



*Since 1983, a worldwide alliance working to create opportunities for people who communicate using little or no speech.*

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**Dear ISAAC Members,**

May this be the year of great opportunities for you all!

The year certainly started on a positive note in the ISAAC Executive and Secretariat on various levels:

- Firstly the appointment of our new Executive Director, Franklin Smith, brought new energy to ISAAC, which is greatly appreciated. One of Franklin's initial objectives is to have discussions with as many ISAAC members as possible, so if you have not met him yet, please make contact - he is waiting to hear from you all.

- The ISAAC E-News is expanded to include resources and opportunities for ISAAC members to share news and information from their different chapters and work settings. With this more extensive E-News, we are hoping to provide a meaningful forum to all to stay connected to what's happening in AAC around the globe.

- The first phase of the development of the new ISAAC website has been completed: Two more phases to go!

- Fourthly, our various ISAAC committees are in action. Please make sure that you become engaged so that ISAAC can also benefit from your input!

The goals for the Executive this year are to start work on the development of a new strategic plan for ISAAC which will be presented to the Council and membership at the 2012 conference in Pittsburgh. We will keep you posted on progress made on this to ensure sufficient opportunities for all to contribute to the development of this vital ISAAC document.

Finally, on a rather sad note - this is the last month that Mona Zaccak will be in the ISAAC office as she is retiring at the end of February. We wish her all the best for the future and are

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most grateful to her for 14 years of excellent service to the organization. We shall sorely miss her!

Till next time,  
[Erna Alant](#)

February 2011 *Message from the President* in **French, German, Italian** and **Spanish**:

[Message de la Présidente de Février 2011](#)

[Februar 2010 Brief der Vorsitzenden](#)

[Febbraio 2011 - Messaggio del Presidente](#)

[Mensaje de la Presidenta de Febrero 2011](#)

## 1. ...From the Executive Director

Welcome to this, the first edition of ISAAC E-News for 2011, and to my first E-News column as the newly named Executive Director. I am thrilled and excited to now be part of the ISAAC family, and would like to thank everyone who has sent their personal messages of welcome to me. I would especially like to thank the members of the Executive Board and Mona Zaccak, for all of the support and assistance that they have provided.

In this issue of E-News, you will read about all of the very exciting work that is being carried out in the AAC world. For any organization, and especially one that has a global reach, staying abreast of all the latest developments is critically important. Whether you are an AAC user, family member, researcher, academic, member, donor, or interested individual, being linked to a broad-based and worldwide organization devoted to expanding awareness of AAC is certainly compelling. But in order to continually enhance an organization's effectiveness, and to ensure the future growth of our Society through new members and chapters, we need to always be seen as the preeminent voice within the AAC world.

That is why I place such importance on communication. Not "top-down" communication, directed to members and Chapters, but communication that is focused on helping and empowering all our stakeholders to achieve the most they can on behalf of their Chapters and local communities. To this end, I have been holding a series of consultation meetings with as many in the AAC world as possible. Recently, I sent out an invitation to all members of the ISAAC Council to book meetings with me via Skype, or some other means if Skype is not available at your local level. I am pleased that many have accepted my invitation, and I am looking forward to meeting with the rest of you over the coming weeks and months. For

anyone who does wish to speak with me, I can be reached via email at [franklin@isaac-online.org](mailto:franklin@isaac-online.org) or at the Skype address, isaac\_ed. It is my intention and hope that over the coming months I will make many more positive connections on behalf of ISAAC.

In the meantime, if there are any issues that you are having that I could assist with, or if you want to share some recent or upcoming activities or successes, please do get in touch with me. My "door" is always open!

Franklin Smith

...From the Executive Director in **French, German, Italian** and **Spanish**:

... de la part du Directeur Exécutif

Brief des Geschäftsführers

Messaggio del Direttore Esecutivo

... Del Director Ejecutivo

## 2. ISAAC Standing Committees and Working Groups

ISAAC has many ongoing activities that are supported by its members. The **Standing Committees and Working Groups** are good examples of this. The Council and the Executive are committed to increasing the number of members who are involved in ISAAC's activities. The current list of committees and working groups is given [here](#).

**Interested in joining any of these committees or groups?** Please contact the Chair listed for the committee/group, or contact [Shelley Deegan](#), Chair of the Council.

## 3. ISAAC 2012 Update



### **Mark Your Calendar!**

*July 28-29: Pre-conference, AAC Camp, Executive & Council*

*July 30-August 2: Main Conference*

*August 3-4: ISAAC Research Symposium*

### **Join us for ISAAC 2012**

Let's be friends! For all the latest and greatest ISAAC 2012 news become a friend on [Facebook](#). Help promote the 15<sup>th</sup> biennial conference by RSVP'ing to show that you are coming to Pittsburgh, PA, US for the conference events running from July 28 to August 4, 2012. Invite your friends who you know wouldn't want to miss out on this worldwide AAC best life experience.

Want to do more to support ISAAC 2012? Volunteer! We'd love to have your help.

Look for the new website coming soon!

