

December 2017



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A Holiday Message from ISAAC

This is the time of year for looking forward to the future and at the same time feeling grateful for the past. While there is still much work to be done, in 2017 we have seen AAC awareness embraced around the world more than ever before. Through our BUILD AAC Committee, we have expanded our network of people in emerging AAC countries. The LEAD Committee has encouraged leadership opportunities for people who use AAC, and we have sought the involvement of families through our Family Engagement initiatives.

As for the future, all this and more will be on our agenda. We have been busy updating the strategic plan for our organization and of course preparing for our biennial conference on the Gold Coast, Australia, in 2018.

On behalf of the ISAAC Executive Board and the team at the ISAAC International Office, we want to extend our warmest greetings to each and every one of you for a happy holiday season. Thank you for your support of ISAAC!

Yours sincerely,

Gregor Renner
ISAAC President

Franklin Smith
ISAAC Executive Director

This message is available in translation (French, Italian and Portuguese) on the ISAAC [website](#).



Gregor Renner, ISAAC President, with colleagues Paul Andres and Prof. Dr. Jens Boenisch (L to R), at a recent AAC conference in Germany, spreading the word about ISAAC Conference 2018, to be held on the Gold Coast, Australia, July 21-26, 2018.

A Historical Moment: The First East Asian Regional Conference on Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Communication *Submitted by Kristine Stadskleiv and Stephen von Tetzchner*

More than 50 participants gathered from November 20 to 22, 2017, in Beijing, China, for the first regional conference on AAC in East Asia. The venue was the Sandalwood Marriott hotel in the Chaoyang district, and the beautiful surroundings fitted the welcoming and friendly atmosphere that characterized the conference. There are several institutions and professionals in the region with competence in AAC, but there has never been a conference that brought these institutions and professionals together. It was therefore very appropriate that the theme of the conference was Discovering Resources.

The conference was hosted by Wucailu Center for Children with Autism, and its leader Menglin Sun opened the conference on Monday, November 20th. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to keynote speeches by professors Fei Xiao of Beijing Normal University and Stephen von Tetzchner from the University of Oslo, Norway, as well as greetings from ISAAC International by President-Elect Meredith Allan and Chair of Council Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk. Allan and Mysakowska-Adamczyk also took

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT ISAAC 2018 AT THE FIRST EAST ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON AAC



At Wucailu Center for Children with Autism in Beijing, China, November 20-22, 2017

(above) Meredith Allan, ISAAC President-Elect

(below) Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk, Chair of the ISAAC Council



...continued on page 3



A Historical Moment ... continued

the opportunity to welcome all participants to attend the next ISAAC conference in Australia in July 2018.

During the next two days there were presentations and a lot of networking. The 23 presentations were very interesting and of high quality. They included presentations from different parts of China (Shanghai, Beijing, Harbin, Suzhou, and Changzhou), from other Asian countries such as Taiwan, South Korea, and India, as well as from participants from Norway, Poland, Israel, the US, and Australia. The contributions had different approaches to AAC and related subjects, and highlighted the scientific, personal, and clinical contributions of the East Asian AAC communities. Several case studies contributed to showing the diversity of AAC user groups, of institutions, and of AAC modes. There were also

several talks about the importance of educating and supporting parents, and discussions about how AAC should best be adapted to fit and to be relevant in different local languages, cultures, and contexts.

We hope that this historical moment will be the start of a vital and growing AAC community in East Asia, and look forward to the second regional conference in the not too distant future.

