

March 2013



Jeffrey K. Riley,
ISAAC President

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Message from the President

Dear ISAAC Members:

It is now March and in the northern hemisphere we are heartily awaiting a reprieve from the cold, snow and rain that has been lashing our homes for the past months. For many of us and particularly for individuals who use AAC with physical disabilities, winter is a time spent mostly indoors. However, it is also a great time to work and focus on indoor achievements in the home, office and classroom...writing, thinking, talking, planning and communicating far and wide using all of our modern tools.

For our members in the southern hemisphere, I hope you have had many opportunities to experience the great outdoors and benefit from all the social activities that warm, fair weather affords. And even though we chilly northerners envy our members living in the tropics, I know they have had their challenges with monsoons, droughts and the vagaries of developing infrastructures. Amongst our Executive Board (EB) members we have regular tangible examples of the challenges of life in a developing country; for example, Rajul Padmanabhan, our VP without portfolio on the ISAAC EB, lives in

India and is frequently hampered in participation in EB meetings due to scheduled city or state-wide power outages in her region, a situation that is a daily occurrence in many parts of the world.

Speaking of infrastructure, ISAAC continues to build the supports to ensure long-term sustainability of the organization. In this issue, look for news from our Executive Director regarding a new stable office location for ISAAC, updated online membership renewals through the website and, coming very soon, announcements regarding online modules for the ISAAC 2014 Conference Call for Papers and other additions to our online operations that will make the organization more responsive and efficient. Infrastructure, though, is so much more than bricks, mortar and electrons; the ISAAC EB is actively engaging with the various ISAAC committees to promote and support work towards achieving some of the many objectives identified in the ISAAC five-year strategic plan. I urge you to review the committee list on the website and if you are not already a committee member consider

...continued on page 2

Message from the President ... continued

offering your time and talents to an area that calls for your passions and interests.

Last month in my professional capacity I had the benefit of attending the CSUN Assistive Technology Conference in San Diego, California. It was an excellent opportunity to attend focus sessions on AAC, link up with my colleagues in practice, research and technology, and of course promote the ISAAC 2014 Conference in Lisbon. I observed that people attending and presenting at the conference continue to marvel at new technology, but tempered their wonder with repeated cautions that technology is only a tool and the real spark in establishing communication between people is human energy and connection. It is clear that dramatic technological changes are touching all aspects of our lives, and the world of AAC is particularly sensitive to these changes. I am heartened to hear people from all corners of the AAC world reaffirm their commitment to the prime role of human beings amongst all the sparkling technology.

Finally, I have had the good fortune to participate in an informative forum spanning North America and Europe: the **Patient Provider**

Communication (PPC) forum, addressing communication access across the health care continuum, which is organized and held monthly by Sarah Blackstone and Harvey Pressman. Many topics have been covered in the forum but of particular interest are discussions and shared resources around tools, strategies, practice and policies to assist people who use AAC (or may suddenly need AAC) in urgent and emergency situations. As I opened this message with observations of harsh weather and challenging environments, it is relevant to think about how we prepare to support people who use AAC in disasters or emergencies. A library of resources for PPC is now available for download from Prentke Romich Company (PRC), [here](#).

Be well and the best to you all,

Jeff Riley

ISAAC President 2012-2014



[Click here to find this article in translation](#)

We would like to acknowledge and thank our translators for their work in this and every issue of

ISAAC E-News:

Ghislaine Picot
(French)

Elena Panigadi
(Italian)

Cordula
Birngruber
(German)

Ana Saavedra
(Spanish)

ISAAC International Office Relocation...

As of March 2013, ISAAC's new mailing address is:

312 Dolomite Drive, Suite 216

Toronto, Ontario CANADA M3J 2N2

Please update your records! [Click here](#) for more information.

... From the Executive Director

Welcome to the March 2013 edition of E-News. The ISAAC International office is excited to report on some of the many initiatives currently underway.

All ISAAC members should have received our special e-blast announcing the dates of our 2014 Conference, being held in Lisbon, Portugal. Our "Hold the Date" card is also available electronically from the [ISAAC website](#). Please make sure to book these dates in your calendars, as Lisbon is a "must-see" city!

