

December 2014



*Jeffrey K. Riley,
ISAAC President*

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Message from the President

Dear ISAAC Members:

As 2014 draws to a close I am taking the opportunity to reflect upon the year past, and giving thanks for the many gifts of time and energy from so many. I am also looking to the future to address new challenges and exciting opportunities.

ISAAC has had a very full year, with much accomplished and many changes. In 2014 ISAAC held a successful biennial conference in Lisbon, the first conference totally managed by the ISAAC International office, with the tremendous support of our Portuguese colleagues (thank you, Luis Azevedo, and your excellent team!). ISAAC strengthened governance structures through updated bylaws and rules – my sincere thanks and recognition to the bylaws committee for handling these complex documents so well. ISAAC also approved its first position statement – thank you to the many contributors, and the committee under the leadership of Ralf Schlosser. The complete Position Statement and supporting paper has been published in the AAC Journal and is being made

available for free access [here](#), through our publisher, Informa.

The ISAAC office staff have honed many functional aspects of the organization to ensure efficient and effective operations for the future work of ISAAC across the world – thank you to Franklin, Heather, and Teraiz for their dedication and creative ideas. In this year ISAAC also welcomed a new Chapter from Taiwan, and supported efforts to create Chapters in other Asian countries, such as Korea and Thailand. Sadly ISAAC has lost a chapter in Germany, but given the long history and considerable participation of German speakers in the international movement to promote and advocate for people who use AAC, I am confident our German-speaking friends will come back to participate with us at the global table.

I have some sad news to share... in recent months we lost two individuals who devoted much of

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Message from the President *continued*

their lives to people who use AAC and ISAAC: Betty-Jean MacDonald (Findlay), former President and Chair of ISAAC in the 1990s, passed away in October 2014, and Anne Warrick, long-time member and fellow of ISAAC, as well as author of a milestone ISAAC publication, passed away in November 2014. Please see the detailed memorials to these two great ladies compiled by their ISAAC friends in this issue. I extend my sincere sympathies to their friends and families. They will be sadly missed but their spark and their many valuable contributions will not be forgotten.

As I write this message on December 5th, it is the United Nations International Day of Volunteers. This day formally recognizes the efforts of hundreds of millions of volunteers across the world who give freely of their time and energies. ISAAC is a shining example of international volunteerism. ISAAC Executive Board members, ISAAC committee members, ISAAC Chapter and Council representatives, and members of ISAAC Chapter committees from around the world all give freely of their time and energy to a build a better world for

human communication and understanding. On behalf of ISAAC I want to sincerely thank you all for your precious gifts and commend you for your understanding and patience with your fellow human beings, whether in your home town, in your work, or with your ISAAC colleagues across the world. We are all helped by building together a strong international movement to promote and support the advocacy and science of AAC wherever and whenever we can.

Looking forward, the next year will bring more opportunities and challenges: conferences, committees, events, and ideas and situations we have not even heard of yet! Please continue to be the spark of change, the wellspring of new ideas, and the source of warmth and caring that you are, be kind to one another, and most of all have a healthy and happy New Year.

Warm wishes to you all,
Jeff

[Jeff Riley](#)

ISAAC President 2012 – 2015



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This article in translation can be found [here](#), in French (translated by Ghislaine Picot), Italian (translated by Elena Panigadi), and Portuguese (translated by Nadia Browning)



...From the Executive Director

This article in translation can be found [here](#), in French (translated by Ghislaine Picot), Italian (translated by Elena Panigadi), and Portuguese (translated by Nadia Browning)

Welcome to the December 2014 edition of the ISAAC E-News. All of us here, Heather Stonehouse, Teraiz El-Deir, and I, would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone in the “ISAAC world” a very healthy and happy holiday season. Whether it is currently winter or summer where you live, we wish you a season filled with warmth and light!

ISAAC International recently completed a very successful migration of our website, in advance of the start of the 2015 membership renewal / sign-up season. This migration, from a server in Finland to a North American-based server, was required as part of organizational changes within our Finnish-based website hosting company. I would like to express ISAAC International’s sincere gratitude to the staff at FAIDD/KVL for their support and assistance these past four years, with particular thanks to Eija Roisko and Heikki Paananen. We look forward to continued smooth management of ISAAC’s online presence.

Speaking of membership renewal, those of you who are members

of ISAAC International through one of our Chapters should be receiving your membership renewal materials very shortly directly from your Chapter. If you require any additional assistance, feel free to contact your local Chapter and, if you wish, you can always reach out to us here in Toronto. We will be pleased to assist in anyway we can!

