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"Do you remember how electrical currents and 'unseen waves' were laughed at? The knowledge about man is still in its infancy."

—Albert Einstein

The Goal

To enrich our understanding of the nature and scope of human consciousness and its relationship to life and death.

**International Association
for Near-Death Studies, Inc.**

PO Box 502
East Windsor Hill, CT 06028
(203) 528-5144; fax 528-9169

Membership Application

- ☐ General Membership\$45 (\$50 outside USA, Canada, Mexico)
- ☐ Research Division\$80 (\$85 outside USA, Canada, Mexico)
- ☐ Senior (Age 62+)\$35
- ☐ Student (High School/College)\$35 (Attach proof)
- ☐ I enclose an additional contribution of \$_____ to help the work of IANDS.

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How were you referred to IANDS? _____

Special Memberships

- ☐ Contributor\$90-\$150
- ☐ Supporter\$151-\$749
- ☐ Life Member\$750 or more
- Amount: \$_____
- ☐ Check or money order payable to IANDS

(All checks must be drawn in U.S. dollars on a U.S. bank.)

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IANDS, PO Box 502, East Windsor Hill, CT 06028-0502
(203) 528-5144 fax (203) 528-9169

The Experience

The near-death experience (NDE) is among the most powerful experiences a person can have, one of a family of experiences which may occur with or without being close to death. It may permanently alter a person's perceptions of what is real and important.

One most extraordinary aspect of NDEs is that the underlying pattern seems unaffected by a person's culture or belief system, religion, race, education, or any other known variable, although the way in which the NDE is described varies according to the person's background and vocabulary. There is no evidence that the type of experience is related to whether the person is conventionally religious or not, or has lived a "good" or "bad" life according to his society's standards (although an NDE often strongly affects how life is lived *after* the experience).

An experience may include the feeling of being out of the physical body, moving through a darkness or tunnel, encountering the presences of deceased loved ones and other entities, and an indescribable light or menacing darkness. Many people say they have glimpsed the pattern and meaning of life and the universe, or have been given information beyond ordinary human capacities. For most people the experience is joyful beyond words, although others tell of unpleasant or terrifying experiences. When adequately understood, every type of NDE reveals issues of deep significance to the life of the individual and to humankind in general.

Is It Real?

Medical technology may bring survivors back, but science is not able to explain what happened in the process. Like all human experiences, the NDE no doubt has a biologically-based trigger; yet its impact is most often felt as a psychological or spiritual event. For people who believe that only physical events can be real, the NDE—or even the idea of such a thing—may be disturbing or seem ludicrous.

Yet the phenomenon cannot be dismissed just because we cannot explain it. A 1982 Gallup Poll estimated that at least eight million adults in the US alone have had an NDE; the figure is now believed to be closer to thirteen million. Experiences have been reported through the centuries, from many cultures and religious traditions.

Whatever the near-death experience is, it is neither recent nor local. *Something happens*, and it changes people's lives.

What Does It Mean?

Many people believe that the NDE *proves* there is life after death in a literal sense. To others, more cautious, the experience is not "proof," but it suggests that some aspect of human consciousness may be independent of the body and may survive physical death. To others, the NDE defines a value system based on care for others, knowledge, and service. Whether one sees the meaning of the NDE as religious or secular, there is much to learn.

Why an Organization?

The pioneering work of psychiatrists Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Raymond Moody, Jr. and George Ritchie brought near-death experiences to public attention in the 1970's. During the years that immediately followed, research studies by Kenneth Ring, PhD, Michael Sabom, MD, Bruce Greyson, MD, and others extended the early findings and stimulated additional interest in the field.

To meet the needs of early researchers and experiencers, IANDS was founded in 1978 and incorporated in Connecticut in 1981. It was and is the only organization in the world devoted to the study of near-death and similar experiences and their relationship to human consciousness. Today its varied membership represents every continent but the Antarctic.

IANDS holds no "party line" on interpreting the experience and welcomes any commentary that is based on empirical observation or direct experience. Its position is that thoughtful study and discussion are central to discovering more about the relationship of consciousness to society, life, and meaning.

Programs and Activities

IANDS' has three basic purposes:

- ◆ To provide reliable information to caregivers, experiencers, and the public by publication of the quarterly newsletter *Vital Signs*; working with the media around the world; sponsoring an annual North American conference and other programs; and

production of a wide variety of educational materials.

- ◆ To encourage interest in research and professional applications through publication of the quarterly *Journal of Near-Death Studies*; management of a program of small grants to encourage scholarly research; and sponsorship of occasional research seminars.

- ◆ To facilitate support and networking services. Near-death and similar experiences can raise deeply troubling questions for many experiencers. Aftereffects of the NDE can be disturbing to the individuals, their families, friends, and caregivers. To meet these special needs, networking services and support groups have developed across North America and in almost a dozen countries elsewhere in the world.

IANDS Publications

Journal of Near-Death Studies: the only scholarly journal in the field; cross-disciplinary.

Vital Signs: a quarterly newsletter for IANDS members, contains experience accounts, commentary, Association news, and articles of general interest.

Joining in the Search for Answers

We welcome your membership and active participation. IANDS is supported entirely by memberships, contributions, and program activities. It is recognized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

All members receive the newsletter, networking services, and discounts for major conferences.

General Membership

Dues amounts listed are for US/Canada/Mexico; for other countries, add \$5.

General	\$45
Senior (Age 62+)	\$35
Student	\$35 (with high school or college ID)

Research Membership

In addition to general services, Research members receive the quarterly *Journal of Near-Death Studies*.

Research	\$80 US/Canada, \$85 elsewhere
Supporter	\$100 and above
Life	\$750 (one-time assessment)