ISAAC International is in the process of now getting our Conference 2014 "Call for Papers" announcements ready. Closely linked with that is the ability for papers to be submitted, reviewed, and managed online through ISAAC's website. We will have more to announce on that in the coming weeks. In that regard, we have set up a Facebook page to keep you up to date on conference news. Please find and "like" us at [ISAAC 2014](#) so you'll be sure to receive updates on a regular basis. We will look forward to keeping in touch with you on social media!

ISAAC International's online membership sign-up and renewal system has been handling new member sign-ups and existing member renewals now since the latter part of December 2012. During that time, our credit card authorization company did

experience some technical issues at their end which resulted in the generation of some erroneous credit card decline messages to members. The credit card authorization company has now corrected these issues, and I am pleased to announce that web membership signups and renewals are progressing very smoothly. Renewal through ISAAC's website is available for all "international" members of ISAAC, as well as members of ISAAC-Canada. ISAAC International would welcome other Chapters to take part in the online membership renewal system. Please feel free to contact me directly, if your Chapter is interested in doing this.

You should have also seen our broadcast announcement about the latest ISAAC International office move. Coming just one year after our last move, this was clearly not a choice we made, but a move that was unfortunately out of our control. However, I am a firm believer in the fact that usually things do work out for the best and, in this case, I am pleased to report that ISAAC International has now moved into new offices. These offices are in fact more centrally located in Toronto and provide ISAAC with greater space. And this has been accomplished without having to increase lease spending beyond what the ISAAC Council approved in our 2013-14 budget.



Franklin Smith, ISAAC
Executive Director

isaac

Continued on page 4...

... From the Executive Director (continued from page 2)

[Click here](#) to find this article in translation

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 2014 is on Facebook!

Please “like” us, and stay tuned for more conference updates!



Follow us on Twitter!



@ISAAC_AAC



HOLD THE DATE



ISAAC is excited to announce that the 16th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, **ISAAC 2014**, will be held at the Lisboa Congress Centre in **Lisbon, Portugal** on

July 19-24 | 2014



JOIN US for keynotes, exhibits, workshops, social events, seminars, and the Research Symposium – everything you have come to expect from an ISAAC conference, and more.

Enjoy the history and culture of Lisbon, the “city of light”, in the company of old friends and new.



Mark your calendars today, and save the date for ISAAC 2014!

For more information, visit us at www.isaac-online.org





News & Events

From ISAAC-Australia

ISAAC-Australia's annual newsletter, distributed to members in February 2013, is now available to the public. This lively update includes reports on experiences and impression from Australian delegates to ISAAC 2012, held last summer in Pittsburgh, USA, including: Lisa Lehmann, Thomas Banks, Karen Bloomberg, Dale Gonelli and Gemma Holleran.



From the United Nations

A recent ISAAC Alert notified members about a UN consultation on disability and international development currently being held online. There is still time to join the online discussions at www.worldwewant2015.org/enable

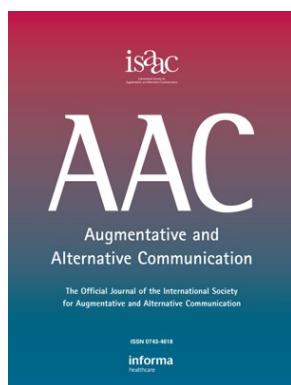
Log-in or register [here](#).
Languages: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#),

[Russian](#), [Chinese](#), [Arabic](#), & [Portuguese](#)

Background: On 23 September 2013, the United Nations General Assembly will hold a *High-level Meeting on Disability and Development*, under the theme "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond", at UN Headquarters in New York.

To ensure that the post-2015 agenda is inclusive of disability, an online consultation began on March 8 and will continue until **March 28, 2013**.

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and UNICEF in collaboration with the United Nations Partnership to promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. enable@worldwewant2015.org



Coming soon... the March 2013 edition of AAC journal!

For more information, [click here](#). This issue's Early Online research article is *Biomusic: A Novel Technology for Revealing the Personhood of People with Profound Multiple Disabilities*, by Stefanie Blain-Moraes, Stephanie Chesser, Shauna Kingsnorth, Patricia McKeever, Elaine Biddiss.

Dear AAC journal subscribers:

Please note that all AAC subscription categories (*excluding Institutional*) are for personal use only. Access to the journal must not be shared with colleagues, students, or libraries. For more information on ISAAC membership categories, please visit [our website](#).