For those of you who are members through ISAAC International, you will be receiving email notification of how to renew your membership very shortly. ISAAC International Institutional and Corporate members will be receiving their membership packages and invoices as well.

Speaking about Corporate Membership, ISAAC International is launching for 2015 an updated suite of additional benefits for our corporate members. Please check out the new line-up of benefits by navigating to our website, [here](#).

Finally, Toronto is getting itself ready to host Conference 2016. Your Conference 2016 Co-Chairs team have been hard at work with conference-related planning, and we are all looking

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...From the Executive Director *continued*



forward to showing our city off to the world. This summer, Toronto is hosting the Pan Am / Parapan Am Games, and our city is completing many infrastructure projects to ensure a very positive experience for athletes, officials, and attendees. We are thrilled that our Conference 2016 delegates will also benefit from these new and revitalized infrastructure projects. As you will see from the website for the Pan Am / Parapan Am Games (<http://www.toronto2015.org/accessibility>), accessibility for persons with disabilities is strongly supported by a legislative mandate in the Province of Ontario, with a focus on compliance with meeting specific customer service standards. Please make sure to plan on attending [Conference 2016!](#)

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly, at franklin@isaac-online.org, should you require any further information or assistance.

Regards and thanks,
[Franklin Smith](#)

ISAAC COUNCIL CHAIR-ELECT ATTENDS REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL (RI) CONFERENCE



Aldona Mysakowska Adamczyk, Chair-Elect of the ISAAC Council, attended the 2014 RI European Conference on Rehabilitation in Warsaw, October 7 - 9, on ISAAC's behalf.

Aldona congratulated new RI President-Elect Haidi Zhang and expressed ISAAC's willingness to support RI in the future.

Aldona also distributed ISAAC 2016 "Hold the Date" cards to all participants and extended a personal invitation to attend the ISAAC Toronto 2016 conference.



**The 17th Biennial Conference of ISAAC
Toronto, Canada
August 6 - 13, 2016**

**For more information, visit our website
[here](#)**

isaac In Memoriam

BETTY-JEAN FINDLAY



Betty-Jean Findlay passed away on October 17, 2014. Betty-Jean was a key player in the world of AAC for many years. She was the President of ISAAC in 1995 – 1996 and subsequently was chair of the Board. She also served as ISAAC's interim executive director in the early 2000s.

Betty-Jean was the Director of the Ontario Ministry of Health's Assistive Devices Program in the 1980s. Early on she saw the value of AAC and was a leading force in having AAC devices funded by government in Ontario Canada. One of the first jurisdictions to recognize this need. She worked with others to establish Ontario's innovative system of supplying devices on a rental basis through a Central Equipment Pool and in designing the system whereby service is provided at both a grass roots level and at a sophisticated clinic level throughout the province.

In the words of Betty-Jean's husband David Nathan: "Her love exceeded all. Her smile was all you needed. She was larger than life and lived her life to the fullest. She was filled with abundant love and strength that shone through her smile. She lived a full life, devoted to her local and global community."

- submitted by Penny Parnes

ANNE WARRICK



All of us at ISAAC are saddened by the passing of Anne Warrick, a long-time volunteer and supporter at ISAAC and leader in the world of AAC. Her commitment to the field and the legacy that she leaves are truly remarkable. Anne's [obituary](#), published in the Ottawa Citizen on November 22nd, gives a rich account of a life well-lived. To send your condolences to the family, please visit the Book of Memories, [here](#).

Anne asked her family to share her last email with her work colleagues. The subject line was "What a Life" and Anne wrote this on Nov. 15, 2014.

"What a Life"

What an amazing AAC life we have enjoyed together. The early days when our young folk taught us the way to go and we found that simplest was often the better way to go. And now on to new technology.

Thank you to iicpindia.org, with whom I shared so much.

Thank you to the United Nations and all my friends in Kwidzyn and Crackaw. So many others with whom to share. And now it is time to move on.

I share love and peace, kindness with all.

- Anne Warrick

Chapter News

ISAAC BRAZIL

Please mark your calendars and share the news of ISAAC Brazil's next conference:



JUNE 9 – 12, 2015

VI CONGRESSO BRASILEIRO DE
COMUNICAÇÃO ALTERNATIVA
UNICAMP - UNIVERSIDADE
ESTADUAL DE CAMPINAS
SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

- Two regional meetings, Encontro Regional de Comunicação Alternativa, were held in 2014:
 - November 8th in São Paulo
 - December 13th in Salvador

Additional regional meetings will be planned for the new year.

ISAAC Brazil is also working on a website. We are looking forward to the official launch!

