 days per month. During ‘Panel Points and Closing Ceremony’ we’ll present an overview of roles to be filled within INSA Sub-Committees.

• As a participant at this inaugural Conference you are entitled to INSA Membership until the end of 2020. To register your membership and opt in for INStAnt! (the quick-and-easy update on attendance issues) and the communication platform, visit https://insa.network/membership. We hope you’ll encourage colleagues and organizations to join as Members. To make a donation to INSA, which is a wholly not-for-profit network, please email info@insa.network for details.

• The 2020 INSA Conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia. Stay tuned to the INSA website for details, but it will very likely be in the vibrant heart of this cosmopolitan city.