

Join us at
ISAAC 2012
15th Biennial
Conference
July 28-August 4
Pittsburgh, USA

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Message from the President

Dear ISAAC Members

I hope the year 2012 has had a good beginning for all of you. As this is a conference year for ISAAC, the Executive Board and ISAAC staff are all busy preparing for what we hope will be a memorable event in Pittsburgh.

In the meantime, as you might have seen from the E-mail Alerts sent out by our Executive Director, Franklin Smith, the ISAAC office has relocated to another, more central area in Toronto in order to be closer to other non-governmental organizations. Apart from the new location being less expensive than the previous offices, it will also have benefits for ISAAC staff as they will be able to share facilities with other organizations housed in the same building. We are most grateful to Franklin, Heather and Teraiz at the ISAAC office, who have put considerable hours into the move.

After various requests from ISAAC members, the Executive has appointed an ad hoc committee to develop a position statement on Facilitated Communication for our society. The committee, which is headed by Ralf Schlosser, includes experts from various parts of the world and will endeavor to provide us with an outcome in time for the Pittsburgh conference.

ISAAC Executive and staff are also in the process of integrating feedback received from the different chapters and Council members on the Strategic Plan for 2012-2017. We will be sending out a summary to the Council in time for all to review before we convene the ISAAC Council in Pittsburgh.

Finally, please ensure that you read the exciting announcement from Ann Sutton, Editor of the AAC journal, which is on page 4 of this E-News!

May you all have a productive and meaningful 2012 – and let's keep communicating!

Kind regards,

Erna Alant
ISAAC President



To read this message in translation:

[Message de la Présidente](#)

[Brief der Vorsitzenden](#)

[Messaggio del Presidente](#)

[Mensaje de la presidenta](#)

... From the Executive Director



Franklin Smith, ISAAC Executive Director, in the boardroom at our new shared facility in Toronto, Canada

“Please make sure you renew your ISAAC membership for 2012!”



Teraiz El-Deir, on the first day at the new office

Welcome to the March 2012 edition of E-News. The ISAAC International office is excited to report on some of the many initiatives currently underway.

Our office has now completed its move, and we are enjoying our new, more modern office facility, located in the north-western part of Toronto. If any ISAAC member needs our new contact information, it is located on [our website](#). I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Heather Stonehouse (Manager of Communications) and Teraiz El-Deir (Membership Coordinator), for their help, support and understanding during this move.

A tremendous amount of very exciting activities are underway at ISAAC. Of course, we are getting ready for ISAAC 2012 this summer in Pittsburgh, USA. So many people are involved in working to make this the best conference ever, simply too many to name individually. I do want to express, on behalf of ISAAC International, our thanks and on-going support to the Conference 2012 Co-Chairs, Amy Goldman, Katya Hill, and Søren Vintergaard. Putting on these events is never easy, so hang in there! Your efforts are truly appreciated!

ISAAC International has also created new partnerships over the past few weeks, with two other non-profit membership associations, [AAIDD](#) and [ATIA](#). I would encourage all ISAAC members to visit both websites. In addition, ISAAC International

and AAIDD are co-sponsoring two webinars this year for our respective members. There are no costs to attend, so keep checking your email for more information. The two webinar topics are: 1. The Intersection of Linguistics and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), to be held in May 2012, and 2. Application Software (Apps) as Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices (AAC), to be held in October 2012. Both webinars will be conducted as a panel discussion, so if any ISAAC member would like to take part, please do get in touch with [Heather Stonehouse](#) directly.

Please make sure you renew your ISAAC membership for 2012. Membership renewal packages were sent to ISAAC International members in December. For those who are members through a local Chapter, please consult your Chapter directly for membership renewal.

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](#)

To read this message in translation:

[...De la part du Directeur Exécutif](#)

[...Brief des Geschäftsführers](#)

[Messaggio del Direttore Esecutivo](#)

[...Del Director Ejecutivo](#)

ISAAC 2012: AAC Camp Registration is Open!

AAC Campers explore the artist within

As ISAAC 2012 approaches, we are excitedly preparing for the affiliated AAC Summer Camp, a weekend “day” camp experience for participants from the ages of 5 -21 who use augmentative communication (AAC) strategies and tools to communicate. Our campers will have the opportunity to interact with others using AAC systems while increasing their ability to communicate and enhance their language and basic literacy skills through a variety of engaging activities. All activities will be conducted in English although we anticipate having international campers in our mix. Each camper will be asked to have an accompanying parent or guardian who speaks English in order to maximize his or her participation in our activities.

The mission of the ISAAC AAC Camp is to help individuals become more competent users of their AAC system, provide opportunities to develop relationships with other AAC users and provide a fun environment in which campers and families can interact and learn.

