



In this issue:

Message from the President	1
From the Executive Director	2
Conference 2016 Updates	4
Conference 2016 Exhibitors	7
Conference 2016 Sponsors	10
Chapter News	11
Official Notification of Meetings	12
The Bridge School Teacher in Residence Program	13
ISAAC Projects and Activities	15
Resources	16
Star Alliance—Booking Your Own Conference Travel	17
ISAAC Chapters	18
Contact Us	19

Message from the President

Dear ISAAC Members:

I am happy to inform you about the fantastic registration numbers to date for the [17th Biennial Conference of ISAAC](#) in August 2016. Franklin Smith provides the details on the following page. This is also true for the two-day [ISAAC Research Symposium](#) following the main conference. Prof. Bronwyn Hemsley, Chair of the ISAAC Research Committee, is organizing a great program. “Bringing Together Innovation and Evidence in AAC” is the theme. A keynote on “Design and AAC Innovation” by Prof. Jeff Higginbotham from the University at Buffalo (State University of New York) will open the symposium. *Design, Language, Social Media and Symbols* will be the four topics. You will have opportunities for discussion with researchers like Jeff Higginbotham, Stephen von Tetzchner, Judith Oxley, Bronwyn Hemsley, Janice Murray, and many others. This sounds interesting, and not only for researchers. Find more information [here](#). And please, feel free to register [here](#) if you haven't already.

Starting in 2018 the Research Symposium will not continue as a

separate event but will be part of the main conference. Already many researchers present their findings during the main conference. In addition, in-depth discussions on new research directions will be part of the main conference. These changes suggest new formats for discussion among researchers and with AAC practitioners. What are the needs of early career researchers? What kind of support can be provided by ISAAC and its experienced researchers during the conference? Which formats do researchers wish to use at the ISAAC conference? Conference 2016 will offer the opportunity to share ideas and discuss new solutions. You are very welcome to join in.

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 March 2016 edition of ISAAC E-News.

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

Conference 2016



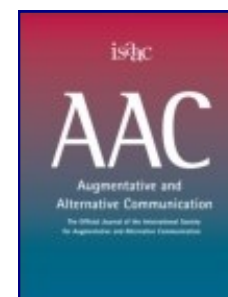
We are thrilled to have had over 500 paper proposals uploaded to the ISAAC online paper submission portal by the October 30th deadline. Authors received their acceptance emails during mid-February as previously announced, and the Conference 2016 Scheduling Committee is now hard at work creating a program comprising over 450 of these! In addition to a fabulous and exciting Pre-conference Workshop schedule, Research Symposium, and AAC Camp, Conference 2016 will be the “event not to be missed”! We are looking forward to welcoming you all this August to Toronto, Canada, the “multicultural capital of the world”!

Registration for Conference 2016 opened as scheduled during the fourth quarter of 2015, with Early Bird registration ending on March 4th, 2016. And what a fabulous response we have seen! We’re on track for doubling the total registration that we generated at Conference 2014 in Lisbon, with more than four months still to go until the conference. We are already boasting registrations from over 34 countries around the globe! This promises to be a truly international event.

The ISAAC International conference team is also hard at work on a number of exciting events to coincide with Conference 2016, and maybe even a surprise or two! Stay tuned for more information and announcements.

Make sure to book your registration to the conference, as well as your hotel accommodations at the Westin Harbour Castle. Also, make sure to take advantage once again of our Star Alliance airfare discount, available exclusively to ISAAC members.

Continued on page 3



**Current Issue
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AAC Journal,
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View Table of
Contents
[here.](#)



...From the Executive Director *CONTINUED*

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

Thank you to our
dedicated
ISAAC E-News
translators:

Ghislaine Picot
(French)

Elena Panigadi
(Italian)

Nadia Browning
(Portuguese)

More information on all this can be found at the ISAAC Conference webpage:

<https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2016/>.

ISAAC 2016 Membership Renewal

We have had a tremendous response so far from our Chapters and members worldwide, all of whom want to take advantage of our special discounted member rates for Conference 2016. We continue to welcome new members from all over the globe, and 2016 promises to be a very good membership year for ISAAC.