We're getting Pittsburgh ready for you. *Pittsburgh - Wow!* Highest performance communication; best life experience - Wow!!!

*Katya Hill and Amy Goldman, USA, and Søren Vintergaard, Denmark*

### **4. Ready, Set, Wow! ... Exhibitors are Coming!**

Several ISAAC corporate members are already prepared for the **ISAAC 2012 Exhibition Hall**. Others are making their plans for exhibiting at the D. L. L. Convention Center. Carolyn Higdon, Chair and her excellent team including Carl Derry, Gigi Taylor, Gretchen Hanser, Meher Banajee, and Simon Thomson are rounding up exhibitors from around the world.

The Exhibit Hall will be open for the four (4) days of the conference with open access opportunities for the general public. Special awareness days and Exhibit Hall activities are planned to increase hall traffic. Wednesday is Autism Awareness Day! Thursday is ALS/MND Awareness Day! Make the most of three classrooms available for rental in the exhibit hall for specially arranged exhibitor trainings and meetings

Click [here](#) for exhibitor packet information. Contact [Carolyn Higdon](#) for information about the exhibition. Contact [Morgan Ball](#) for information about the space selection contract and payment processes.

A big thank you to AbleNet, Attainment, Augmentative Resources, Inc., DynaVox Mayer-Johnson, Jabbla, LifeTool, News-2-You, Possum Ltd., Prentke Romich Company, Saltillo Corporation, Tobii ATA and Words+ Inc. for joining us at the Pittsburgh Exhibition.

## 5. AAC Resources: *Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Beyond Poverty*

**Now available for Free Download for ISAAC members:**

[Alant, E & Lloyd, L. L. \(Eds\). 2005. Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Beyond Poverty. Whurr Publications.](#)

This book aims to present a different perspective on AAC intervention by focusing on the application of various AAC related issues within a poverty context. It is intended for advanced students and professionals across disciplines who are interested in extending their knowledge and critical thinking to advance issues surrounding AAC intervention within a poverty context. [[read more](#)]

To read this article in **French, German, Italian** and **Spanish:**

[RESSOURCES CAA](#)

[UK \(AAC\) QUELLEN](#)

[RISORSE DI CAA](#)

[RECURSOS CAA](#)

## 6. READ Project: AAC Glossary – Volunteers Needed!

ISAAC's READ Project is developing **a translated glossary of 150 AAC terms/definitions**. Dr. Bronwyn Hemsley of ISAAC-Australia, working together with Paul Andres and a group of ten volunteer speech pathology students at The University of Queensland, has developed an 'English Base' AAC Glossary. This English glossary is ready to be translated by volunteers fluent in other languages. The goal is to complete the glossary in 10 languages in time for ISAAC 2012.

### **How Can You Help?**

There are three ways that you can help further the mission of ISAAC and READ in particular by volunteering to work on the AAC Glossary with Paul. [[read more](#)]

For more information, contact [Paul Andres](#), Premtke Romich Company, Germany, or on Twitter @minspeakerde. Contact [Bronwyn Hemsley](#), The University of Queensland, or on Twitter @bronwynah.

## 7. International AAC Awareness Month 2011

A new project called **Empowerment of People with Cerebral Palsy and Other Multiple Disabilities Through**

**Assistive Technology** has been established by Faye Warren, ISAAC Leadership Chair for People Who Use AAC. Relays are being organized in cities across the US to help spread awareness of multimodal communication in adults and children with disabilities.

Scheduled for October 2011, this event will be part of ISAAC's annual International AAC Awareness Month celebrations. The relays will be held at high school or college tracks and the money raised will go to local organizations to help support AAC awareness. For more information, [here](#). If you are interested in donating your time or financial assistance for an event, please contact [Faye Warren](#).

Please visit [International AAC Month on Facebook](#) for news and current events.

## 8. Significant Results from the ISAAC 2012 Scientific Program Committee

While Donald Fuller and Rose Sevcik, Co-Chairs, are busy pulling together the ISAAC Call for Papers, ISAAC members can check to make sure their listings are current on the **ISAAC University and Research Directory**. This database of information on AAC research activity around the world helps ISAAC research and university members stay in touch with each other. This internet resource, started by ISAAC and the AAC Institute in 2004, includes listings of AAC research on various AAC topics and university-level courses in AAC.

Helping to increase our database in preparation for ISAAC 2012 sends a message to potential exhibitors and sponsors that we have a vigorous, active research community. ISAAC members are invited to update and/or create entries on the directory by going to [www.aac institute.org](http://www.aac institute.org), click on the resource button and scroll the menu to click on "**University and Research Directory**". Individuals entering research information are encouraged to enter information on other AAC activities such as course offerings and clinical practice.

Watch for special announcements on [Facebook](#) for information on joining this ISAAC Directory.

## 9. News from the Secretariat

For an update on activities during the period December 2010 to January 2011, see the **ISAAC Secretariat Report**, [here](#).

