

December 2015



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## Message from the President

### Dear ISAAC Members:

What has ISAAC been working on over the last few months? The main focus has been on the organization of the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of ISAAC, coming up in August 2016. Conference Co-chairs Tracy Hunt, Tracy Shepherd, and Shelley Deegan, along with ISAAC International's Executive Director Franklin Smith, continue to do a tremendous job. (See Franklin's report on the following page for details.) Planning the ISAAC Research Symposium is an important part of our conference preparations. Bronwyn Hemsley as Chair of the Research Committee is responsible for issuing the Call for Proposals, answering questions, and finding reviewers.

Also high on ISAAC's agenda is the BUILD AAC Project, chaired by Sarah Yong. Building ISAAC Chapters in emerging countries is a real challenge and BUILD continues to support dedicated persons all over the world who are networking and finding solutions.

Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk, Chair-Elect of the Council, recently attended a conference in St. Petersburg and is pleased to report interest from Russia in forming an ISAAC Chapter by

participating in our Five & Five Program. Through this program, ISAAC gives five free memberships for every five paid memberships in the same emerging AAC country for two years. This supports the formation of a Chapter, since 10 ISAAC members in any one country or region can do so.

To support the international dissemination of information and material on AAC, ISAAC has formed a new "Plain English Working Group" chaired by Janice Murray, our Chair of Council. This new group will collaborate with the LEAD Committee in analyzing ISAAC's material to ensure it meets the criteria for plain English, with the goal of improving the language accessibility of our information.

Many thanks to all of you whose contributions are furthering ISAAC's mission to spread the word of AAC around the world.

With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,

Gregor Renner  
ISAAC President  
October 2015 - September 2018

## ...From the Executive Director



Welcome to the December 2015 edition of ISAAC E-News.

The ISAAC International office continues its work on behalf of the membership around the world, and is thrilled to advise on the following initiatives:

### **Conference 2016**

The Conference 2016 Call for Papers has now closed, and our amazing group of reviewers have begun their work! On behalf of the Conference 2016 Leadership Team, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our reviewers, who will be publicly recognized during Conference 2016.

Planning for the conference is continuing, and we are looking forward to welcoming the world to Toronto, Canada in August, 2016! We have now released Conference 2016 pricing, additional hotel accommodation information, as well as programming information for both the pre-conference workshops and AAC Camp. Please check out all the current conference information, including

the Star Alliance and other sponsorships, at <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2016/>.

The much anticipated Conference 2016 registration system is also now open! You can find a hyperlink to our online registration system at <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2016/conference-registration/>. We are anticipating a very strong registration for Conference 2016, in Toronto, Canada.

### **ISAAC 2016 Membership Renewal**

2016 Membership renewal notifications are being sent by email to all ISAAC International and ISAAC Canada members. Members of ISAAC through our network of other worldwide Chapters are encouraged to renew memberships directly with their Chapter. If you have any questions, or have not heard directly from your Chapter, feel free to communicate directly with the ISAAC International Membership Coordinator, Teraiz El-Deir, at [isaac@isaac-online.org](mailto:isaac@isaac-online.org).

*Message from the President, and ...From the Executive Director can be found in translation on the ISAAC website, [here](#).*

### **THANK YOU!**

*The Call for Papers online portal is now closed, and submissions are currently under review.*



*Applicants will be notified of acceptance by February 19, 2016.*

*We are very pleased about the final number of submissions.*



*Thank you to everyone who submitted abstracts!*

...continued on page 3



## ...From the Executive Director

### **ISAAC Nominations Committee**

In anticipation of next year's ISAAC Council meeting, the ISAAC Nominations Committee is beginning the work of ensuring that an appropriate Executive Board slate will be ready for presentation. All Council Members will soon be asked for their input into the nominations process, and we look forward to their involvement in this important aspect of the ISAAC governance process.

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

Regards and thanks,  
Franklin Smith

Thank you to our dedicated  
ISAAC E-News  
translators:

*Ghislaine Picot (French)*  
*Elena Panigadi (Italian)*  
*Nadia Browning (Portuguese)*



View ISAAC's calendar of  
AAC events



### **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

Click here to access the online conference registration system and official registration rates for Conference 2016, along with key dates for your calendar. This includes information on our 2016 AAC Camps, which are priced on a per program basis (see page 6 for summary of AAC Camp activities).

