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The Launch of Attendance USA



INSA is excited to share that Attendance USA held its first ever conference in Indianapolis on May 20 – 21, officially launching Attendance USA as the central voice in the USA dedicated to tackling chronic absenteeism.

Following the success of the INSA conference held in New Orleans in 2024, the urgent need for a US chapter was clear. Spear-headed by Carolyn Gentle-Genitty in collaboration with James Taylor, Sharon Bradley, Patricia Graczyk, Shelneka Adams Marsalone, and Hedy Chang, Attendance USA was officially formed.

The first Attendance USA conference aimed to encourage attendees to consider the multitude of reasons that contribute to school non-attendance and look to develop actionable solutions.

The conference was a huge success and received considerable media attention, highlighting the importance of addressing the increasing challenges with chronic absenteeism faced by students and schools.



The conference brought together experts, educators, families, and advocates with the aim to:

- Establish Best Practices: Develop and promote gold standards for attendance improvement strategies in the US.
- Identify Research Needs: Pinpoint gaps in current knowledge and prioritize future research.
- Provide Training: Train individuals working directly on attendance-related services.
- Track and Report Outcomes: Monitor and report on the effectiveness of attendance interventions.
- Educate and Share Knowledge: Disseminate information through an expanding network of partners and communities.

The Attendance USA manifesto will be released on August 1 – make sure to check it out on the [Attendance USA website!](#)

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 sign up as a mentor, please visit the [Mentoring Program](#) page on the INSA website.

Welcome Tanzania!

We welcome the latest country to join INSA - Tanzania!

Read more about the wonderful work the team from Tanzania are doing in the attendance space on the [INSA website](#).

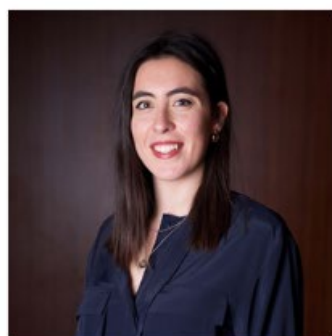
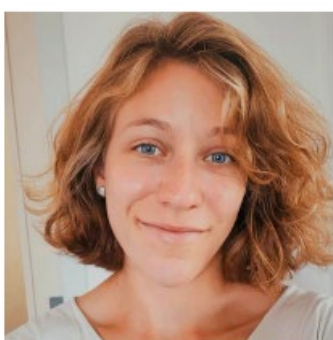
ECR CORNER

The New Orleans conference in October saw the gathering of many passionate early career researchers who have since been working hard to set up a subcommittee run by and for INSA's up-and-coming academics.

After several months of planning, INStAnt and the INSA Executive are excited to announce the formation of [INSA's Emerging Scholars Subcommittee](#).

Congratulations to Amy Meade and Chiara Enderle (our Lead and Deputy Chairperson); Kat Chadbourn and Lara Stauvermann (our Lead and Deputy Secretary) and Isabella Sasso and María Pérez Marco (our Lead and Deputy Activity and Communications Co-ordinator).

The Emerging Scholars Subcommittee aims to provide ongoing opportunities for networking, sharing of research, collaboration, and peer support for research students and early career researchers with an interest in school attendance. Its first meeting was held in June, during which planning for INSA's 2026 conference in Alicante began. The subcommittee has also commenced organising Emerging Scholar community events, with the first of these targeted to be held in October. Be sure to check the September issue of INStAnt! for details.



Upcoming Conferences and Events

2026 INSA CONFERENCE - ALICANTE, SPAIN

30th September - 2nd October 2026

Hotel Alicante Golf

Keep an eye out for further information and be ready to submit your abstracts and book your ticket!



NATIONAL CONFERENCES



The Australian Network for School Attendance (ANSA) is thrilled to host its inaugural conference in Melbourne on September 4 and 5. An exciting program has recently been announced featuring presentations from a number of INSA members! Registrations are open and tickets can be purchased [here](#).

Spotlight on Research

“Too little, too late”: Youth retrospectives on school attendance problems and professional support received

Selina Eckhoff Hamadi, Trude Havik, and Solveig Holen

Frontiers In Psychology has released a Special Issue focused on addressing emotionally-based school avoidance: causes, consequences, and interventions. The issue includes twelve articles and has now received over 16,000 views.

One of the articles, [“Too little, too late”: youth retrospectives on school attendance problems and professional support received](#), explored the retrospective views of ten Norwegian youth who had experienced severe school attendance difficulties to understand their perspectives on what contributed to the development and persistence of these challenges, and the effectiveness of professional supports received. Findings attributed individual factors, such as mental health and neurodivergence, and relational factors, such as social difficulties and poor relationships with teachers, to the development and maintenance of school attendance problems. Participants also reported poor experiences with receiving support, describing delayed provision of in-school interventions, and insufficient support provided. Furthermore, participants reported poor coordination between multiple stakeholders when in-school supports and external providers were involved. It was suggested that mainstream school environments could benefit from incorporating strategies used within alternative educational contexts, such as providing greater flexibility and predictability of routines. Greater allocation of resources to support in-school interventions and establishment of interdisciplinary support teams would also be beneficial.

[Read the issue here](#)

Resource Hub: What's new?

New Webinar Series

INSA is delighted to advise the commencement of a new webinar series to explore issues and research in the field of school attendance.

The first of these webinars was held on June 25, with Professor Christopher Kearney providing insights into how to harness theory of change processes to address school attendance problems.

A recording of the webinar is now available to all INSA members on the [INSA website](#).

Details of future webinars will be advised at a later date.

The Perception of School Social Bonding (PSSB) Instrument

The Perception of School Social Bonding (PSSB) instrument, developed by Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty, is a 10-item self-report questionnaire designed to measure a students' sense of bonding to their school.

The PSSB can be accessed for free on the INSA website - find it [here](#)!

New research to translate the PSSB into Polish, Uzbek, Sinhala, and Tamil is underway as part of a wider international research collaboration between teams Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland), University of Rzeszow (Poland), Samarkand State University (Uzbekistan), Liverpool John Moores University (UK), and the University of Colombo (Sri Lanka).

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