ISAAC International is also pleased to announce that for 2016, we are managing memberships on behalf of our Chapter in the United States, USSAAC. This mutually agreed to partnership arrangement allows USSAAC to take advantage of ISAAC International's systems and procedures, while focusing their own Chapter efforts on continuing to make a positive difference for their own membership. We look forward to reporting more on this at this summer's ISAAC Council meeting.

ISAAC Webinars

Speaking of making a difference, USSAAC continues to offer an exciting line-up of [webinar topics](#) for presentation to its members, in coordination with ISAAC International. As previously announced, ISAAC International is committed to making its webinar platform available to any Chapter that wishes to make use of it.

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

Regards and thanks,

[Franklin Smith](#)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

[Click here](#) to access the online conference registration system and find a link to the official registration rates for Conference 2016, See pages 4 & 5 for links to more information on the ISAAC Conference website.



Conference 2016 Updates



CODE OF CONDUCT



ISAAC International is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable Conference experience for all event participants and a welcoming environment for the free discussion of ideas. We do not tolerate harassment of event participants in any form. Any conference attendee found to be contravening this Code of Conduct in any way is subject to any action at the sole discretion of ISAAC International up to and including expulsion from the Conference with no refund or right of appeal. Instances of alleged harassment may also be reported to the relevant authorities, again at the sole discretion of ISAAC International.

All conference registrants will be expected to sign a declaration, at the time of check-in, that will among other things, require them to agree to abide by the Code of Conduct.

You will find the full text of the code, in both print and audio formats, [here](#).

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS TO CANADA



Recent updates on the ISAAC website include essential [information for visitors to Canada](#), and helpful links for those [arriving/departing Toronto via Pearson International Airport](#).

AIR TRAVEL

The **Star Alliance Member Airlines** have 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 are available [here](#).

ISAAC 2016 HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

The [Westin Harbour Castle](#) is the official hotel for ISAAC Conference 2016. Guests can access our dedicated [booking site](#) 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 4th.



Conference 2016 Updates *CONTINUED*



PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS - AUGUST 6 - 7

These workshops offer the unique opportunity to explore a number of specialized topics before the main conference. [Click here](#) for details.

AAC CAMP - AUGUST 6 - 7


A “day camp” experience for participants of all ages who use AAC. Campers and their families will have the opportunity to socialize while participating in their choice of recreational activities. [Click here](#) for details.

MAIN CONFERENCE - AUGUST 8 - 11

Please note that, as previously announced by ISAAC, all authors will be advised of their scheduled presentation time and format no later than April 18th.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Local Toronto Printing of Poster Presentations: ISAAC Conference 2016 is pleased to offer, on a fee-for-service basis, local Toronto printing and delivery to the conference venue, of your scheduled poster presentation. For more information, [click here](#). The deadline for submission of materials is July 8th.

Poster Audio-Visual Presentations: We are pleased to offer those who have been scheduled for a poster session the opportunity to present material in an audio -visual format.

If you wish to present your materials using a notebook/laptop computer or tablet, ISAAC Conference 2016 will ensure sufficient presentation space at the conference venue and access to a power outlet. Presenters are required to provide their own equipment, including headphones for any audio portion of your presentation. No additional charges apply when choosing the Poster Audio-Visual Presentation option. [Click here](#) for details. The deadline for submission of forms is July 8th.

TOWN HALL - AUGUST 8, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Theme: What Brings Us Together? Click on the link for details.



Conference 2016 Updates *CONTINUED*



BUILD BOOK DONATIONS

At ISAAC Conference 2016 we will once again be making books, resource manuals, and audio-visual materials available to ISAAC members from emerging AAC countries. [Click here](#) to find out how to make a contribution.

SILENT AUCTION

Organized by the Friends of ISAAC, the Silent Auction is held at each ISAAC Biennial Conference to raise funds to support people who use AAC who wish to attend the next international conference. [Click here](#) for details.