## Communication Support World Network News



**Communication Support World Network (CSWN) News** features articles about emerging AAC nations where you live or that you support. The Editor's Note to the December 2015 edition describes the newsletter, its approach, and the content of the current issue:

"Since the beginning of publication in 2009, the newsletter has grown, broadened its reach, and quintupled its readership. This issue provides greater breadth of coverage and contains more practical and useful information on relevant topics than ever before. You'll read about an exciting new video produced by our colleagues in Mexico City, updates on the introduction of new low-tech assistive technology tools in schools for children in Malawi and preschoolers in Uganda, descriptions of the very beginnings

of speech therapy and augmentative communication in Vietnam, a wide variety of resources focusing on the use of tablets and the availability of new apps for children with communication challenges, and the creative work pursued by students with severe disabilities commenting musically to advocate for accessible toilets. You'll also read about AAC and AT meetings and gatherings across the globe. Our coverage describes activities and resources relevant to assistive technology in emerging areas from six different continents."

Do you have information to share about emerging AAC nations where you live or that you support? Please send your submissions to CSWN News Editor, [Dot Fraser](#).

Read the  
December issue  
of **CSWN  
News** in PDF  
format [here](#).

### ANNOUNCING ISAAC PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNICATION DISABILITIES ACCESS CANADA



Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) is a non-profit organization that promotes social justice, accessibility, and inclusion for people who have communication disabilities. Communication Access Now, a project of CDAC, is a Canada-wide strategy to promote awareness of the accessibility requirements of people with communication disabilities. To view a recent webinar presented by Barbara Collier, CDAC Executive Director, and hosted in partnership with USSAAC, [click here](#). Find more information on ISAAC partnerships [here](#).



## Conference 2016 Updates

STAR ALLIANCE  
THE WAY THE EARTH CONNECTS



The **Star Alliance Member Airlines** have once again been appointed the **Official Airline Network for ISAAC Conference 2016**. Registered Conference 2016 participants plus one accompanying person may qualify for a discount of up to 20% depending on fare and class of travel booked with one of Star Alliance's participating airlines.

These savings will be available only to ISAAC members, Conference 2016 Sponsors and Exhibitors. After completing online registration for the conference, you will be sent the code needed to book your airfare at reduced conference rates. Details available [here](#).



We are pleased to offer the **ISAAC Travel Award for New Professionals' Attendance at ISAAC Conference 2016**, sponsored by AssistiveWare®. ISAAC would like to thank AssistiveWare® for once again supporting the learning environment offered by ISAAC at our biennial conference for professionals working in the field of AAC. The deadline for applications is March 14, 2016. Applicants will be advised of the outcome by March 31. To apply, please [click here](#).

Thanks to all who submitted applications for [travel assistance to attend Conference 2016 under various programs](#). Applications for programs *other than AssistiveWare®* are now closed.

...Conference Updates continued on page 6

### NEWS FOR USSAAC MEMBERS

ISAAC International is pleased to be managing 2016 membership sign-up and renewals on behalf of our US Chapter, [USSAAC](#). All current and past USSAAC members have been notified via email that the membership sign-up system is now open. Please [click here](#) for the official announcement from Lateef McLeod, USSAAC President 2016-2018.

## Conference 2016 Updates *continued*



### EXPERIENCE AAC CAMP AT ISAAC CONFERENCE 2016!

We are preparing to welcome participants to a fantastic AAC Camp in August 2016! Activities are offered for participants of all ages who use AAC. You can choose one activity or a combination, as the programs are scheduled and priced individually.

Saturday, August 6th 2016

Morning

**A MORNING ON CENTRE ISLAND** A short trip on the Toronto Island Ferry to Centre Island (the ferry dock is right next door to the Westin Harbour Castle).

**DEALING WITH STUPID SITUATIONS** Do you ever come across someone who just does not understand how to communicate with you? This workshop focuses on tips, skills and strategies, and will take place at the Westin Harbour Castle.