To read the report in **French, German, Italian** or **Spanish**:

[Rapport d'activité du Secrétariat pour la période Décembre 2010 - Janvier 2011](#)

[Tätigkeitsbericht des ISAAC Sekretariats für den Zeitraum Dezember 2010 bis Januar 2011](#)

[Relazione sull'attività della Segreteria relativa al periodo dicembre 2010 - gennaio 2011](#)

[Informe de las Actividades de la Secretaría para el periodo de Diciembre 2010 a Enero 2011](#)

**Please note:** [ISAAC membership](#) and subscriptions cover the calendar year, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please take a moment to renew your ISAAC membership, due **March 31, 2011**. At the same time, consider renewing your subscription to *AAC Journal*. Your *AAC* subscription includes online access at no extra charge. Discounted member rates are listed [here](#). Affiliated publications are listed [here](#).

**ISAAC 2010 Photo Gallery:** The photo gallery from the ISAAC biennial conference held last summer in Barcelona is available on the ISAAC website, [here](#).

User Name: isaac

Password: Barcelona

## 10. Parent-Professional Partnership in France

Profiting from the high participation and vitality of people who use AAC and their families at the Barcelona conference last summer, **ISAAC Francophone** is planning to establish a parent-professional support group/network in the Paris area.

Our first meeting is planned for Saturday, April 2, 2011:  
"Parents - Professionals Communicating."

As parents and professionals we will present information about ISAAC, AAC strategies and tools, and talk about parent-professional network models from other areas and countries. Most of the time will be dedicated to the sharing of needs and ideas by those attending, with the goal of shaping a meaningful format or design for an emerging parent-professional support network. [\[read more\]](#)

We hope that ISAAC chapters around the world will share with us your ideas, stories and models of groups that are meeting in your countries.

For more information, contact [Mary Ann Glicksman](#) or [Marie Voisin](#).

## 11. 'Hello' from the UK

**2011 is the National Year of Communication** in the UK. The 'Hello,' National Year of Communication campaign is supported by a coalition of over 40 leading voluntary sector organisations, of which ISAAC's UK Chapter, [Communication Matters](#), is a member. Activities, events, and themes are planned for the year so keep in touch at [Hello](#). For more detailed background information, [here](#).

## 12. Invitation to Attend European AAC Conference: Warsaw, Poland, June 30 - July 2, 2011

The Polish AAC Society "Mowic bez Slow" /"Speaking without Words"/ has the privilege of hosting the **8th Eastern and Central European Regional Augmentative and Alternative Communication Conference**.

The conference will be held in Warsaw, the capital of Poland, June 30 - July 2, 2011, under the theme **Let's Talk Together - AAC in Europe**.

The Eastern and Central Regional AAC conferences have been held every two years since 1997 in order to share knowledge and experience among AAC communities of the region. As Europe is becoming more and more integrated, the need to open the borders between the AAC communities from various corners of Europe seems particularly urgent. We expect about 400 participants, hopefully representing the majority of European countries. We would like to encourage participants to establish new models of collaboration to better assist people with no or very little speech, no matter of what European country they are from, as well as to develop a common vision for the future.

**Let's talk together** about our experience, and share knowledge and ideas. You will find more information [here](#), including details about the submission of abstracts (deadline: February 28). Registration is now open! The early registration special price is in effect until February 28.

We would like to invite ISAAC members to support the development of augmented communication in the region by attending and presenting at the Warsaw 2011 conference. We look forward to welcoming you to Warsaw!

On behalf of the organisers,  
*Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk, Poland*



### 13. Kilometres for Communication - A Canadian Event

**Kilometres for Communication** is a Canadian fundraising event initiated by Skye Wattie, his brother, Kerr, and their mother, Gail Fisher-Taylor. It will be held from May through August 2011, with the support of ISAAC-Canada.

[\[read more\]](#)

### 14. AGOSCI Conference, May 2011: Taking it to the Streets!

On May 11 - 14, 2011, the **Biennial AGOSCI Conference**, "Taking it to the Streets," will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia. For further information, [here](#).

See full **Conferences and Courses Calendar**, [here](#).

### 15. Iêda Chaves Pacheco Russo Humanitarian Fellowship

**Solar Ear** is pleased to announce the Iêda Chaves Pacheco Russo Humanitarian Fellowship in honour of Dra Iêda Russo. A \$30,000 USD Fellowship will enable a student enrolled or planning to enroll in a graduate program in audiology, speech-language pathology or communication disorders to work on a humanitarian social project of their choice, in a developing country.

For more information, contact [Solar Ear](#).

### 16. Contact Us

ISAAC Chapters and members worldwide are invited to submit items of interest from your country or region. News, AAC practice tips, research, personal essays, etc., whether in article format or as a link to online articles or resources, will be posted on the [Information Exchange](#) section of the ISAAC website. Please send articles and photos (less than 50KB, please!) to [Nola Millin](#), Editor of IE.

Formerly a quarterly publication, **ISAAC E-News** will now be published five times each year. Your comments on this issue are welcome. Please contact [Heather Stonehouse](#), Media Editor.

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