

“ISAAC CONNECTS” VIRTUAL EVENT

Request for Letters of Interest

ISAAC is currently seeking Letters of Interest from interested individuals, groups, or ISAAC Chapters around the world, to become co-chairs of the first ever fully virtual “ISAAC Connects” online event.

ISAAC, The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, works to improve the lives of children and adults who use AAC. ISAAC’s vision is that AAC will be recognized, valued and used throughout the world. ISAAC’s mission is to promote the best possible communication for people with complex communication needs.

ISAAC has already announced a postponement of the 19th Biennial Conference, ISAAC 2020 in Cancún, México, now scheduled to be held between July 31st, 2021 and August 5th, 2021.

The 20th Biennial Conference of ISAAC, already announced as being held in Rome, Italy, is now scheduled for 2024. The ISAAC Executive Board (EB) advised the ISAAC Council of this at its Special Meeting, held on July 31st, 2020. The 21st Biennial Conference of ISAAC, the location for which has not yet been selected, will be scheduled for 2026.

In order to ensure no more than a two (2) year gap between conferences, it is ISAAC’s intent to develop and convene an online “ISAAC Connects” virtual event, currently scheduled to be held during 2022.

The objectives that ISAAC International wants to achieve with an online “ISAAC Connects” virtual event can be summarized as:

- Sharing of knowledge/education
- Create interpersonal “bonding” opportunities
- Provide inspirational opportunities
- Opportunity for professional and commercial engagement for all attendees
- Opportunity of involvement at an ISAAC event for those who might not have the opportunities for travel to a “face-to-face” conference
- Stakeholder and global connectivity
- Inclusivity for all (including PWUAAC and their families)
- Opportunity for social engagement
- ISAAC Committee, Chapter, and Council Engagement

We therefore invite interested individuals, groups, or ISAAC Chapters to submit Letters of Interest according to the following —

- Length of letter not to exceed eight (8) pages in total.
- Letter, at a minimum, should identify the following for an “ISAAC Connects” virtual event —
 - Theme(s) for virtual event.
 - Host country / countries of virtual event. This is an opportunity for several countries or regions to collaborate.
 - Identification of proposed “ISAAC Connects” virtual event Co-Chair group including their professional/personal backgrounds, experience within the field of AAC, experience within ISAAC, and experience with previous conferences (ISAAC or otherwise) and/or virtual events.

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- Objectives and scope for scientific programming portion of virtual conference.
 - Identification of programming to be held live streamed versus recorded (or a combination thereof).
 - Identification of programming from traditional ISAAC Conference that can be implemented in a virtual framework.
 - Opportunities and methodologies for managing scientific programming within framework of global time zone differences.
 - Opportunities for providing attendees with a conference that, within a virtual setting, will: offer a range of social / sightseeing events, facilitate the gaining of cross-cultural, multi-cultural, or international personal experiences, afford the opportunity to socialize in a friendly and welcoming environment.
 - Opportunities and methodologies to encourage interactions between virtual attendees and sponsors/exhibitors as a means of generating sales / market opportunities for the latter.
 - Virtual conference-related contacts and infrastructure (virtual platform, internet, production facilities, etc) / funding available to ISAAC from corporate, governmental, and/or foundation entities, in part, to support local programming and broadcasting.
 - Specific programming recommendations to maximize interest, attendance, and participation from people who use AAC and their personal support networks.
- Letter of Interest to be submitted as softcopy (electronic), in pdf format, by email to franklin@isaac-online.org, no later than 5:00 pm Eastern Time, October 30th, 2020.
 - Following a review of all submitted Letters of Interest, the ISAAC Executive Board may invite one or more proponents to enter into discussions to determine whether a successful virtual event could be fully implemented and realized. ISAAC, as part of this process, will provide proponents with more information and details at this point to ensure the availability of full information for decision-making purposes including, but not necessarily limited to, the research and infrastructure ISAAC has in place to support a virtual event.
 - Please note that the submission of a Letter of Interest does not guarantee that such an invitation will be extended to any particular proponent.