ISAAC RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM - AUGUST 12 -13

Theme: Bringing Together Innovation and Evidence in AAC Click on the link for details.

ISAAC AWARDS

ISAAC Awards are presented every two years in conjunction with the Biennial Conference. Applications are still being accepted up until April 29th for the following awards. Click on the titles below for details and application forms:

ISAAC President's Award: To acknowledge extraordinary support of ISAAC by an individual.

ISAAC Distinguished Service Award: To recognize an outstanding contribution to the field of AAC by a group or individual through clinical work, information /knowledge, distribution and research.

ISAAC Fellowship 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) shall be given for the life of the recipient and may be indicated and abbreviated as F.ISAAC.

The Bridge School / ISAAC Teacher in Residence Award: Enables an individual from a country with emerging technology to learn and teach AAC methods at a centre of excellence in the United States.



DISCOVER TORONTO!

For information on amenities in the Toronto waterfront area, please [click here](#).

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CONFERENCE 2016 EXHIBITORS



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For ISAAC 2016 Exhibit Sales Information [click here](#) or contact:
Tony Needer, Conference 2016 Exhibitor Sales Specialist
tony@isaac-online.org Tel: 905-850-6848 ext. 233



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Supporting the Conference 2016 Scientific Paper Presentations

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[New Professionals Travel Assistance Grant](#)



COMMUNICATION MATRIX

Oregon Health & Science University
Supporting the [People From Emerging AAC Countries Travel Assistance Grant](#)



CONFERENCE 2016 SPONSORS



SUPPORTER SPONSORS



ISAAC is pleased to tailor a sponsorship opportunity that most closely aligns with your company's marketing objectives. For ISAAC 2016 sponsorship information, [click here](#) or contact:

Judy Shapiro, Conference 2016 Sponsorship Specialist

judy@isaac-online.org

Tel: 905-850-6848 ext. 231



Congratulations to **Professor Annalu Waller**, Chair of Human Communication Technologies at the **University of Dundee**, Scotland, who has been awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her services to people with complex communication needs. Also, the University of Dundee was named Scottish University of the Year by *The Times/Sunday Times* (UK) *Good University Guide*.



Chapter News

COMMUNICATION MATTERS

organizes a range of AAC courses and events, including Roadshows, study days, and an annual conference.



Study Days

AAC, Literacy & Complex Needs (London, April 1, 2016)

Communication in ASD: AAC, Research & Practice (London, April 20, 2016)

CM2016 Conference

The closing date for submission of abstracts for the [CM2016 Annual Conference](#) is April 29th.

For information on these events and more, please [click here](#).



USSAAC launched a highly successful webinar series in 2015 Read "Innovations of the Webinars" in [ISAAC's Blog](#), a guest post by Lateef McLeod, USSAAC President.

ISAAC DENMARK proudly presents its 2016 events:

March 14 - 15

Our annual Conference set a new record in terms of number of participants. The main speaker was Janice Murray, PhD. Reader in Community Rehabilitation,

Manchester Metropolitan University. Besides Janice there were several Scandinavian presentations on different subjects concerning AAC.

23 May

Stephen von Tetzchner, Professor in Developmental Psychology and Pedagogical Psychological Work at Oslo University, will present a workshop on "Challenging Behavior and Communication." The focus will be on how to plan and implement plans for people with limited language and communication skills.

21-23 September (Ålborg) 26-28 September (Copenhagen)

Viki Newton, Senior Physiotherapist and Fiona Beauchamp, Senior Occupational Therapist, work at the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre in Melbourne, a teaching and training centre for children and adolescents with physical disabilities. Their workshop, "Movements for Communication - And Accessing Technology," includes:

- Information and strategies to understand the importance of movement to access AAC.
- Assessment and strategies to support the development of movement for intelligible autonomous communication.