- submitted by *Eliana Cristina Moreira, President, ISAAC Brazil (2014-2015)*

CONGRATULATIONS TO JUDY WINE OF ISAAC ISRAEL

Each year the University of Toronto presents an award to a graduate of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology in recognition of his or her impact on the field.

This year Judy Wine, President and founder of [ISAAC Israel](#), was chosen as the award recipient. She attended the award ceremony in Toronto on November 6th, 2014, where she was recognized for her initiative, and the significant impact she has had on her profession as well as on the rights of children and adults with communication disabilities.





International AAC Awareness Month 2014

International AAC Awareness Month is celebrated around the world each October.

The goal is to raise awareness of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and to inform the public about the many different ways people communicate using AAC.

Here are some examples of events held in 2014:

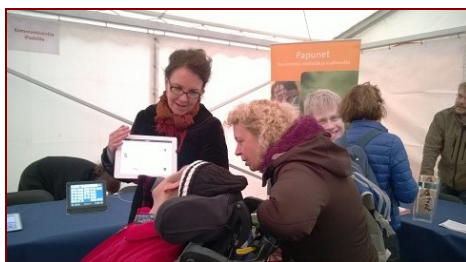
Croatia

In Croatia, the ICT-AAC Open Day was held on October 17th as a special event for professionals and parents interested in the application of innovative information and communication services for persons with complex communication needs attended.

- submitted by *Jasmina Ivšac Pavliša*

Finland

“Stop for a moment, listen to me” was the theme of [AAC Awareness Week in Finland](#), October 6 – 12.



*Information tent,
Helsinki
October 6, 2014*

[Tikoteekki](#) and the Finnish Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (FAIDD) coordinated events, such as information booths in public places (market square, shopping mall), in support of communication solutions. Events were held in 11 cities all over Finland. - submitted by *Eija Roisko*

Denmark

[ISAAC Denmark](#) has had much to celebrate in 2014, its 25th anniversary year. ISAAC Denmark has posted AAC Awareness information on its website, with links to a Communication Rights poster and a Facebook group for "International AAC Awareness Month," as well as an idea for an event called "Silent Lunch Break."

- submitted by *Birgitte Brandt*

USA

[6th Annual 24-Hour AAC Chat](#), an international event, was held on October 22, 2014.

Click [here](#) for more about awareness activities held in October 2014,

ISAAC Position Statement and Review on Facilitated Communication Now Available Online



The ISAAC Council approved the "ISAAC Position Statement on Facilitated Communication" in July 2014.

To view the Position Statement, published as an Open Access feature in the December 2014 issue, follow this link:

[ISAAC Position Statement on Facilitated Communication.](#)

A related article, [Facilitated Communication and Authorship: A Systematic Review](#) is also available online in the current issue of AAC.

Note: When you click through to the above pages, you will need to choose the format (html, pdf, pdf plus) that you want to view.

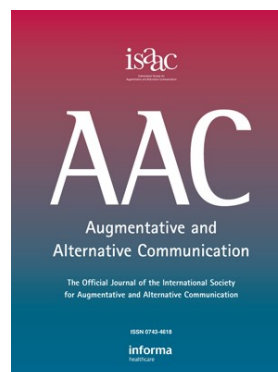
MORE OPEN ACCESS FROM AAC JOURNAL: 4 NEW ARTICLES, AVAILABLE FOR 3 MONTHS ONLY:

[Walker, V. L., & Snell, M. E.](#) (2013). Effects of augmentative and alternative communication on challenging behavior: A meta-analysis. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 29, 117-131

[McNaughton, D., & Light, J.](#) (2013). The iPad and mobile technology revolution: Benefits and challenges

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Vol. 30 No. 4
December
2014**

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for individuals who require augmentative and alternative communication. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 29, 107-116.

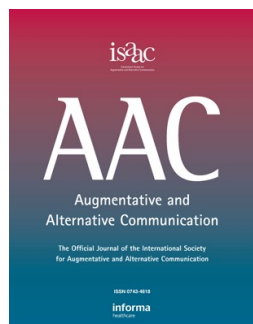
[Soto, G., & Yu, B.](#) (2014). Considerations for the provision of services to bilingual children who use augmentative and alternative communication. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 30, 83-92.

[Light, J., & McNaughton, D.](#) (2014). Communicative competence for individuals who require augmentative and alternative communication: A new definition for a new era of communication? *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 30, 1-18.

