



Gregor Renner,  
ISAAC President

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# isaac e-news

March 2018

## Message from the President

Dear ISAAC Members,

Looking back on the 35 years of ISAAC's history, there has been tremendous achievement in the development and dissemination of AAC. And we are continuing our efforts to establish and support AAC worldwide. One focus of the last years has been the Asia-Pacific region, including the 2018 ISAAC Conference in Australia and all activities mentioned in the June 2017 message. I am happy to add that I will have the opportunity to visit Singapore, to meet the Chair of the BUILD Committee, Sarah Yong, and to support the AAC community there.

"Increasing Awareness and Knowledge of the Use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Strategies Worldwide" is one of five objectives of ISAAC's strategic plan. The current strategic plan was implemented in 2015 and terminates this year. We are working on a report of the progress and drawbacks, as well as on a draft for the next Strategic Plan 2018-2021, to be approved by ISAAC's Council.

Closely related to the first objective is the second: "To Increase Opportunities for Members Worldwide to Communicate, Interact and Support One Another". ISAAC uses the internet and social media to spread the word and to network worldwide. However, language continues to be a barrier. Automatic translation may help in the future. Until then we need local volunteers for translations from plain English into the local language, and vice versa.

"Strengthening AAC Leadership by People Who Use AAC" is the third objective. The LEAD Committee, chaired by Lateef McLeod, is working hard on progress here. LEAD is hosting a [Dare to LEAD Workshop](#) at ISAAC Conference 2018.

Objective #4, "Promoting Research and Development in AAC" includes the AAC journal, which continues to be a very successful research

...continued on page 2

## Message from the President ...continued

journal in the field. Editors Martine Smith and Bronwyn Hemsley, supported by editorial assistant Jackie Brown and many associate and consulting editors, are doing a great job. The editors' term ends December 2018 and we have published a [call for the next AAC Journal Editor\(s\)](#). The deadline for applications is May 7<sup>th</sup>.

We used to have a Publications Committee responsible not only for the AAC journal, but for a number of other publications that do not exist anymore. For this reason, the Publications Committee suggested its future focus be on the AAC journal. Consequently, it was proposed that the Publications Committee be dissolved and replaced by an AAC Journal Committee. ISAAC President-Elect Meredith Allan has prepared all related documents for the ISAAC Council's consideration and decision in July 2018.

We have also received input that non-native English-speaking researchers find it hard publish their results in the AAC journal. The Executive Board is discussing options to provide support on this question.

The fifth and last objective is "Strengthening the Organizational Capacity to Support ISAAC Goals and Activities". We have made significant progress here, but we also face new challenges by social media and their potential for abuse. The Executive Board suggests to reflect this by adding an item, "Plan and implement a transparent procedure for complaints, breaches of ISAAC's social media policy and other risks for ISAAC" to the strategic plan. A working group on risk management has been established to prepare suggestions with a deadline of September 2018.

Preparations for the 2018 ISAAC Conference continue with increasing pace. The submissions have been reviewed and the authors have been advised on acceptance of their papers. A preliminary program is available [here](#). And the registration numbers show promising development.

I am looking forward to seeing you there!

With kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,

[Gregor Renner](#)  
ISAAC President  
October 2015 - September 2018

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



## From The Executive Director

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

Welcome to the March 2018 edition of the ISAAC E-News. The ISAAC International office continues its tremendous efforts on behalf of the membership around the world, and is pleased to advise on the following initiatives:

### Conference 2018

Make sure to book your calendars for ISAAC Conference 2018, being held from July 21<sup>st</sup> through July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 on beautiful Gold Coast, Australia. This will be the first time an ISAAC Conference is being hosted “Down Under” and we are excited to be promoting the field of AAC in Asia-Pacific. We here at the international office in Toronto would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for all the efforts being undertaken to make this conference a success, most notably by our amazing Co-Chairs Meredith Allan, Kate Anderson, Sally Clendon, Jane Farrall, and Gayle Porter, and their respective committee and sub-committee teams.

With now four months left to go before the conference, the Conference 2018 Leadership Team is hard at work ensuring an amazing conference, program, and experience! All indicators – conference program, registration,

exhibitors, sponsorship, etc. – are pointing towards a **very successful conference**. Please make certain to register soon for this incredible opportunity to experience a first-of-its-kind ISAAC conference, at <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2018/conference-registration/>.

### ISAAC International Financial Audit 2017

We are beginning our 2017 financial audit, and will have fully audited financial statements posted in the Members Only area of the website in time for Conference 2018.