Afternoon

**EXPLORE THE "ARK"** Take a walk on the wild side and join us for this interactive animal adventure. Participants will have a chance to interact with the animals, take photos, and ask

questions. This camp will take place at the Westin Harbour Castle.

Sunday, August 7th 2016

Full Day

**ENGAGING POSSIBILITIES  
DRAMA WORKSHOP** This activity takes place at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel.

Morning



### RIPLEY'S AQUARIUM

Explore one of Toronto's newest attractions, featuring underwater creatures and habitats, including a shark tank.

Afternoon

### WHO ARE YOUR HEROES

Many great people use AAC. Who do you look up to? Who makes you want to be a better person? Who makes a difference in your life? This camp starts with a presentation by a hero in our community, and takes place at the Westin Harbour Castle.

For more information on AAC Camp activities, schedules, and prices, please [click here](#)





## **ATTENTION EXHIBITORS!**

### **Book your space now for the best selection of exhibit locations!**

You are invited to explore the marketing opportunities open to exhibitors at the ISAAC Conference 2016. As an exhibitor you will have the opportunity to meet key stakeholders, raise your company profile and further your marketing goals.

We are planning exciting additions to the ISAAC experience to create more opportunities for productive interactions with conference participants. We are also planning for a total attendance of approximately 1,200.

For ISAAC 2016 Exhibit Sales Information [click here](#), or contact:

Tony Needer, Conference 2016 Exhibitor Sales Specialist

[tony\(at\)isaac-online.org](mailto:tony(at)isaac-online.org)

Tel: 905-850-6848 ext. 233

## **Sponsorship Opportunities at ISAAC Conference 2016**

ISAAC Conference 2016 presents exciting opportunities for sponsorship. Sponsors have the opportunity to directly reach persons aligned with their target markets, from people who use AAC and their families, to health professionals, teachers, and researchers. Participation by our sponsors, in turn, supports the international AAC community and related activities around the world.

ISAAC is pleased to tailor a sponsorship opportunity that most closely aligns with your company's marketing objectives. Contact Judy Shapiro to discuss the sponsorship offering best suited to your marketing needs.

Judy Shapiro, Conference 2016 Sponsorship Specialist

[judy\(at\)isaac-online.org](mailto:judy(at)isaac-online.org)

Tel: 905-850-6848 ext. 231



## Conference 2016 Updates *continued*

### ISAAC 2016 HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

The Westin Harbour Castle is the official hotel for ISAAC Conference 2016. Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, with a stunning view of the Lake Ontario waterfront, the hotel is fully accessible and committed to sustainability. Guests can access our dedicated [booking site](#) to learn more about the event and to book or modify a reservation for ISAAC Conference 2016, subject to availability. In order to secure the conference Group Rate, please be sure to make your reservation before the cut-off date of July 4, 2016.

### FILM FESTIVAL

The ISAAC Film Festival is a new event in 2016, designed to showcase our vision, *Changing Lives*. It will feature the remarkable people who use AAC and their communication partners around the world. Story ideas were submitted, and people were then invited to create and submit their films. These films will be shown at the ISAAC Film Festival, which will take place during the Welcome Reception on August 8, 2016, at the 2016 ISAAC Conference in Toronto, Canada.

### PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

The ISAAC Conference 2016 Pre-conference Workshops are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, Canada. These workshops offer the unique opportunity to explore a number of specialized topics before the main conference.

### RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

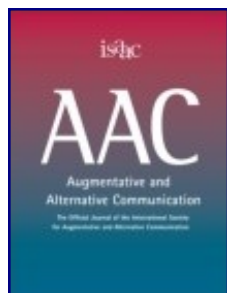
Research Symposium 2016 (August 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>) is an opportunity for AAC researchers across the globe to connect and strengthen research networks within ISAAC. Chaired by Bronwyn Hemsley, Associate Professor, School of Humanities and Social Science (Speech Pathology), University of Newcastle, Australia.

***ISAAC Members qualify for reduced conference registration rates!*** Renew your membership for 2016 to take advantage of Early-Bird Member Registration Rates. If you are a current member, you can renew your membership through your national or regional Chapters. Members of ISAAC International, ISAAC Canada, and USSAAC may renew their membership online.