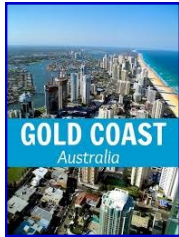


Opening of the conference by the organizers: Menglin Sun and Xuiyin Fu from the Wucailu Center for Children with Autism in Beijing



**Early Bird Registration Deadline:
February 28, 2018**

isaac Conference 2018 Updates



PROFILE: PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

JULY 21 & 22, 2018
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
GOLD COAST, QLD, AUSTRALIA

The Pre-Conference Workshops are taking place on the weekend before the Main Conference. They will provide a unique opportunity to explore a number of specialized topics in AAC. Five exciting workshops are offered:

Communication and Access for Children who have Severe Physical Challenges and Cortical Visual Impairment

Linda Burkhart, Private Consultant (USA)

Daring to Dream: Turning Your Dreams Into Future Realities

Diane Nelson Bryen, PhD (USA)
Beth Moulam (UK)
Melinda Smith (Australia)

Evidence-Based Practice in Aided Language Modelling/ Aided Language Stimulation

Samuel Sennott, PhD (USA)

Comprehensive Approaches to Literacy in AAC

Penny Hatch, PhD (USA)
Lori Geist, PhD (USA)

The Lived Experience of Speaking through a Speech Generating Device Kathy Howery, PhD (Canada)

Workshop schedules and detailed program information are available on the [ISAAC website](#). Register for workshops via our online [conference registration portal](#).

CALLING ALL FILMMAKERS!

You are invited to enter the [ISAAC 2018 Short Film Festival!](#) We are looking for newly created films to showcase the theme of the conference: **AACcess All Areas**. The deadline for submissions is April 16, 2018.

ISAAC 2018 CALL FOR PAPERS DRAW PRIZE WINNER



Michelle Schladant, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Mailman Center for Child Development at the University of

Miami's School of Medicine, won a 50% registration discount for being one of the first 20 to submit a completed proposal. Her name was chosen in a random draw. Congratulations, Michelle!

Conference 2018 Updates

PROFILE: LET'S GET REAL! ISAAC 2018 AAC CAMP

The [ISAAC 2018 AAC Camp](#) is going to be all about reality – Reality TV! The *Let's Get Real! AAC Camp* will run on July 21st and 22nd at the fully accessible [Currumbin Community Special School](#) on the Gold Coast.

Four different Reality TV themed activities will happen during each half day of the camp program. Reality Camp activities will include:

- The Amazing AAC Race
- AAC Fear Factor
- MasterChef AAC style
- I'm an AAC Celebrity
- Nature Reality (with Awesome Australian Creatures)

Activities will be planned appropriately for the age groups attending and *Nature Reality* will include hands-on contact with some Australian animals.

Detailed program information is available on the [ISAAC website](#).

Register for AAC Camp via our online [conference registration portal](#).

VISITING AUSTRALIA

While in Australia you'll want to explore some of the top tourist destinations this beautiful country has to offer.

The Gold Coast, where ISAAC 2018 is happening, is a tropical coastal area in the state of Queensland and a popular holiday destination. The conference will be held in the dry season (winter), when the temperature is a delightful 20 - 25C (68 -77F) and the water temperature at the Gold Coast's amazing beaches is 19C (66F). Lively Brisbane, with its many cultural attractions, is not far away.

The Northern Territory is the magnificent "red centre" of Australia, showcasing beautiful desert landscapes. The Northern Territory is the home of the magnificent Uluru.



A short flight south of the Gold Coast is the beautiful state of Victoria. Melbourne, Victoria's capital, is a stunning city you won't want to miss. Sydney - capital of New South Wales and one of Australia's largest cities - is home to the iconic Sydney Opera House, Bondi Beach and much more. Information for visitors to Australia is posted on the [ISAAC website](#).



Chapter News



Submitted by
Margit Grønkjær,
ISAAC-Denmark

NEWS FROM ISAAC DENMARK

BREAKING NEWS! TRANSLATION ERROR OFFICIALLY CORRECTED BY THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

For several years the wrong translation of AAC was used in the Danish edition of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. At last – on November 17, 2017 – the Convention text has been corrected and made public via the Danish Law News.