### ISAAC Strategic Planning 2018-21

The ISAAC Executive Board has been working extremely hard over the past six months to finalize the draft Strategic Plan, 2018-21. The existing Strategic Plan, 2012-17, which was approved by the ISAAC Council at its 2012 meeting in Pittsburgh (USA), can be found on the ISAAC website at: <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/about-isaac/organization/long-range-plans-operational-plans/>.

This new draft strategic plan will be distributed shortly to all Council members to review in advance of this July’s 2018 Council meeting.

*...continued on page 4*



## From the Executive Director

### *...continued*

We thank all Council members and Chapters for their review of the preliminary strategic plan document, and for providing so much in the way of valuable comment and feedback.

### **ISAAC Membership Renewal, 2018**

Membership renewal time is upon us! If you are one of our valued Chapter members, please respond to your Chapter membership renewal request in a timely fashion to ensure that your membership is renewed for 2018. If you are an ISAAC International member, you should have already received your membership renewal package with an email reminder directly from the ISAAC International offices. Please also remember that those 2017 ISAAC members who have accessed the Conference 2018 member rates have until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to ensure that your membership in ISAAC or one of our Chapters has been renewed for 2018.

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

Regards and thanks,

[Franklin Smith](#)

ISAAC Executive Director

## Conference 2018 Updates

### **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.

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](#).

### **PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

**JULY 21 & 22, 2018**

**GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY**

**GOLD COAST, QLD, AUSTRALIA**

Pre-Conference Workshops take place the weekend before the Main Conference. Five exciting workshops are offered. Workshop schedules and detailed program information are available on the [ISAAC website](#). Register for workshops via our online [conference registration portal](#).



### **Important Notice: ISAAC Council Meeting 2018**

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 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial ISAAC Conference.

Date: Sunday, July 22, 2018

Time: 9:00 to 17:00

Location: Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, 684-2690 Gold Coast Hwy, Broadbeach QLD 4218, Australia

Room: TBA

*Called by the Chair of the Council,  
Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk  
February 9, 2018*

### **Important Notice: ISAAC Biennial Membership and Awards Meeting 2018**

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 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial ISAAC Conference.

Date: Wednesday, July 25, 2018

Time: 14:00 to 15:00

Location: Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, 684-2690 Gold Coast Hwy, Broadbeach QLD 4218, Australia

Room: TBA

*Called by the Chair of the Council,  
Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk  
February 9, 2018*





## People Who Use AAC (PWUAAC) Conference Registrations



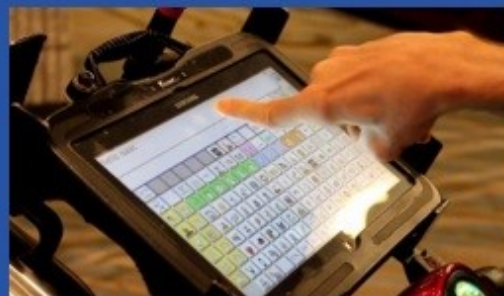
PWUAAC conference registration rates are available to people who use AAC and their families, and include admission for one (1) attendant. Additional attendant registrations are available for CAD \$175.

**>LEARN MORE**

### Questions about Accessibility?

Hotel, venue, and public transportation accessibility information is posted on the conference website.

**>LEARN MORE**



**>LEARN MORE** about Conference Registration [here](#).

**>LEARN MORE** about Conference Accessibility [here](#)

## Conference 2018 Updates

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### ISAAC 2018 SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

ISAAC is looking for newly created films to showcase the theme of the conference: AACCESS ALL AREAS.

Plan your short film and submit it to the [ISAAC Short Film Festival](#), ISAAC 2018 Conference – Gold Coast, Australia. THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS APRIL 16, 2018.

The top 10 films will be screened at the ISAAC 2018 Welcome Reception, on the evening of July 23rd.

The winner will receive a one-year prepaid membership to ISAAC for 2019, sponsored by ISAAC Australia. Terms and conditions apply; please see page 3 of the Short Film Festival Entry Form for details.

Let's reach across the world to AACcess All Areas!

[ISAAC 2018 Short Film Festival](#)

[How Do I Make My Short Film?](#)

[ISAAC 2018 Short Film Festival Entry](#)

[Form](#) (Form fillable PDF, 614 kB)\*

[ISAAC 2018 Short Film Festival Judging Criteria](#)

*\*Form fillable PDF documents need to be downloaded and saved to your local computer before completing them.*

### VISITORS TO AUSTRALIA

Transportation options and tips for conference participants are posted at [Getting to and around the Gold Coast](#).