Submitted by Margit Grønkjær,



Official Notification of Meetings

Important Notice: ISAAC Council Meeting 2016

In accordance with section 11.4 of the Bylaws of ISAAC, this is the official notification of the date, time, and location of the upcoming **ISAAC Council Meeting**, taking place at the 17th Biennial ISAAC Conference:

Date: Sunday, August 7, 2016

Time: 9:00 to 17:00

Location: Westin Harbour Castle, 1 Harbour Sq., Toronto, ON M5J 1A6,
Canada

Room: To Be Announced

Called by the Chair of the Council,

Janice Murray

January 11, 2016

Important Notice: ISAAC Biennial Membership and Awards Meeting

In accordance with section 8.1.5 of the Bylaws of ISAAC, this is the official notification of the date, time, and location of the upcoming ISAAC Biennial **Membership Meeting**, taking place at the 17th Biennial Conference of ISAAC:

Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Time: 14:15 to 15:45

Location: Westin Harbour Castle, 1 Harbour Sq., Toronto, ON M5J 1A6,
Canada

Room: To Be Announced

Called by the Chair of the Council,

Janice Murray

January 11, 2016



The Bridge School Teacher in Residence Program

Submitted by Vicki Casella, Executive Director of The Bridge School

We recently travelled to India on a follow-up support trip to three former Teachers in Residence – Usha Dalvi, Madhumita Dasgupta, and Krithika Venkatraman. It was a very exciting visit as many of the strategies we use at The Bridge School are now in place in Chennai and Kolkata, India. Here are a few photos from our journey, starting at SRM University in Chennai:

Usha Dalvi was our first Teacher in Residence in 1998-99. She is currently teaching at SRM University. Our team, consisting of Holly Peartree, SLP at The Bridge School, Stephanie Taymuree, SLP and Special Educator from T.A.C.L.E. in Oakland, CA, Christine Roman Lantzy, CVI Specialist from Pittsburgh, PA, presented to faculty, staff, and students in Speech, Language, and Audiology Studies.



Our most recent Teacher in Residence (2014-15), Krithika Venkatraman, works at Vidya Sagar, a special school in Chennai, India. Krithika has been very successful in implementing many of the strategies she practiced at The Bridge School.



Dr. Sudha Kaul and Tessa Hamlin welcome Krithika Venkatraman and Stephanie Taymuree to the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP).

The Bridge School Teacher in Residence Program *CONTINUED*



Assistive technology and augmentative and alternative communication play a critical role in the educational program at IICP. Students were eager to demonstrate what they knew and how they accessed their environment. Students at IICP have multiple communication options available to them and readily communicate with their classmates and with visitors as well.



Madhumita Dasgupta was our 2012-13 Teacher in Residence from Kolkata, India. Madhumita works extensively on self-determination and advocacy with a group of adults at the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy. She works with school-aged students in inclusive settings in Kolkata.



The Family Services Program at IICP works jointly with the children and their parents on developing effective communication skills.

The Bridge School Teacher in Residence 2016-17 Award information is available on [The Bridge School website](#).

Applications are due by April 29, 2016.

ISAAC Projects and Activities



ISAAC BUILD AAC

ISAAC BUILD (Emerging Countries) will be holding a meeting during Conference 2016. Details will be posted when the time and date are finalized.

For now, please send us your ideas: What topics would you like to discuss at the BUILD meeting? What would you like to get out of your experience there? Contact me directly with your thoughts and ideas!

- [Sarah Yong](#), ISAAC VP without Portfolio and BUILD AAC Chair

[ISAAC BUILD AAC](#) is a public Facebook group, curated by Petra Autnam Dillman, which acts as a platform for individuals from emerging AAC countries to post information and share experiences. Anyone from an emerging AAC country or with an interest in AAC work there is welcome to join us on Facebook.

ISAAC LEAD COMMITTEE

The [ISAAC LEAD Project](#) Committee for people who use AAC will meet during Conference 2016. Details will be posted when the time and date are finalized.

To become a member of the LEAD Committee Facebook Group, contact Vic Valentic with your request to join.

- [Vic Valentic](#), Leadership Chair for People who Use AAC

ISAAC's FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

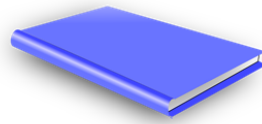
The goal of this Committee is to encourage family-to-family exchange to support families of people with communication disabilities around the world.