ISAAC-Denmark had contacted two former ministers for social affairs without coming to an understanding of the problem, which was that the word "augmentative" was translated to a word similar to "magnifying." The concept of the word is much wider and must include a broader group of people, not only those with visual impairments. At last, the third Minister for Social Affairs understood our argument and resolved the linguistic discrepancies in the Convention. ISAAC-Denmark is very happy and satisfied that the translation of "AAC" is now correct!

CONTACT WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

In late October, four ISAAC-Denmark board members visited the Ministry of Education for the first time. We had taken the initiative to set up the meeting, and it was a positive experience to discuss the need for AAC in schools. How can we secure equal opportunity for all children who need AAC – regardless of where they live in Denmark? This subject was quite new to the professionals in the Ministry. We hope for much more contact in the future. See *page 8 for Awareness Month news from ISAAC-Denmark.*



ISAAC REPRESENTED BY HANNE ROHDE AT WHO GREAT SUMMIT, AUGUST 3-4, 2017

More than 150 researchers, innovators, and educators from 52 countries came together last August at the Global Research, Innovation, and Education in Assistive Technology (GREAT) Summit, at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva. Hanne Rohde of ISAAC-Denmark attended this key meeting on behalf of ISAAC. ([Click here](#) for more information.)

Chapter News ... *continued*



ISAAC-Brazil is proud to announce that its first AAC Awareness Campaign in October was a big success.

People in São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Suzano, Campo Limpo Paulista, Bauru, and São Carlos do Pinhal were engaged by the awareness initiatives. This campaign, along with the regional meetings that have been held across the country, are increasing awareness about AAC in Brazil.

Check out the details on the [ISAAC-Brazil website](#).

USSAAC (ISAAC-US) has had an active and rewarding year. Among its many activities, USSAAC has conducted [five webinars](#), introduced the [SpeakUp Blog](#), organized [emergency response and](#)

[recovery assistance](#) for people who use AAC and held monthly Twitter chats (#USSAACChat).

ISAAC-Taiwan and the Department of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology in Chung Shan Medical University hosted an AAC conference in Taichung, Taiwan, on October 22nd. Professor Gregor Renner, ISAAC President, shared the topic, "ISAAC as a Platform for International Collaboration: Networking with ISAAC Part of the Family." More than 100 undergraduate and graduate students (future SLPs) attended this conference.

October 22, 2017 is also the 4th birthday of ISAAC-Taiwan. Happy birthday!



Dr. Meng-Ju Tsai
of ISAAC-Taiwan
with Gregor
Renner, ISAAC
President

ISAAC-CANADA *Imagining Possibilities* is a project developed by Aiding Dramatic Change in Development (ADCID) www.adcid.org, a non-profit that uses creative story-making for community development. The Imagining Possibilities Leadership Team, an ensemble of adults with cerebral palsy who use AAC, have been developing their artistic skills over the last five years in creative improvisation and story-making. Together with ADCID they create performances that are participatory for audience members with physical disabilities. Engaging with communities in the Toronto area, they take a leadership role in creating artistic experiences for their peers and community members. Recently, the Imagining Possibilities Leadership Team travelled to Belgium to share their approach. To find out what happened, and to catch up on more ISAAC Chapter News, [click here](#) - Submitted by Nicole Johnson and Kris Daunoravicius. Reprinted with permission from *Figuratively Speaking*, ISAAC-Canada's newsletter.

International AAC Awareness Month 2017



ISAAC-CANADA



Thames Valley Children's Centre,
London, Ontario



ICEwest Conference, British
Columbia: a highlight of AAC

ISAAC-DENMARK

A Two-Day Event Celebrating Awareness Month: Transitions for PWUAAC

In cooperation with governmental department of social services (Socialstyrelsen), ISAAC-Denmark initiated a successful two-day event in Copenhagen. There were 100 participants, far more than expected.

The keynote speakers were: Dr. David McNaughton, Professor of Special Education at Pennsylvania State University (*top right*), and Dr. Signhild Skogdal, University of Tromsø, Norway (*bottom, right*).

For more details about this event, [click here](#).