This year’s theme, ***The Artist Within***, will provide the framework for all therapeutic activities. We will begin with a Family Fun Night on Friday, July 27. Families will gather at the **Andy Warhol Museum**, where they can take a tour and engage in hands on activities. Sessions on Saturday and Sunday will be from

8:30 am – 4:30 pm and will include large and small group activities that are designed to increase communicative competence, knowledge of core vocabulary and literacy skills through fun and functional activities. We plan to have a series of science activities that are sure to get campers using words such as “wow,” “yuck” and “cool.” They will also engage in computer-based activities, such as writing a story and generating word-art using words to describe themselves. Campers will become “Pizza Picasos” as they create their own pizza for lunch on Saturday, using core vocabulary to direct this activity. A variety of art activities will round out the planned program. Camp will wrap up on Sunday afternoon with skits followed by a slide-show featuring all our wonderful campers engaged in activities.

The cost of camp is \$350 and will include breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Friday night activities may involve additional costs. To download an application, please visit www.ISAAC2012.org and click on AAC Camp link on the lower right side of the page.

The application can be found under the Camper Registration heading.

Once applications have been received, applicants will be notified that they can proceed to registration. Registration is limited to the first 25 campers. All campers must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

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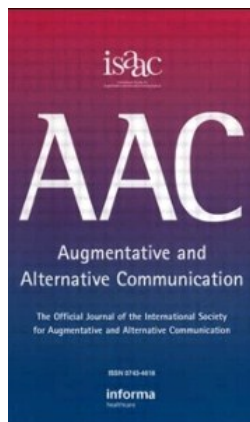
**For more
information on
the ISAAC 2012
AAC Camp,
contact Debbie
Witkowski**

*Send completed
applications by mail,
fax or email, to:*

Debbie Witkowski
ISAAC 2012 AAC
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1000 Killarney Drive
Pittsburgh, PA, USA
15234

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412-885-8548

AAC Journal Announces New Editors



*Exciting news from
Augmentative and Alternative
Communication!*

ISAAC's peer-reviewed journal, *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, will soon have new editors. We are very pleased to welcome Janice Light and David McNaughton as Co-Editors of the journal as of June 2012!

Janice Light is Professor in the in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and David McNaughton is Associate Professor in the Department of Educational and School Psychology and Special Education, both at The Pennsylvania State University, USA. Professors Light and McNaughton have a wealth of knowledge and experience in conducting and publishing research in AAC. They have been at the forefront of AAC research since the beginning of their careers. Each is well known worldwide for innovative, thought-provoking work in AAC. They are both prolific writers and have published numerous articles and books, many of which have become primary reference sources in AAC.

AAC's new editors bring a vision for the future of the field of AAC to guide the journal as it moves forward as a leader in publishing AAC research.

Welcome, Drs. Light and McNaughton!

Ann Sutton
Editor, AAC

**“Welcome,
Drs. Light
and
McNaughton!”**

ISAAC 2012 Research Symposium Update

The 2012 Research Symposium will be held on August 3 & 4 at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

The Research Symposium creates opportunities for in-depth discussion on research issues and needs related to AAC. Participants typically select one topic to follow over the two days.

The 2012 seminar topics and primary organizers are:

- AAC and Aphasia: Science and Clinical Practice (Rajinder Koul, Aimee Dietz & Melinda Corwin)
- AAC Assessment and Research Issues (Filip Loncke & Lee Llewellyn)
- AAC Meets Tele-Rehabilitation: Envisioning Transformative Tele-AAC Research (Ellen R. Cohn)
- Blissymbol Research and Practice Issues (Stephen Von Tetzchner)
- iPads (and other tablets) as an AAC Device: Research Issues (Julie Scherz and Lindsay Dutton)
- Gathering AAC Data for Enhancement of Language Research: The Intersection of Linguistics and AAC (Carol Tenny, Eric Nyberg and Katya Hill)

Visit the [ISAAC 2012](#) website to register, or [click here](#) for a direct link to the conference registration page.

Please note that you can register for the ISAAC 2012 Conference and the Research Symposium together OR register separately for each event.

ISAAC and AAIDD Form Partnership

ISAAC and AAIDD create partnership to promote education

AAIDD is a membership organization that promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Established in 1876, AAIDD is the oldest professional society in the US concerned with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

AAIDD counts professionals from over 55 countries among its membership and engages in partnerships with other organizations on issues that are important to people with disabilities and their families.

AAIDD's two journals are among the most highly regarded in the disabilities field, and it also publishes essential books and tools for professionals. AAIDD invites you to visit its [bookstore](#) online.

AAIDD offers over 300 courses for online continuing education through its [online learning site](#), in partnership with Essential Learning, and free [webinars](#) each month featuring top experts in the field.

AAIDD will host its 136th Annual Meeting, *Research*Practice*Policy*, on June 18-21 in Charlotte, North Carolina. This is really the "must attend" meeting of the year, with informative and inspiring plenary sessions, cutting edge concurrent sessions, posters addressing emerging issues, and in-depth pre- and post-



conference meetings on a number of important topics.

Visit www.aaidd.org to learn more, or contact [Danielle Webber](#), MSW, Manager of Educational Programs, AAIDD.

