

## The Vision of IANDS



We envision a future in which the study of near-death experiences is established and integrated into all relevant scientific, academic, healthcare, and spiritual/religious communities.



We envision a future in which all near-death experiencers are accepted, respected, and supported by their healthcare providers, families, co-workers, and the public at large as they integrate the experiences into their lives.



We envision a future in which people from all walks of life, religions, and cultures will look at near-death experiences as a potential source of meaning and inspiration for a better world.



IANDS

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IANDS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service in the United States.

# Near-Death Experiences:

What happens when we die?

JOIN AND HELP US FIND OUT



THE INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION FOR  
NEAR-DEATH STUDIES

THE MOST TRUSTED SOURCE  
ON NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES

# The Near-Death Experience

A near-death experience (NDE) is a profound phenomenon, typically occurring when a person is clinically dead, facing death, or under physical or emotional trauma.

We now have thousands of documented cases of NDEs which challenge some basic assumptions of mainstream psychology, medicine, and philosophy. For example, many near-death experiencers (NDErs) accurately report events that occurred when they had no detectable brain activity or heartbeat. Often NDErs return with knowledge previously unknown to them. Unlike dreams and hallucinations, NDEs have a consistent internal structure, and cross-culturally they reflect universal elements. Finally, the aftereffects are enduring and life-altering to a much greater extent than for those who experience similar health crises without an NDE.

These observations are further supported by studies of resuscitated patients in hospital settings, indicating that the NDE cannot be explained by physiological or pharmacological causes. This phenomenon has the potential to radically affect every aspect of life, from moment-to-moment personal decisions to far-reaching public policies.



*Research indicates that approximately 10% of patients who experience cardiac arrest in hospital settings report an NDE.*

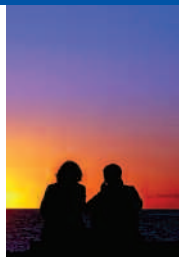
## What is an NDE?

Each NDE is unique, but they reflect many common features. Although a small percentage of NDEs include frightening or distressing aspects, the great majority contain beautiful, loving, and insightful elements which include one or more common motifs:

- a sense of profound peace and well-being;
- a perception of one's body from the outside (a so-called Out of Body experience), sometimes observing medical resuscitation efforts;
- a rapid movement toward and/or sudden immersion in a powerful light;
- an intense feeling of unconditional love;
- a life review in which one relives one's actions and feels their emotional impact on others;
- an immersion in a spiritual realm or world;
- an encounter with spiritual beings, and/or a joyful reunion with deceased loved ones;
- a flood of knowledge about one's life and the nature of the universe;
- a decision by oneself or another to return to one's body.

NDErs often struggle to find adequate words to describe their experience. They commonly say it is the most profound of their lives and, unlike a dream, "more real than real." Almost always they report a complete loss of the fear of death and often feel deeply changed in their attitudes toward life, work, and relationships. Many believe that the essential purpose of human life is to develop our capacity to love. Although they adjust to these personal transformations, it may be difficult finding others in whom they can confide their experience. NDErs, caregivers, and others close to them usually feel in great need of information and support.

Others have reported similar experiences and aftereffects that occur outside the context of a health-related crisis. These "near-death-like experiences" can happen during the profound peace of meditation, as a result of emotional distress or at the deathbed vigil of a loved one. These experiences are also a focus of interest for researchers.



## The International Association for Near-Death Studies (IANDS)

### IANDS' Mission

*To build global understanding of near-death and near-death-like experiences through research, education, and support.*

Founded in 1981, the International Association for Near-Death Studies is the primary international organization dedicated to encouraging scientific research and education on the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual nature and ramifications of near-death experiences. IANDS disseminates research on NDEs and similar experiences to a broad audience including scientists, medical professionals, religious thinkers, and the general public. This information about the nature of consciousness, while a challenge to the current scientific model, has far-reaching implications. IANDS remains dedicated to its mission of promoting research, exploration, and debate in this field.

The organization has expanded to include more than 50 local and international interest groups. IANDS publishes the peer-reviewed *Journal of Near-Death Studies*; a quarterly newsletter, *Vital Signs*; and holds regularly scheduled conferences. Our website disseminates a wide array of informational, networking, and research studies.

IANDS is committed to supporting near-death experiencers and people close to them. Through local interest groups, our publications, websites, and conferences, we reassure NDErs that their experience is normal and valid. We assist experiencers, their families, caregivers, and others who personally and professionally interact with NDErs to better understand the experiences.

IANDS uses NDE-based knowledge to help people facing death, to ease grief, and to discover greater meaning and purpose in life.

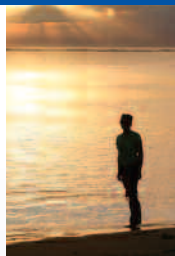


*Science Magazine stated that understanding the basis of consciousness is a high*

## Join IANDS

### Receive the Benefits of Membership

*IANDS members provide the critical financial support for the organization to pursue its mission of research, education, and support.*



Depending on the membership level, IANDS members enjoy a wide range of benefits:

- The Basic membership level includes the quarterly newsletter, *Vital Signs*, conference discounts, and an e-mail service with breaking research and news.
- The Supporting membership level, the most popular membership level, adds to these benefits a larger array of services including access to the Index of Periodical Literature, a free DVD or CD of a past conference, and other research-based e-mail and internet-based services.
- The Professional membership level, for those seeking the most information on NDEs, adds the peer-reviewed *Journal of Near-Death Studies*, and a listing in the Electronic Networking Directory—a working database of Professional members.
- The Sponsor membership adds two free gift memberships for relatives or friends.
- The Patron membership provides a lunch or dinner with a keynote speaker at an IANDS conference and a book about Near-Death Experiences.
- The Benefactor membership offers free attendance at the next IANDS conference (maximum \$400 value) and the knowledge that you are making a significant contribution to IANDS.

**For more detailed membership information, or to join IANDS using our online membership system, go to [www.iands.org](http://www.iands.org).**

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*(E-mail required if you want to take advantage of all benefits)*

### Please check your desired annual membership level below

(See [www.iands.org](http://www.iands.org) for detailed list of membership benefits or to join via our online membership system)

- Basic Membership:** Special one-year introductory rate for first-time members—\$30 (\$40 annually thereafter)
- Supporting Membership:** \$65 (\$10 off for seniors 65 and older and full-time students)
- Professional Membership:** \$125 (\$20 off for seniors 65 and older and full-time students)
- Sponsor membership:** \$250
- Patron Membership:** \$500
- Benefactor Membership:** \$1,000

*Add \$10 to all prices for outside North America*

### Additional Contribution:

- I enclose a US tax deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the work of IANDS.

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Method:

- Check or money order enclosed payable to IANDS (drawn in US dollars on a US bank)
- Visa    MC    Amex    Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*priority for research in the next 25 years.*