- Submitted by Margit Grønkjær



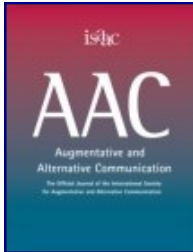
FOR MORE AWARENESS MONTH NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, VISIT THE
[ISAAC WEBSITE](#)



Constance Ntuli, a disability advocate and staff member at the **Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC)** at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, organized a line dance with students at the university on October 27th to raise awareness about AAC.



ISAAC Activities & Projects



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BUILD AAC COMMITTEE

[ISAAC BUILD AAC](#) supports the development of augmentative and alternative communication in emerging AAC countries, finding practical ways to offer them support. For updates from around the world, join [ISAAC BUILD AAC](#) on Facebook.

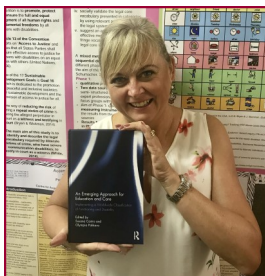
LEAD COMMITTEE

The [ISAAC LEAD Project](#) Committee encourages and supports people who use AAC as leaders within ISAAC. Follow [ISAAC LEAD Project News and Happenings](#) on Facebook. For those attending ISAAC 2018, LEAD will be hosting a 4-hour leadership workshop called “[Dare to Lead](#)”. As in previous years, there will also be a fantastic ISAAC Town Hall meeting.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The goal of this committee is to support families of people with communication disabilities around the world. If you are interested, join [Family Engagement](#) on Facebook. **Please take a few minutes to answer our Family Engagement Survey. [Click here](#) to reply by January 8th.

The second ISAAC Edition of the **CSWN Newsletter** was published in November 2017. If you haven't already seen it, you will find it posted on the [CSWN page on the ISAAC website](#). Those who have been receiving the CSWN Newsletter for many years will not be surprised by the wealth of information on AAC around the world contained in its pages. Much appreciation from ISAAC to CSWN Co-editors Dorothy Fraser and Nadia Browning for their hard work and dedication!



NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Congratulations to Prof. Juan Bornman on her recently published book chapter, “Human rights of children with disability: exploring the role of the ICF-CY”. It is part of a new book titled, “[An emerging approach for education and care: Implementing a worldwide classification of functioning and disability](#)”, edited by Susana Castro and Olympia Palikara.



Awards & Scholarships

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE DECEMBER 15th! Visit the ISAAC website for details on how to apply for our [Conference 2018 Travel Assistance Grants](#) to attend ISAAC Conference 2018:

- [Travel Assistance to Attend ISAAC Conference: People Who Use AAC](#)
- [Travel Assistance for Emerging Country Members to Attend ISAAC Conference 2018 \(BUILD\)](#)
- [New Professionals' Travel Assistance Grant for Attending the ISAAC 2018 Biennial Conference—Sponsored by AssistiveWare®](#)
- [Travel Award for Emerging Researchers' Attendance at the Biennial Conference of ISAAC](#)

To apply, download a copy of the form-fillable PDF document to your local computer before completing and saving. Please note that funding through these programs is limited.

ISAAC OUTSTANDING CONSUMER LECTURE AWARD

Every two years the [ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award](#) is presented to a person who uses AAC. This award provides a platform for a person who uses AAC to present a topic in which they have special expertise at the ISAAC Biennial Conference.

Application deadline: November 30, 2017. Closed to new applications.

ISAAC FELLOWSHIP AWARD

This award honours an ISAAC member who has earned distinction within the ISAAC community. The title Fellow of the International Society of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) is given for the life of the recipient and may be abbreviated as F.ISAAC. [Application guidelines](#) can be found online.

Application deadline: April 28, 2018

ISAAC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The [ISAAC Distinguished Service Award](#) is presented to an ISAAC member or group to recognize an outstanding contribution to the field of AAC through clinical work, information/knowledge, distribution, and research.

