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## Introduction to International Journal of Down Syndrome, Volume 1, Issue 1 and Journal on Developmental Disabilities, Volume 18, Issue 2

We are very pleased to have edited this collaborative issue between the *International Journal of Down Syndrome (IJDS)*, formerly *Down Syndrome Quarterly*, and the *Journal on Developmental Disabilities (JoDD)*, that is being published to mark the 11<sup>th</sup> World Down Syndrome Congress in Cape Town, South Africa on August 15–17, 2012. This special issue includes original research reports and research reviews from basic science to professional practice by scholars from around the world.

The articles, which cover the lifespan, have been grouped into sections on education and cognition, family life, and health. We hope that they, and this special issue, will contribute meaningfully to the literature on Down syndrome in particular and developmental disabilities in general, and will be a memorable and informative souvenir from the World Congress for parents and professionals alike.

We would like to thank the chief editors of JoDD (listed in the Table of Contents) for their generous support, advice, and practical help in developing this joint project. Jennifer Shaw and Leah Gryfe worked with us patiently and supportively in producing the special issue. We also wish to acknowledge the assistance of Vanessa dos Santos, National Executive Director, Down Syndrome South Africa for arranging distribution of the special issue to the participants of the World Congress and the support of other trustees of Down Syndrome International (DSI), including Penny Robertson, Chair of Trustees, and Balbir Singh, Past President.

Best wishes to all the attendees for a successful and informative congress.

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