"Only God Could Hear Me"

Now available on YouTube and DVD

ISAAC played host to the premier screening of "Only God Could Hear Me" by US film producer Colin Sander at the ISAAC 2010 biennial conference in Barcelona. A one-hour version of the documentary is now available for viewing [here](#).

If you would like a copy of "Only God Could Hear Me" on DVD, please send your mailing address to [Robert Conti](#), board member of the Pittsburgh-based organization, [SHOUT](#). A donation of \$25 would be very much appreciated, with proceeds going toward funding augmented communicators to attend [ISAAC 2012](#) in Pittsburgh, PA, USA, this July.

Semantic Compaction Systems is sponsoring a showing of this documentary at ISAAC 2012 on Wednesday, August 1st at 7:45 a.m. The stars, Chris Klein, Jennifer Lowe and Bac Shelton, will be there to answer questions from the audience after the screening. Breakfast will be served FREE OF CHARGE at 7:30 a.m., so plan to arrive early!

New Symbol for Communication Access



Communication access is an important part of removing barriers to equal citizenship for all.

ISAAC endorses the new Australian symbol for communication access

On November 17, 2011, the new symbol for communication access was launched by Scope's Communication Resource Centre in Melbourne, Australia. This was the culmination of five years of work by people with complex communication needs (CCN), in partnership with the Communication Access Network (CAN) in Victoria and key stakeholders. ISAAC, our international peak body for people who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication, has now endorsed communication access and the communication symbol. It joins other key national organizations in Australia, such as National Disability Services, Speech Pathology Australia, Communication Rights Australia, Able Australia and ComTec Yooralla, in giving support to this initiative.

Where did it all begin?

The Communication Access Network, a government-funded service consisting of the Communication Resource Centre at the hub and 13 Regional Communication Services across Victoria (approximately 4.5 million population), has been at the core. The role of the Communication Access Network is to support the communication needs of adults in Victoria, to promote self-directed lives and promote the participa-

tion of people with communication disabilities in community life.

The objectives¹ of the Communication Access Network (CAN) include:

- facilitate the participation and inclusion of people with complex communication needs in community life
- increase access to generic services for people with complex communication needs
- engage in capacity building for individuals and the general community
- raise awareness of communication as a human right
- provide opportunities for active participation and leadership by people with complex communication needs

To this end, speech pathologists in the Regional Communication Services developed over 50 projects in partnership with retailers and services to promote communication access. This led to the awareness of the need for a common symbol to identify these services for people with communication disability and those support them.

The full article is posted on ISAAC's website, [here](#).

For further information about the communication access symbol, [click here](#).

¹ Communication Access Network Guidelines 2010

Communication Enhancement in Children's Hospitals

Practical tools to support communication vulnerable patients

Sarah Blackstone, a member of the ISAAC Council, and Harvey Pressman are co-authors of "Communication Enhancement in Children's Hospitals: Practical Tools to Support Communication Vulnerable Patients," in *Brainchild*, November 2011, a publication of the Hong Kong Society of Child Neurology and Developmental Paediatrics.

Patient-provider communication is a challenge, but when the patient is a child, the health care provider faces additional issues. The family may have language or cultural barriers, or low health literacy. The child may already have a communication disability or may have temporarily lost the ability to speak due to the nature of medical treatment. In many cases, there is a "convergence" of some or all of those barriers. To avoid communication breakdowns in pediatric settings, hospitals need first to be aware of these barriers and then be prepared to overcome them.

Because all resources could not be listed in a single article, the full supplement is available online here, on the Patient Provider Communication Forum website at www.patientprovidercommunication.org.

Source: International Patient-Provider Communication Newsletter, December 2011.

2012 Awards: Applications Still Open in Four Award Categories

Applications are being accepted until March 30th for The Bridge School / ISAAC Teacher-in- Residence Award for the 2012-13 academic year. The application form can be found here on The Bridge School website.

Deadlines for other 2012 awards are: Shirley McNaughton Exemplary Communication/ISAAC Award (April 1st), Sherri Johnson/ISAAC Consumer Conference Travel Scholarship (April 15th) and the ISAAC Fellowship Award. Click here for details.

K4C: The Blog Goes On!

Kilometres for Communication continues to raise funds to support AAC

Kilometres for Communication (K4C), a project of ISAAC Canada, was initiated by Kerr Wattie, Skye Wattie and Gail Fisher-Taylor. From May to August 2011, Skye cycled from Canada's west to east coast, accompanied by Kerr in a bike trailer for parts of the journey.

While the cycling journey is over, ISAAC Canada would like you to know that the K4C blog is still active. Please check in for recent updates.

"There is a long way to travel on our journey to ensure voice, accessibility and inclusion. We are continuing to fundraise for important AAC supports, technology and opportunities. And we are networking so that many organizations can work together to empower voices and lives." - from K4C blog

Click here to view a video of a K4C event in Nova Scotia in July 2011!

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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).

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