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AAC Journal: Open Access Articles *continued*



OPEN ACCESS REVIEW ARTICLE ON AAC IN HOSPITAL FOR PEOPLE WITH SEVERE COMMUNICATION DISABILITIES - NEW FROM AAC JOURNAL

This review paper provides six core themes arising from the literature that can be used to guide policies and practice in relation to preparing for hospital and improving hospital communication for people in general hospital and emergency wards. It will be useful for people working in both community and hospital settings, and with people who have cerebral palsy, aphasia following stroke, traumatic brain injury, and other lifelong communication difficulties. It will also be useful in informing a translational research agenda to test the implementation of the strategies suggested in the past decade of research – to see if these strategies really will help to improve the safety of people with communication disabilities in hospital.

[Hemsley, B., & Balandin, S.](#) A metasynthesis of patient-provider communication in hospital for patients with severe communication disabilities: Informing new translational research. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 30, 329-343.

Follow us on
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conversation
on Twitter!



ISAAC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The ISAAC 2014 Facebook page has been renamed “ISAAC International.” All of the ISAAC Conference 2014 posts remain on the page to provide access to archival material. Click [here](#) to view and please “like” ISAAC International on Facebook!

While you are visiting Facebook, check out the [ISAAC BUILD AAC](#) page. This is an open group for the sharing of information on AAC. Curated by Petra Autnam Dillmann of Namibia, this page is a great way to share news and information relevant to emerging AAC countries. Thanks, Petra, for making a huge difference on social media with your interesting and timely posts!

AAC Around the World

ISAAC 2018

ISAAC is also now seeking Letters of Interest from individuals, groups, or ISAAC Chapters for hosting of the 18th Biennial Conference in 2018. The primary focus for ISAAC Conference 2018 will be the Asia-Pacific region.

ISAAC is therefore seeking to organize Conference 2018 so that it will promote the Asia-Pacific, both in conference content and location.

Please click [here](#) to be directed to the Conference 2018 page on the ISAAC website, where you will find more details and information to assist those interested in submitting a Letter of Interest.

CONFERENCE 2016 TRAVEL

Star Alliance will be the Official Airline Network for Conference 2016. Discounts on flights will be available to ISAAC 2016 delegates. Please check the [ISAAC website](#) for more information as details become



AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION WORLD NETWORK NEWSLETTER

[From the introduction to the [ACWN December 2014 issue](#)]: “This issue of the Augmentative Communication World Network newsletter is the biggest, the most comprehensive, and perhaps the best issue we have ever published. It has stories from Latin America, Europe, Africa, Russia, the Middle East and Far East.”

Visit www.centralcoastchildrensfoundation.org for past editions of the ACWN newsletter.

- submitted by Dorothy Fraser,
Editor, ACWN Newsletter.



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THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, DECEMBER 3RD

The 2014 theme for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities was *The Promise of Technology*. In the [current issue](#) of DESA News, published online by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, a feature article and accompanying video focus on this theme. View the video on YouTube, [here](#).

ISAAC is a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR ISAAC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015!

If you are currently a member of ISAAC, you can renew your membership through your national or regional Chapter.

Members of ISAAC International are invited to renew your membership online.

THANK YOU !

ISAAC Chapters

ISAAC Australia
(www.isaacaustralia.com)

[ISAAC Brazil](#)

ISAAC Canada
(www.isaac-canada.org)

ISAAC Denmark
(www.isaac.dk)

ISAAC Finland
(www.papunet.net/isaac)

ISAAC French-speaking
countries and regions
(www.isaac-fr.org)

ISAAC India
(www.isaac.org.in)

ISAAC Israel
(www.isaac.org.il)

ISAAC Italy
(www.isaacitaly.it)

ISAAC Netherlands/Flanders
(www.isaac-nf.nl)

ISAAC Norway
(www.isaac.no)

ISAAC Sweden
(www.isaac-sverige.se)

ISAAC-Taiwan
(twisaac.blogspot.tw/)

Communication Matters
(ISAAC United Kingdom)
(www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

USSAAC (ISAAC United States)
(www.ussaac.org)



ISAAC has Chapters in 15 countries or regions worldwide. For information about how you can participate, contact the organizations listed above, or [ISAAC International](#) for areas not listed.

**INTERNATIONAL
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ALTERNATIVE
COMMUNICATION**

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**Visit us at
www.isaac-online.org**

ISAAC Chapters and members worldwide are invited to submit items of interest from your country or region. News, AAC practice tips, research, personal essays, in article format or as a link to online articles or resources, will be reviewed and made available on the ISAAC website as appropriate. Please send articles and photos to [Nola Millin](#).

ISAAC E-News is published four times each year. Comments on this issue are welcome. Please contact [Heather Stonehouse](#).



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 is a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Contact Us

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(until September 2015)

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