News & Events ... *continued*

Reminder to ISAAC Chapters!

The deadline for submission of Chapter reports is April 30, 2013. Chapters are requested to submit their reports directly to ISAAC's Membership Coordinator, [Teraiz El-Deir](#).

Have you renewed your ISAAC Membership for 2013?

Chapter membership includes membership in ISAAC. If you live in a country or region where there is an existing Chapter, contact your local [Chapter](#) to renew. For ISAAC International and ISAAC-Canada members, click [here](#) to renew an existing or lapsed membership. New members, please sign up [here](#). Please note that annual ISAAC membership fees must be received **by March 31st** in order for your name to be included in the ISAAC Membership Directory 2013.

New Patient-Provider Resource!

Developed in association with the

Patient Provider Communication Forum, Central Coast Children's Foundation and Dr. Bronwyn Hemsley, 26 key "bedside messages" for patients, supported by symbols, are now available in 25 different languages. [Click here](#) for more information and free downloads.

AAIDD 137th Annual Meeting Save the Date

June 3-6, 2013

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

For more information, [click here](#).

Breaking the ICE Canada 2013 Conference

June 7, 8, 9 - 2013

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

For more information, [click here](#).

Communication Matters National AAC Conference

September 15-17, 2013,

University of Leeds, UK

For more information, [click here](#).

AAC Glossary of 150 Terms Now Available Online!

ISAAC-Australia is pleased to announce the online release of the [*ISAAC Glossary of Terms and Definitions for AAC*](#). Members of ISAAC-Australia worked on this project with non-members in Australia and the ISAAC Translations Committee. The project was a collaborative effort headed by a Project Team that included Bronwyn Hemsley (then at University of Queensland), Kaylie Bastock (Cerebral Palsy Alliance, QLD), Paul Andres (Germany).

Says Bronwyn, "You are invited to download and use the 'terms and definitions.' We have provided the quoted published source and a page number for each quote in the document so that when you also use it, you can properly cite the words as arriving from the original source (not this glossary)."

ISAAC members are also invited to assist in updating and translating the Glossary. Details on how to help are included in the document.



Report on the 1st CBR World Congress – Agra, India November 26 – 28, 2012

Report and
photos by
Rajul
Padmanabhan

A total of 87 countries were represented at 1st CBR World Congress, from Cameroon to Papua New Guinea to Rwanda and, of course, Canada, England and the USA. Rajul Padmanabhan, ISAAC Vice-President without Portfolio, represented ISAAC at the conference. Her “ISAAC-BUILD” poster presentation on November 28th attracted many questions, some from those who were not familiar with ISAAC or AAC.

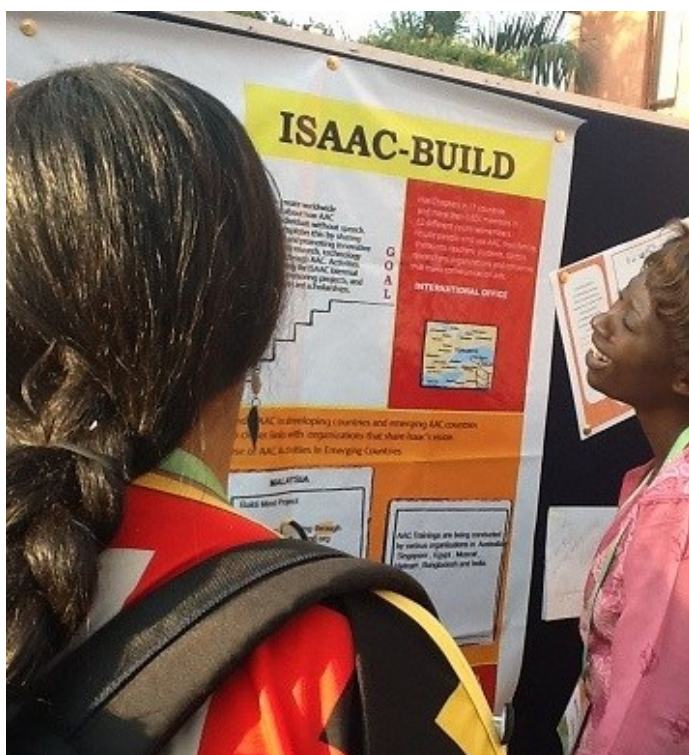
Contacts were made with people from Malaysia (Md Yasin Syahrulikram), Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Delegates from Egypt were

referred to Yvette Abdel Malek for follow up. Some of these contacts could translate into increased membership from these countries.