TOURISM  
& EVENTS  
Queensland

Why not “travel Queensland” while you are in Australia for ISAAC 2018? Tourism & Events Queensland encourages you to explore this “land of surprising contrasts and textures – from prehistoric rainforests to reef-fringed beaches, sunburnt plains to urban laneways.” Take a look at the many tourist destinations in Queensland on [the conference website](#). #thisisqueensland



# isaac Conference 2018 Updates

## ISAAC 2018 MAIN CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The [Provisional Conference Program](#) is now available online!

Our Conference Co-chairs (*photo below*) have been hard at work to ensure that participants will find the very best of AAC at ISAAC 2018!

They have reached out to some of our attendees and presenters to share their perspectives on what they enjoy and anticipate most about ISAAC Conferences in a series of short videos, which you will find posted on Facebook at [ISAAC Conference 2018](#).



*ISAAC Conference 2018 Co-Chairs (left to right):  
Gayle Porter, Sally Clendon, Kate Anderson,  
Meredith Allan, and Jane Farrall*

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Guests can access our dedicated hotel accommodation site to book or modify a reservation for ISAAC Conference 2018, subject to availability, and to secure the conference group rate by clicking the link below:

### [Conference Booking Site](#)

If you have questions about accessibility, at the hotel or on the Gold Coast in general, please send an email to [accessibility@isaac-online.org](mailto:accessibility@isaac-online.org)

## SILENT AUCTION

Organized and led by the Friends of ISAAC, a 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. We are asking all conference participants to bring a small item with them to donate for the auction.

For more information on the Silent Auction, please visit the [ISAAC website](#).

### FOR THOSE WHO HAVE HAD PAPERS ACCEPTED FOR ISAAC 2018, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- At least one presenting author from your paper must register for the conference by **April 6<sup>th</sup>** to confirm your paper's place in the program.
- Final editing of abstracts as per the [Instructions to Authors](#) (emailed on March 16<sup>th</sup>) must be completed by **April 20<sup>th</sup>**, after which time the system will close and no new edits will be possible.





## Professor Stephen Hawking

8 January 1942 – 14 March 2018

**I**SAAC joins with the rest of the world in recognizing the tremendous lifetime achievements and the passing of world-renowned theoretical physicist Professor Stephen Hawking on March 14, 2018.

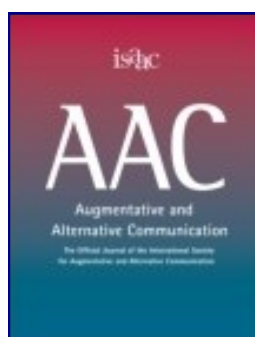
Recipient of the ISAAC 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award, Professor Hawking made a significant contribution to our understanding of both the universe and the indelible human spirit. His intellect, spirit, and contributions will be sorely missed. We at ISAAC are honoured, humbled, and inspired to be part of the work that he described as “the expansion of the human voice and spirit across our world.” Read more on [ISAAC's Blog](#).

### **AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION**

#### **CALL FOR EDITORS**

**DEADLINE: MAY 7, 2018**

*Augmentative and Alternative Communication* publishes scientific articles related to the field of AAC. Content includes reporting research or discussing theory, technology, and systems development relevant to AAC. The journal's mission is to document the evidence base, advance understanding, and improve outcomes for individuals with complex communication needs and their families. For more information and application details, [click here](#).



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an informa business

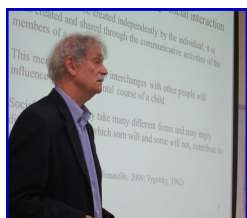


## Chapter News

Submitted by  
Dr. Meng-Ju Tsai

### NEWS FROM ISAAC-TAIWAN

On November 27, 2017, Dr. Meng-Ju Tsai from Chung Shan Medical University in Taiwan invited Professor Stephen von Tetzchner from the University of Oslo to give a short talk: *Scaffolding Children Who Use Augmentative and Alternative Communication*.