## **AAC Journal Celebrates 30 years with Release of Free Access Articles**



**I**t's been 30 years since the founding of the *Augmentative and Alternative Communication* journal in 1985. To celebrate this milestone, the AAC journal editors, past and present, and publisher Taylor & Francis are providing key articles free for a period of 30 days. For more information, please [click here](#).

### **New AAC Journal, Vol. 31, Issue 4, 2015**

View Table of Contents [here](#).

## **ISAAC SUPPORTS ICP**



**The International Communication Project (ICP)** is an advocate for those with communication disabilities, as well as their families, caregivers and communication professionals. The ICP highlights the importance of human communication and how communication disabilities significantly impact every aspect of life. Established in 2014, ICP joins organizations from around the world in advocating for people with communication disorders and raising the profile of communication disabilities. ISAAC International is proud to be an ICP participating organization.

## **UN PUBLICATIONS FOCUSING ON DISABILITY**

The United Nations publishes the Enable Newsletter to keep subscribers up-to-date on international developments. [Subscribe here](#).

DESA News is published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. To view the December 2015 issue, [click here](#).

## Chapter News

### ISAAC ITALY RECEIVES MEDAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC



The V National Conference of ISAAC-Italy on Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Italy Models, Projects, Best Practices, took place in Rome on November 6 – 8, 2015.

Many people from all over Italy attended the conference: health professionals, teachers of all grades of school, vendors, people who use AAC, caregivers, and families; associations of people who use AAC and their families were also present.

On the first day we were honoured by the presence and stimulating lectures of Dr. Melanie Fried-Oken, who talked about “Developing AAC Educational Goals with the Communication Supports Inventory – Children and Youth (CSI-CY)” during the first part of the morning. For the rest of the day the focus was on adults: “Assessment and Interventions for Adults with Health Conditions Who Require Augmentative and Alternative Communication”. The non-verbal communication issues of people affected by aphasia, Parkinson’s disease, dementia, and locked-in syndrome were discussed, and participants were introduced to brain-computer interfaces (BCI). The day was a great opportunity for networking and for professional and personal growth. To Dr. Fried-Oken, we offer special thanks and acknowledgement from ISAAC-Italy.



- Photos courtesy of ISAAC-Italy

...continued on page 11



## Chapter News *continued*



The second and third days focused on sharing AAC experiences from all over Italy. The conference offered great opportunities to connect with single professionals, groups of professionals and researchers, but also with families and people who use AAC. Five AAC users presented their own lectures: what a great experience!

The President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, awarded a bronze medal to the conference, sent to Cristina Cerantola, President of ISAAC-Italy:

MEDAGLIA DEL PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA /  
MEDAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

This honour came as a great surprise. We are pleased to share this news and to congratulate ISAAC-Italy for the recognition the conference and Italy's Head of State brought to the issue of non-verbal communication.

Thanks also to all the people who worked hard for the conference and shared their AAC life experience.

### ISAAC-TAIWAN

On December 20, 2015, the Department of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology at Chung Shan Medical University in Taiwan and ISAAC-Taiwan co-hosted "A Forum on AAC Service in Taiwan from Perspective of Evidence-Based Practice". Visit [twsaac.blogspot.tw](http://twsaac.blogspot.tw) for more information.

- Submitted by Meng-Ju Tsai, President, ISAAC-Taiwan



### ISAAC CONFERENCE 2016

#### "Bringing Us Together / Ce qui nous rassemble"

The 17th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication will be held at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto, Canada, August 6-13, 2016.

## ISAAC Projects and Activities



### ISAAC BUILD AAC COMMITTEE

After the annual Communication Matters (ISAAC-UK Chapter) National Conference last September in Leeds, the CM Board of Trustees and membership created a partnership with the ISAAC BUILD European Subcommittee to support Eastern and Central European AAC developing countries.

To spearhead this new partnership in a recent visit to Zamość, Poland, Dot Fraser led two weeks of workshops on AAC for adults and in healthcare, making good use of information and ideas from the UK to strengthen existing connections with Poland.

Dot participated along with other guest speakers in a conference in Zamość celebrating the 25th anniversary of Krok za Krokiem (Step by Step) association. Her topic was "AAC to Facilitate Functional Communication Skills and Participation of People with Cerebral Palsy in Society."

