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Report of the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Atlanta (USA), April, 7–10, 2005

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This spring, from April 7 to 10, Atlanta has been the host city for the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting. This unusual, huge scientific event focused on all aspects of child and adolescent development, including problems also connected with its psychopathology.

The main promoter of this conference was the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), which is a multidisciplinary, not-for-profit association. SRCD agglomerates approximately 5,500 members from over 50 countries, also from nations outside the United States (nearly 20%): researchers, practitioners, and human development professionals. Two of the main goals of the Society are the establishment and maintenance of ethical standards for research with children’s participation and promotion of multidisciplinary research in the widely understood area of human development. SRCD is also publisher of some journals: Child Development, Child Development Abstracts & Bibliography, Social Policy Report, Monographs of SRCD and Development SRCD Newsletter. The first Meeting took place at Washington, over 70 years ago, in 1934. Since then the conference is organized every two years at different places in the United States.

This year SRCD has received a record number of submissions from over 3,000 authors and accepted as follows: 2,616 posters, 20 electronic posters, 18 poster symposia and 289 paper symposia. There were also more presentations from scholars outside of the USA than in the recent years. I represented Poland and Institute of Psychology, the University of Łódź.

It would be very difficult to present all subjects of the conference. Most papers and poster symposia concerned following topics: academic achieve-
ment, difficulties of adolescence, aggression and behavior problems, theory of mind cognitive and social development, language acquisition, depression and anxiety among young children and adolescents, temperament and emotion regulation, infant cognition and communication. Many research about parent-child relations were also presented, including paternal and maternal influence on child development, parent-child communication, parent-child reciprocity and parental involvement and many others.

The authors from all over the world presented many interesting cross-cultural data research, i.e.: ‘The importance of the peer group in the Israeli kibbutz for the development of adult attachment style’ by Y. Weiss (Smith College School for Social Work) and R. Shilkret (Mount Holyoke College); ‘Parents’ knowledge and attitudes about childhood immunization in India’ by A. George (Saint Xavier Chicago University) and S. L. Knudsen Lindauer (Utah State University) and ‘A longitudinal study of the relation between literacy and metalinguistic awareness in Chinese-English Bilingual Children’ by Q. Xue and B. Homer from Dept. of Applied Psychology at the New York University.

The next opportunity to participate in the SRCD Biennial Meeting will be in March 29–April 1, 2007 in Boston.