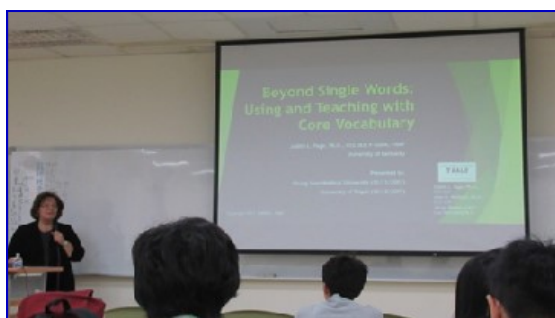


Prof. Stephen  
von Tetzchner,  
University of Oslo



Prof. Judith Page,  
University of  
Kentucky, with  
Dr. Meng-Ju Tsai

Professor Judith L. Page from the University of Kentucky, was invited by Chung Shan Medical University, Taichung City Speech and Language Therapists Union, Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Taiwan, and ISAAC-Taiwan to give several short talks on December 9, 10 and 11, 2017.



## Chapter News



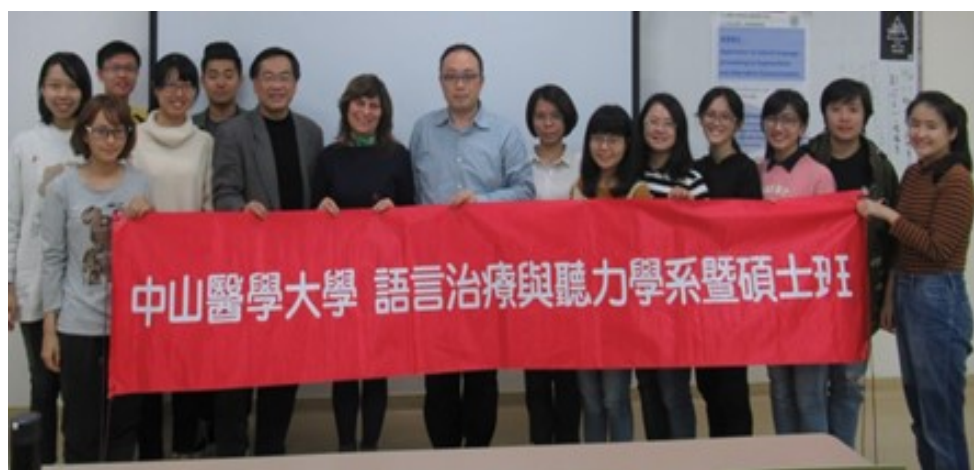
### NEWS FROM ISAAC-TAIWAN

#### ... CONTINUED

Dr. Meng-Ju Tsai from Chung Shan Medical University in Taiwan invited Professor Shula Shilon from Wucailu Center for Children with Autism to give a brief presentation on January 5, 2018, on the *Application of Natural Language Processing to Augmentative and Alternative Communication*.



Prof. Shula Shilon,  
Wucailu Center, with  
Dr. Meng-Ju Tsai



### Communication Support World Network *Newsletter*

Watch for the next ISAAC Edition of the **CSWN Newsletter** in April 2018. You will find past issues posted [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.

Thanks to CSWN Co-editors Dorothy Fraser and Nadia Browning for bringing you news from emerging AAC countries around the world through this comprehensive publication.

### ISAAC-US

**USSAAC** (ISAAC-US) is continuing its popular [webinar series](#) as well as publishing the [SpeakUp Blog](#), and holding monthly Twitter chats ([#USSAACChat](#)).

Recordings of USSAAC's webinars can be found on the ISAAC website, [here](#).



## Chapter News

*Submitted by  
Margit Grønkjær*

### ISAAC-DENMARK

ISAAC-Denmark held its annual conference in Vingsted, Bredsten, on March 12-13, 2018. More than 200 people were in attendance. It was the third or fourth year in a row that we set a record for attendance. President Birgitte Brandt opened the conference with a report on the organization's activities during the past year. In the next edition of ISAAC E-News we will tell you about the issues in the annual report.

The biggest achievement of the year was that ISAAC was successful in bringing about a change in translation of the UN Declaration in order to emphasize the right to AAC in our legislation. The report and conference program are available online, at [www.isaac.dk](http://www.isaac.dk) – but unfortunately only in Danish. We would like to mention that among the keynote speakers were Kathryn Drager from Pennsylvania, US, Gunilla Thunberg from Göteborg, Sweden, and Louise Bøttcher from University of Århus, Denmark.



As well, professionals from Norway and Denmark contributed to the program. The participants had a lot of possibilities to choose from, and that can be hard! During the conference people who use AAC had a meeting. We also had an exhibition and small presentations from AAC companies that participants could choose to attend.



We ended the conference with a fantastic story from a family of a young child with CP and his amazing AAC development.