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 a smaller, more private forum, a Google Group can be arranged on request.





Resources



Produced by David Lynch, **My Beautiful Broken Brain** is a documentary about a 34-year-old filmmaker's life following a stroke that left her unable to speak, read, or write but able to sense colours and sounds in a new way. Released on Netflix in the US and Canada on March 18th. [Click here](#) to view the trailer.

Angelman Syndrome: Communication, Educational and Related Considerations by Stephen N. Calculator. Published in December 2015 by Bentham Science and available in print and ebook versions, this compilation of material focuses on “understanding the nature of AS and how individuals’ communication and related skills can be fostered most effectively.” For more details and ordering information, [click here](#).

The Right to Adequate Housing for Persons with Disabilities Living in Cities is a new publication from UN-Habitat. This study reviews the literature on the meaning and impact of the right to adequate housing for persons with disabilities in cities. It uses the foundational framework

of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and demonstrates how the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) provides a new understanding of this complex right. For more information and to download this UN publication, [click here](#). Source: *Enable Newsletter, January 2016*.

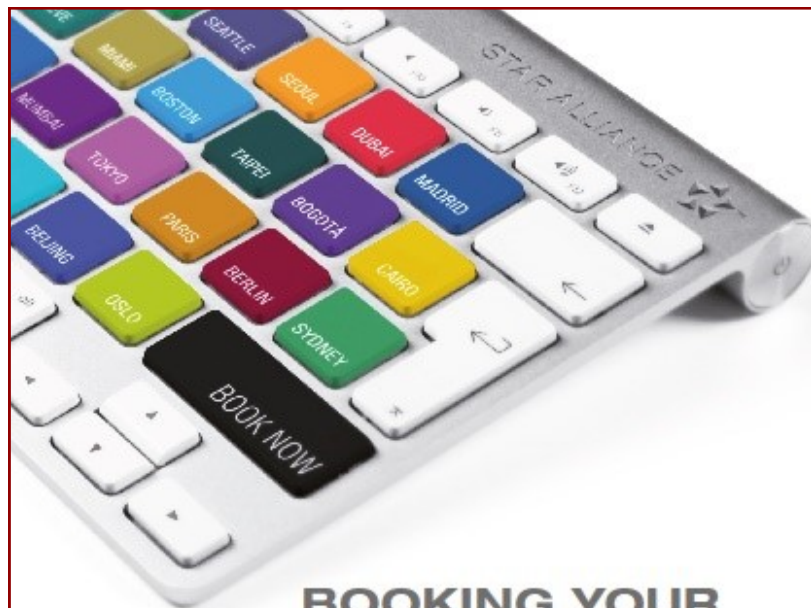
[Click here](#) to view SCRPD/DSPD's **International Calendar of Disability Events**.

INTERNATIONAL AAC AWARENESS MONTH UPDATE

The second biennial ICEwest conference was held on October 3rd, 2015, in Burnaby, British Columbia (B.C.). Nineteen adults who use AAC from across B.C. registered and participated in a very busy day.

For photos and more information, check out the recently updated [International AAC Awareness Month](#) page on the ISAAC website.

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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.

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www.staralliance.com
Information correct as of 05/2015

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

ISAAC Chapters

ISAAC-Australia
(www.isaacaustralia.com)

ISAAC-Brazil
(www.isaac.org.br)

ISAAC-Canada
(www.isaac-canada.org)

ISAAC-Denmark
(www.isaac.dk)

ISAAC-Francophone (French-Speaking Countries and Regions)
(www.isaac-fr.org)

ISAAC-India
(ajnihh.nic.in)

ISAAC-Israel
(www.isaac.org.il)

ISAAC-Italy
(www.isaacitaly.it)

ISAAC-NF (Netherlands and Flanders) (www.isaac-nf.nl)

ISAAC-Norway
(www.isaac.no)

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 Members qualify for reduced conference 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](#).

**INTERNATIONAL
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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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