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A Message from the INSA President

INSA has had a productive year, marked by several important achievements. These include the establishment of our Emerging Scholar Subcommittee, the translation of our website, the creation of NONNA, and significant progress towards our 5th Conference in Alicante.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Executive Committee, our Subcommittees, new Conference Committee, NONNA, and, of course, our INStAnt! Editorial Team for the tremendous work they have undertaken throughout 2025. Your commitment, expertise, and generosity of time continue to advance our mission and the field more broadly.

At the same time, our work is not done. As you will know well, attendance and engagement across many school communities remain below the levels needed to ensure students can access an optimal education. This makes our collective efforts as professionals, researchers, students, and advocates as important as ever.

Looking ahead, in 2026 INSA will be developing a Vision Statement to guide our work in the years to come. We will be seeking your input to ensure that INSA remains fit for purpose and continues to add meaningful value for its members and the field. We will be in touch in the new year to invite your ideas, guidance, and support.

I look forward to working with you all in 2026 as we continue this important work together.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, relaxing, and restorative festive season.

Best wishes,
Glenn Melvin

Newly Elected Members of the INSA Executive Committee

Following our recent AGM, we are pleased to announce the newly elected members of the INSA Executive Committee, Jake Brosius (USA) and Chiara Enderle (Germany).

Congratulations Jake and Chiara! We're looking forward to working closely with you to continue to bring INSA's mission to life!

Conferences and Events

2026 INSA CONFERENCE - ALICANTE, SPAIN

30th September - 2nd October 2026

Hotel Alicante Golf



Keynote Speakers Announced!

The Conference Committee is pleased to announce the keynote speakers for the 2026 INSA Conference in Alicante.



Samo Varsik
OED Analyst



Tamsin Ford
University of
Cambridge



Aaron Lyon
University of
Washington

Details about abstract submission and registration will be available in the new year. Keep an eye on your email inboxes and the INSA website!

In Attendance

with

Lisa McKay-Brown

Earlier this year, Lisa McKay-Brown, INSA's Secretary, travelled to Chile, the US, the UK, Ireland, France, and the Netherlands to meet with colleagues working on school attendance and learn from their work in research and on the ground. Her goal was to connect in person and learn from local contexts to better understand how we can work to support students to be present, engaged, and supported at school.

Lisa's trip highlighted to her that we are all experiencing a common challenge in relation to school attendance and engagement, noting that we have "a shared problem to solve". Further, our understanding and approaches need to evolve in order to be able to address these challenges – "Education needs to change. Our understanding of attendance needs to change."

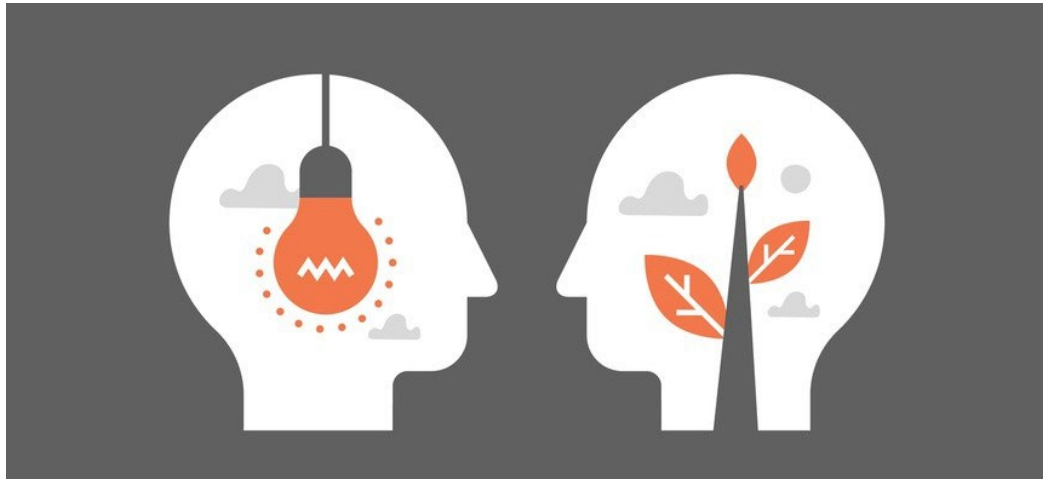
The importance of building a strong evidence-base and ensuring fidelity when implementing tiered frameworks, supports, and interventions was a critical learning. Lisa identified data as one of the key barriers to doing this successfully but she was excited to see some innovative data systems being created and was able to share these systems back home in Australia, a clear demonstration of how learnings from our colleagues across the world can be applied in local contexts. Looking ahead, Lisa is excited about the opportunity to continue to build and share knowledge, saying "I would really like to see how we can really leverage our international network".

During her travels, Lisa was able to see how the work we all do to support young people to attend and engage with school has a direct impact. Her visit to Chile was especially impactful. "One of the things I took away from that was the importance of teaching for attendance." Observing classrooms firsthand gave Lisa insight into how educators embed attendance into everyday teaching practice, making it part of the learning culture rather than a separate task. This reinforced her belief that solutions must be rooted in local contexts and responsive to the needs of students and communities.

Reflecting on her trip, Lisa was especially struck by the welcoming and collaborative community that has been cultivated by the members of INSA. "It doesn't matter that we're

working in 20 different countries,” she reflected. “When we come together, or when we visit each other, we are still that community.”

INSA’s Mentoring Program



Are you a Professor or Associate Professor with expertise in school attendance? Are you interested in supporting the development of emerging researchers? Then our mentoring program is for you!

INSA’s mentoring program focuses on collaboration, knowledge sharing, and professional development. There may also be opportunities for short research visits, or collaboration on research articles and other short-term projects.

Applications are now being sought from prospective INSA mentors. For further information or to signup as a mentor, please visit the [Mentoring Program](#) page on the INSA website.

Emerging Scholars Corner

Seasons' Greetings from the Emerging Scholars Sub-committee!

Since October, early career researchers and doctoral students have gathered for the first Meet and Greet, and Social Cafe event.

At the Meet and Greet, Emerging Scholars joined the subcommittee to engage in discussion and share their hopes for the growing community.

The Social Cafe was the first of a series of informal meetings to promote peer connection and conversation. We extend a special thanks to our newly graduated presenters: Fernanda Esqueda Villegas, Maria Perez-Marco and Wilma Walther-Hansen for sharing their experiences from their PhD and the things that helped them along the way.

Want to get involved? Events for Emerging Scholars are due to continue early in 2026, keep an eye on the next edition of INStAnt for details or follow ['INSA Emerging Scholars' on LinkedIn](#) for updates.

Updates to the INSA Website

INSA is delighted to announce a major upgrade to its website (www.insa.network), introducing multilingual content for the first time. The initial phase of the translation project is now available, with selected pages available in Dutch, German, French, Japanese, and Spanish

Further languages and expanded coverage are scheduled for release in the coming months.



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