Application deadline: April 28, 2018

THE BRIDGE SCHOOL / ISAAC TEACHER-IN-RESIDENCE AWARD

The [Bridge School/ISAAC Teacher-In-Residence Award](#) enables an individual from a country with emerging technology to learn and teach AAC methods through an in-depth internship. Applications may be sent to Vicki Casella, vcasella@bridgeschool.org.



NEW ONLINE TRAINING COURSE FROM CDAC



Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) is offering a limited time only, free training course for anyone who assists a person with a speech and language disability when communicating in their communities.

The course is particularly useful for personal support workers, attendants, communication assistants, direct service professionals, family members, disability advocates, and students in a disability field.

Guidelines and strategies are discussed in order to support people who are over 18 years of age and who have established methods of communication. Course instructors are people with communication disabilities and their assistants.

Please note:

- This is a free, limited time only opportunity
- Registration deadline is **January 8, 2018**
- Takes approximately seven hours to complete
- Available online between **January 22, 2018 – March 2, 2018**
- Open to anyone who assists a person with a communication disability – especially personal support workers and attendants.
- Available in English and French.

For more details and to register, please go to <http://www.cdacanada.com/assistants/>

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR ISAAC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018?

If not, please renew through your Chapter. If you are an ISAAC International member, you will have received an email reminder. Please contact [Teraiz El-Deir](#), ISAAC International's Membership Coordinator, for further information and assistance.

SPECIAL OFFER! With any renewed or new Institutional or Corporate ISAAC Membership (for 2018 membership year only), either as an international member or through an ISAAC Chapter, a subscription to the AAC journal for 2018 is included *at no additional cost*. [Click here](#) for ISAAC membership information.

isaac Chapters

ISAAC-Australia

(www.isaacaustralia.com)

ISAAC-Brazil

(isaac.org.br)

ISAAC-Canada

(www.isaac-canada.org)

ISAAC-Denmark

(www.isaac.dk)

ISAAC-FSC

(www.isaac-fr.org)

ISAAC-India

(<http://isaac.org.in>)

ISAAC-Israel

(isaac.org.il)

ISAAC-Italy

(www.isaacitaly.it)

ISAAC-NF

(www.isaac-nf.nl)

ISAAC-Norway

(www.isaac.no)

ISAAC-Poland

(www.aac.org.pl)

ISAAC-Sweden

(www.isaac-sverige.se)

ISAAC-Taiwan

(twsaac.blogspot.tw)

ISAAC-UK

(Communication Matters)
(www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

ISAAC-US (USSAAC)

(www.ussaac.org)



ISAAC Membership Directory© 2017

Available online in the
Members Only section.

[Click here for access](#)
using your ISAAC
member ID# and
password.

DO YOU KNOW AN EDUCATOR WHO HAS SUPPORTED A STUDENT (3 TO 18 YEARS OLD) WHO USED AIDED AAC WITHIN THE PAST 2 YEARS?

A research team at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital in Toronto, Canada, is developing a way to measure the effectiveness of AAC systems for students at school. They worked with young people who use AAC, educators, and clinicians to create a new questionnaire for teachers, educational assistants, and special educators. The information collected using the questionnaire will eventually help clinicians to learn more about the functional impact of AAC systems. The research team launched an online survey to test the questionnaire and is asking for your help to tell eligible educators about it by sharing the survey link: https://is.gd/educator_study Educators who click on the link will learn more about the research study and access the survey. The online survey is live and will close on **January 31, 2018**. Please note: This information is also posted on the ISAAC [News](#) page.



Stay up-to-date through ISAAC on **social media** by clicking on the logos at left. Your likes, follows and feedback are much appreciated!

**INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR
AUGMENTATIVE
AND
ALTERNATIVE
COMMUNICATION**

312 Dolomite Drive
Suite 216
Toronto, ON
M3J 2N2
Canada

Tel: 905-850-6848
Fax: 905-850-6852
Email:
info@isaac-online.org

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, or 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).

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