Rajul identified the following outcomes from her attendance at the conference:

- Increased awareness about AAC and ISAAC among delegates;
- Enhanced networking potential, as a result of connecting delegates to ISAAC members in their countries or regions;
- Awareness of international advocacy groups – Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) and International Disability Alliance (IDA) – which could be encouraged in future to consider AAC as part of their agendas
- Reinforcement of the need for ISAAC to focus on emerging countries; it was observed that little is happening with respect to AAC in this region

Finally, says Rajul, “I saw the Taj Mahal. I had seen it as a child, but to view it again was really a treat. It is everything people say, and more!”





What's happening in the ISAAC Research Committee?

*Bronwyn Hemsley,
ISAAC-Australia*

*Chair, ISAAC
Research
Committee*

*ISAAC President-
Elect*

The Research Committee of ISAAC has grown to a relatively large committee of 15 in 2012-14. Currently, the committee includes as many Countries and Chapters as possible, so as to represent diverse research interests and to build research networks at a local level. As the funding of research grants is affected by the track record of researchers, having a larger membership base on the committee might just help with having some successful grant applications made to help local Chapters in their research agenda building.

The members have a range of expertise, including those with several decades experience in research and pioneering in the field of AAC, and also early career researchers and those with an interest in research in AAC. Like all committees of ISAAC, it includes members who use AAC. The current research committee is working on the following projects in 2013:

- Holding online Committee meetings making use of ISAAC's "GoToMeeting" platform, which allows for more effective communication with members spanning several time zones and countries.
- Begin discussions on how the committee can help to inform a vibrant, research active, and successful Research Symposium at the next ISAAC International Conference,

to be held in Lisbon from July 19-24, 2014.

- Exploring local research networks that each member of the Research Committee might be able to foster, with a view to providing support on development of regional research networks that will lead to locally informed Research Streams at the Research Symposium.

- Finding ways that the committee can support local Chapters to host research symposia, meetings, or "think tanks" so as to "road test" research networking strategies and strengthen collaborations at a local and regional level.

When it comes to research in AAC, what do you think needs to be on the agenda? What problem areas in everyday life would you like to see addressed by a greater knowledge or understanding of the factors related to those areas? What would you like to see happen in the Research Committee, to ensure that people who use AAC and their families have a voice in what research streams appear in the biennial Research Symposium?

If you have any comments or points you wish to add to a discussion about research in AAC, please forward these to Bronwyn Hemsley, Chair of the Committee.

Based on an article first published in the Australian Chapter of ISAAC Newsletter, February 2013



ISAAC Facilitated Communication (FC) Committee: *Information on New Submissions to be Considered*

To view this article on the ISAAC website, please [click here](#).

The ISAAC Executive Board (EB) and the Facilitated Communication (FC) Committee have received a considerable amount of feedback to our February 2013 communication to the membership on the FC initiative. The EB would like to take this opportunity of thanking our members for their insightful and constructive input into this process. Given the number of questions received, the EB is taking the opportunity of providing this additional information to our membership in the form of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document.

Q: What documents about Facilitated Communication (FC) will be considered in the review that informs the development of the draft ISAAC Position Statement on FC?

A: The FC Committee will consider the following types of submitted documents:

- published peer reviewed reports on FC
- unpublished reports on FC
- written anecdotal reports on FC
- qualitative reports on FC
- any other written evidence on FC

Q: Can these documents be submitted in any language?

A: ISAAC International would like to be able to accept documents for consideration in any language. Given that our organization's official working language is English, this is also the language that the FC Committee is conducting their review. Unfortunately, ISAAC International does not possess the financial resources or volunteer capacity that would allow for translation of documents from other languages into English, which is why we are requiring submissions to be in English.

Q: Will videos be included in the review that informs the draft ISAAC Position Statement on FC?

A: Video evidence is not included in the review. There are two primary reasons for this decision, namely:

- professional video recording and editing capabilities today are widespread, easy to use, and within the financial reach of even the most modest budget. This means that video recordings could very easily be edited or recorded in such a way as to promote one conclusion over the other in this review, without the FC Committee's knowledge.