*Dot's colleague's in Poland will write more about this collaboration for ISAAC E-News in 2016.*

*BUILD has a Facebook page, ISAAC BUILD AAC. This is a public group and a*

*platform for individuals from Emerging AAC countries to post information, and share experiences and resources. We invite anyone from an Emerging AAC Country or with an interest in AAC work there to sign up.*

*Sarah Yong, is ISAAC VP without Portfolio and BUILD AAC Chair*

### ISAAC's FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

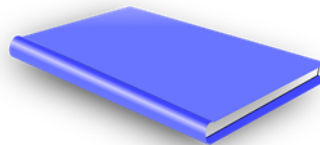
The goal of this Committee is to encourage family-to-family exchange to support families of people with communication disabilities around the world.

People are invited and encouraged to "get together" on the Family Engagement Facebook page to share information and insights. For those who want to participate in smaller, more private, Google Group can be arranged on request.

*For more information, contact India Ochs, ISAAC VP without Portfolio and Family Engagement Committee Chair*



## Resource Notes



### USSAAC WEBINAR SERIES

Congratulations and thanks to USSAAC (ISAAC-US) for organizing a very successful webinar series during 2015. Recordings are made of each webinar, and these can be found [here](#). More webinars are planned for 2016.

### L'ASSOCIATION DE PARALYSIE CÉRÉBRALE DU QUÉBEC LANCEMENT DU LIVRE «UNE PAROLE ARRACHÉE AUMSILENCE» DE JEAN-EUDES BOURQUE

Ce journal raconte sa vie, ses espoirs, ses angoisses, ses difficultés, ses combats et témoigne de la foi qui l'a toujours animé. Il reprend aussi les textes des conférences qu'il a données dans le cadre des réunions de Foi et Partage et des Conférences Lamennais. Il nous fait aussi part de ses découvertes au cours de ses divers voyages dans les régions du Québec et ailleurs. Nous sommes à même de constater la richesse de ses amities.

[WWW.PARALYSIECEREBRALE.COM](http://WWW.PARALYSIECEREBRALE.COM)

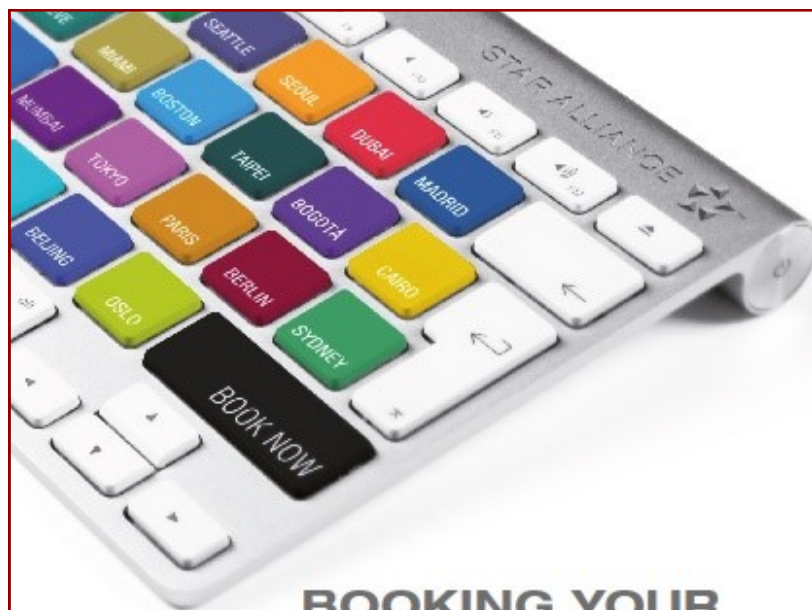
### ISAAC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

[Click here](#) to view and “like” ISAAC International, [ISAAC BUILD AAC](#), and [ISAAC's Family Engagement Committee](#) on Facebook. These pages share news about ISAAC and AAC. Follow [ISAAC on YouTube](#) for video updates, and check out [ISAAC's Blog](#) for more!

*Best Wishes for Peace and Joy  
throughout the Holiday Season, from all of us at ISAAC*

Please note that the ISAAC International office will be closed from  
December 21st, 2015 through January 4th, 2016.