## ISAAC Activities & Projects

### **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. The BUILD meeting at ISAAC 2018 will be held on Thursday, July 26th. Take a moment to view a video by [Sarah Yong](#), Chair of ISAAC BUILD AAC, as she shares her thoughts with us about the first-ever ISAAC Conference with an Asia-Pacific theme. We'd also like you to meet some ISAAC members from Croatia, who also [share their excitement about the upcoming conference](#) on video.

### **BUILD RESOURCE DONATIONS PROGRAM**

As in past conferences, BUILD will be pleased to accept resource materials that will be redistributed to ISAAC members and conference attendees from emerging AAC countries. Details to be released shortly.

### **LEAD COMMITTEE**

The ISAAC LEAD Project encourages and supports people who use AAC as leaders within ISAAC. For those attending ISAAC 2018, LEAD will be hosting a 4-hour leadership workshop called "[Dare to Lead](#)." Also, 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. A Family Engagement Forum will be held on Thursday, July 26, at ISAAC 2018. Details to follow.

### **INTERNATIONAL AAC AWARENESS MONTH 2018**

#### **THEME: "DARE TO LEAD"**

Join ISAAC's celebration of [International AAC Awareness Month](#) in October 2018. This year's theme is "Dare to LEAD". We invite you to plan or attend an AAC awareness event in your community, or participate in online events that bring to life the visions of people who use AAC toward future leadership opportunities – locally, nationally or internationally. For more information, contact [Lateef McLeod](#), Chair, ISAAC LEAD Committee.





## ISAAC Awards 2018

**T**he ISAAC Awards will be presented at the Membership and Awards Meeting on July 25th, 2018, at the 18th Biennial Conference of ISAAC, on the Gold Coast, Australia. Visit the [ISAAC website](#) for details on how to submit a nomination for the following ISAAC Awards, which are still open for nominations:

### ISAAC FELLOWSHIP AWARD

This award honours ISAAC members who have 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 30, 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 are now being accepted for the 2018-2019 school year.

**Application deadline: May 25, 2018**

### 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 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](http://www.isaacaustralia.com))

## ISAAC-Brazil

([isaac.org.br](http://isaac.org.br))

## ISAAC-Canada

([www.isaac-canada.org](http://www.isaac-canada.org))

## ISAAC-Denmark

([www.isaac.dk](http://www.isaac.dk))

## ISAAC-FSC

([www.isaac-fr.org](http://www.isaac-fr.org))

## ISAAC-India

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

## ISAAC-Israel

([isaac.org.il](http://isaac.org.il))

## ISAAC-Italy

([www.isaacitaly.it](http://www.isaacitaly.it))

## ISAAC-NF

([www.isaac-nf.nl](http://www.isaac-nf.nl))

## ISAAC-Norway

([www.isaac.no](http://www.isaac.no))

## ISAAC-Poland

([www.aac.org.pl](http://www.aac.org.pl))

## ISAAC-Sweden

([www.isaac-sverige.se](http://www.isaac-sverige.se))

## ISAAC-Taiwan

([twsaac.blogspot.tw](http://twsaac.blogspot.tw))

## ISAAC-UK

(Communication Matters)

([www.communicationmatters.org.uk](http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk))

## ISAAC-US (USSAAC)

([www.ussaac.org](http://www.ussaac.org))

ISAAC is a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



## **ISAAC Membership Directory© 2017**

Available online in the Members Only section.

[Click here for access](#)

using your ISAAC member ID# and password.

The ISAAC Membership Directory 2018 will be in production over the next few months. Look for it on our website this July!



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](mailto:info@isaac-online.org)

Visit us at  
[www.isaac-online.org](http://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.

### Executive Board 2016-2018

Gregor Renner  
President, GERMANY

Meredith Allan  
President-Elect, AUSTRALIA

Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk  
Chair of the Council, POLAND

Nadia Browning  
Chair-Elect of the Council,  
BRAZIL

Sally Clendon  
V-P for Conferences,  
NEW ZEALAND

Lateef McLeod  
V-P for LEAD, USA

Tracy Shepherd  
V-P without Portfolio, CANADA

Sarah Yong  
V-P for BUILD, SINGAPORE

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Franklin Smith, Executive Director

Teraiz El-Deir, Membership Coordinator

Heather Stonehouse, Manager of Communications

Nola Millin, Editor, ISAAC Website

Judy Shapiro, Conference 2018 Sponsorship Specialist

Tony Needer, Conference 2018 Exhibitor Sales Specialist

Martine Smith, PhD, and Bronwyn Hemsley, PhD  
Editors, *AAC Journal*

Jackie Brown  
Editorial Assistant, *AAC Journal*