ISAAC Facilitated Communication (FC) Committee:
Information on New Submissions to be Considered ... continued

- Video recordings show only what is in the camera's field of vision. It is possible that important evidence that should be included in the review would be missed, if it took place "off camera". Not having the ability to be present at the time that the video recordings were made means that the FC Committee would not have access to any of this type of additional information if relevant, which could lead to a potential "skewing" of results.

Q: Have the goals of the FC review changed since the original announcement?

A: No, the original goals of this review have remained unchanged. The Executive Board of ISAAC International initiated this process to provide our membership with a scientifically-based review and assessment of the current literature and data related to FC, in response to continuing inquiries about FC as a communication strategy.

Q: What is the time-frame of the review?

A: The review will include consideration of relevant documents that are dated up to April 15th, 2013 (the deadline for submissions is April 30th, 2013)

Q: Why is there a time-frame on dating and submission of documents to be included in the review?

A: The FC Committee needs to have a starting point, in order to consider all of the evidence submitted in light of any prior submissions, so as to arrive at a full consideration of the evidence. Please provide a date of the document (e.g., March, 2011) and an author and any affiliation of the author, pertaining to the document. If the date or author are unknown, please indicate this by noting 'no date' or 'author not identified', as appropriate.

Q: What if I have new documents to submit after April 15th, 2013?

A: Any documents that are relevant, but that are only available after April 15th, 2013, may be submitted to ISAAC. These documents will not be included in the current review, but will be maintained for any additional reviews subsequent to the work of the Committee.

Q: What is the closing date for submissions of documents?

A: The deadline for submitting materials that are to be included in the review (dated up to April 15th, 2013) is April 30th, 2013.



ISAAC Facilitated Communication (FC) Committee:
Information on New Submissions to be Considered ... continued

Q: Why have these dates been selected?

A: These dates have been selected so that the FC Committee can provide the ISAAC EB with its completed draft document by the target date of September 15th, 2013.

Q: I have previously submitted documents – does ISAAC still have them? Do I need to submit them again?

A: If you have already submitted documents, these are being kept for the purposes of the review and will be included for consideration. There is no need to submit them again.

Q: After the Committee completes its review, what are the next steps?

A: Once the Committee completes its work, they will present a draft Position Statement to the Executive Board (target date of September 15th, 2013, as noted earlier). At this point, ISAAC will also release the names of the Committee members. At that point, the work of the Committee will be completed.

It will then be up to the ISAAC Executive Board to review the work of the Committee, make any additional comments it deems appropriate, and then release the document to the ISAAC membership. There will then be ample opportunity for the members of ISAAC to provide their input and feedback into the released document. All submitted feedback will be carefully reviewed, considered and evaluated, prior to the ISAAC Executive Board presenting a finalized draft document to the ISAAC Council for consideration.

This means that if people are currently working on gathering evidence about the use of FC, there is no time imperative for the work to be completed for the release of the initial draft document. Indeed, the nature of evidence is that it is continually being created, and should continually inform any full consideration of the issues arising in any field of AAC, not just FC.

Q: Who do I get in touch with if I have additional questions or comments?

A: You can always get in touch with our Executive Director, Franklin Smith, by email at franklin@isaac-online.org.

ISAAC has 15 Chapters and more than 3,000 members worldwide. For information about how you can participate in your country or region, contact the organizations listed below, or ISAAC International for areas not listed.

ISAAC Chapters

ISAAC Australia
(www.isaacaustralia.com)

ISAAC Brazil

ISAAC Canada
(www.isaac-canada.org)

ISAAC Denmark
(www.isaac.dk)

ISAAC Suomi Finland
(www.papunet.net/isaac)

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

ISAAC German-speaking countries and regions
(www.isaac-online.de)

ISAAC India
(www.ayjnihh.nic.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 United Kingdom
(www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

USSAAC
(www.ussaac.org)



Members!
Have you renewed your
Membership for 2013?

⋮
(...not yet?)
⋮

Please contact your
local Chapter to renew. For
ISAAC International and
ISAAC-Canada members,
please renew an existing or
lapsed membership here.

(Thank you!)

**INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR
AUGMENTATIVE &
ALTERNATIVE
COMMUNICATION**

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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).

Contact Us

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