## BOOKING YOUR OWN CONFERENCE TRAVEL IS EASY AS ABC

WITH THE GLOBAL ONLINE BOOKING TOOL FROM STAR ALLIANCE CONVENTIONS PLUS

No matter where you are travelling from, the Star Alliance™ network offers you a wide choice of flights to ISAAC Conference 2016 in Toronto, Canada.

And with over 18,500 flights a day to 1,321 destinations across 193 countries, our 27 member airlines extend the same choice to any future conferences you are planning to attend.

You can also save money when you book your flights. Simply quote the Convention Code AC01S16 and you plus one travelling companion will receive a special discount. Better still, no matter which Star Alliance member airline's frequent flyer programme you belong to, you can earn and redeem miles across all 27 airlines.

For more information, or to join the airline network that offers you more choice wherever your conferences take you, simply go to [www.staralliance.com/conventionsplus](http://www.staralliance.com/conventionsplus)



[www.staralliance.com](http://www.staralliance.com)  
Information correct as of 05/2015

**STAR ALLIANCE**  
THE WAY THE EARTH CONNECTS







ISAAC has Chapters in 14 countries or regions worldwide. For information about how you can participate, contact the organizations listed above, or [ISAAC International](#) for areas not listed.

## ISAAC Chapters

ISAAC-Australia  
([www.isaacaustralia.com](http://www.isaacaustralia.com))

ISAAC-Brazil  
([www.isaac.org.br](http://www.isaac.org.br))

ISAAC-Canada  
([www.isaac-canada.org](http://www.isaac-canada.org))

ISAAC-Denmark  
([www.isaac.dk](http://www.isaac.dk))

ISAAC-Francophone (French-Speaking Countries and Regions)  
([www.isaac-fr.org](http://www.isaac-fr.org))

ISAAC-India  
([aynihh.nic.in](http://aynihh.nic.in))

ISAAC-Israel  
([www.isaac.org.il](http://www.isaac.org.il))

ISAAC-Italy  
([www.isaacitaly.it](http://www.isaacitaly.it))

ISAAC-NF (Netherlands and Flanders) ([www.isaac-nf.nl](http://www.isaac-nf.nl))

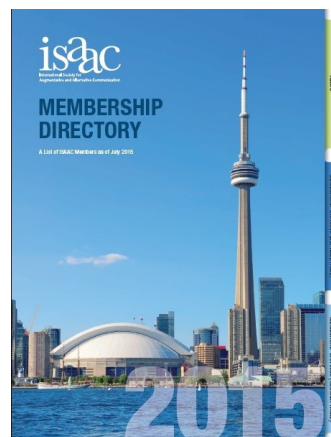
ISAAC-Norway  
([www.isaac.no](http://www.isaac.no))

ISAAC-Sweden  
([www.isaac-sverige.se](http://www.isaac-sverige.se))

ISAAC-Taiwan  
([twsaac.blogspot.tw/](http://twsaac.blogspot.tw/))

ISAAC-UK (Communication Matters)  
([www.communicationmatters.org.uk](http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk))

ISAAC-US (USSAAC)  
([www.ussaac.org](http://www.ussaac.org))



## ISAAC MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY 2015

This year's ISAAC Membership Directory is available online. In order to access the Directory, you will need to know your ISAAC Member ID number and password. If you do not have these, please contact Teraiz El-Deir, Membership Coordinator

**INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY FOR  
AUGMENTATIVE &  
ALTERNATIVE  
COMMUNICATION**

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info@isaac-online.org



**Visit us at**  
**[www.isaac-online.org](http://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**

### **Executive Board 2014-2016**

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[Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk](#)  
Chair-Elect of the Council,  
Poland

[India Ochs](#)  
VP without Portfolio, USA

[Tracy Shepherd](#)  
VP-Conference Planning, Canada

[Vic Valentic](#)  
Leadership Chair for People who  
use AAC, Canada

[Sarah Yong](#)  
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[Martine Smith](#), Editor, *AAC Augmentative  
and Alternative Communication*

[Jackie Brown](#), AAC Editorial Assistant

[Judy Shapiro](#), Conference 2016  
Sponsorship Specialist

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Exhibitor Sales Specialist