

**October is
International
AAC
Awareness
Month!**

October 2014

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Message from Jeffrey K. Riley, President 2012-2015

Dear ISAAC Members:

A warm welcome back to all of you from your summer (or winter) vacations and travels. The change of seasons is always a time to reflect, renew, and start new projects. The equinox seasons of autumn and spring are particularly significant to the human family as a time to plant or a time to harvest – a good time to join together and get going on the work before us!

In terms of reflection, some of you had the good fortune to attend the successful 16th Biennial ISAAC conference in Lisbon, Portugal. It was an excellent opportunity for ISAAC members from around the world to meet, make new connections, and share ideas. The ISAAC Council, Chapters, Committees, and Executive Board worked together over the course of many days to maintain and build the governance framework that enables ISAAC to thrive and grow as an organization. Important decisions were made to support and advance the ISAAC membership structure, to maintain the financial stability of ISAAC, clarifying roles and terms of the ISAAC Executive members, and approving ISAAC's first Position Statement. Complete minutes of the Council meetings, outcomes of the

committee meetings, and other related developments can soon be found in the "members only" portion of the ISAAC website.

In terms of renewal, in Lisbon the ISAAC Council confirmed the adjustment of terms for the current President and President-Elect to cover the departure of Bronwyn Hemsley from the President-Elect position. As a result of the confirmed adjusted terms of office, I am continuing as ISAAC President for an additional third year until September 2015, and Gregor Renner is now ISAAC President-Elect and he will have a three-year term as ISAAC President from October 2015 to September 2018.

Also in terms of renewal, the standing committees of ISAAC, the committees that make the wheels of ISAAC turn, are still looking for additional members and participants. I urge you to have a look at the committee list on the [ISAAC website](#) and find a committee that calls to your interests. ISAAC now has excellent meeting technology that helps make cross-global meetings a productive and fun interaction. Reach out and let your

...continued on p.2



fellow ISAAC members know you are actively committed to supporting AAC across the world.

Finally there are many new projects underway, not the least of which are the many local projects associated with AAC Awareness month in October. Vic Valentic, chair of the ISAAC-LEAD committee is reaching out to all ISAAC members across the world. Please let him know what is happening in the next six weeks in your community to make people aware of AAC, and the daily challenges faced by people who use

AAC. We learn from each other every day, and it is up to us on a local, individual, community, national, and international level to make sure the voices of people who use AAC are heard amongst all the many flashing distractions of the world news feed.

I wish you all a very successful, fun, and “talkative” AAC Awareness month (and I know we all look forward to hearing all about it!)

Best wishes to you all,

[Jeff](#)

... From the Executive Director

Follow
@isaac_aac on
Twitter!



Welcome to this edition of the ISAAC E-News, the first since the conclusion of our very successful 16th Biennial Conference in Lisbon. The ISAAC International office is once again open, after taking some vacation time in August to “re-charge our batteries.”

ISAAC Conference 2014 was a remarkable organizational success for ISAAC International. ISAAC now possesses the in-house capacity to manage its own conferences, and we will be making good use of this capacity for Conference 2016 and beyond. We look forward to welcoming the entire world to Toronto, Canada, in August 2016 for the 17th Biennial Conference of ISAAC.

I would once again like to thank all of you who had a role to play in the success of ISAAC Conference 2014. First and foremost, a big thank you to our ISAAC Conference 2014 Co-Chairs and everyone who traveled from near and far to be in Lisbon, including presenters, exhibitors, conference attendees, and volunteers. A special thank you to all our sponsors, who received special recognition at both our Opening and Closing Ceremonies. And finally, a tremendous vote of thanks to the ISAAC Council, Executive Board, and the Toronto-based staff of the ISAAC International office.

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In case you missed the announcement, videos of the Opening Ceremonies, Closing Ceremonies, and the ISAAC Lifetime Achievement Award acceptance speech by Professor Stephen Hawking can be found on ISAAC's website at <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2014/isaac-2014-videos/>.

Our video of the ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture by Fiona Given of Australia is not yet available on the website due to certain copyright concerns, since the audio contains songs for which others control the intellectual property rights. We are working to resolve this and will let you know as soon as we are able to post this wonderful presentation on the ISAAC website.

Work now begins on Conference 2016! One of our first considerations is to take all of the feedback and comments from Conference 2014, and use those to help us make Conference 2016 even better! Speaking about that feedback, thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to our online Conference 2014 Evaluation Survey. A summary of the very

positive results are available in this edition of the E-News, [here](#).

Finally, it is soon time for ISAAC 2015 membership renewal. Please make sure to stay connected with ISAAC by renewing your membership. If you are a member of ISAAC through a Chapter, then you should be hearing from your Chapter soon. All members of ISAAC International are invited to renew and pay for their membership through our secure online payment system. Stay tuned for further announcements on this.

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](#)

*"As always,
I welcome
your thoughts
and
feedback."*

STAR ALLIANCE
THE WAY THE EARTH CONNECTS



WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT STAR ALLIANCE WILL BE RETURNING AS THE OFFICIAL AIRLINE NETWORK FOR ISAAC 2016. DISCOUNTS ON FLIGHTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO CONFERENCE DELEGATES.

Chapter News

Chapter reports formed an informative and enjoyable feature at the Council Meeting on July 20, 2014, in Lisbon. View the updates from Chapters that have submitted follow-up reports in writing, to date, at [ISAAC Chapter Reports](#).



*Jackie Brown
receiving the ISAAC
President's Award
from Jeff Riley at
the 2014 Awards
and Membership
Meeting*



*Ralf Schlosser, PhD,
recipient of the ISAAC
Fellowship Award with
congratulations from
Jeff Riley, ISAAC
President*



ISAAC 2014 Awards & Scholarships: Recognizing Outstanding Achievement

Every two years at the ISAAC Biennial Conference a number of awards and scholarships are presented to ISAAC members who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to ISAAC's mission and achievement in the field of AAC.

At the Awards and Membership Meeting, held on Tuesday, July 21st, the following individuals were honoured:

- Janet Larcher (UK) received the ISAAC Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding contribution to ISAAC and the field of AAC. Janet has made a difference through her work on many ISAAC initiatives, and has held senior governance positions within the organization. Over the years she has generously supported those who were new to the field of AAC. She is now officially retired, but is sure to continue her commitment to AAC, and to ISAAC. Unfortunately, Janet was not able to attend to conference to receive her award in person.
- Ralf Schlosser (USA) received the ISAAC Fellowship Award. Ralf has been held in high esteem for his research, teaching, and service provision in the field of AAC, for nearly three decades. As his nomination letter stated, "...few people have advanced the research methodology of AAC as much as Dr. Schlosser has. His work is highly valued among researchers within the field but also by scholars of other disciplines who want to understand the connections between AAC concepts (and methodology and impact) and the concepts in other related areas." Ralf has been associate editor of ISAAC's AAC Journal and has been honoured three times with the Most Significant Research Article award. Ralf most recently headed ISAAC's Facilitated Communication Ad Hoc Committee.
- Jackie Brown (Canada) received the ISAAC President's Award for her continuing services as Assistant Editor of the AAC Journal, a position she has held for 15 years – more than half the life of the journal. She has served through five editorial terms, guiding articles through the review process and providing high-quality support for each of the editors.
- Krithika Vankataram (India) received the [The Bridge School/ISAAC Teacher-in-Residence](#) for 2014, an award that sponsors her participation in a training program at The Bridge School in California during 2015.
- AAC Editors Awards are presented in two categories: Most Significant Research Article and Most Significant Student Article.

See page 6 for details.

ISAAC 2014 Awards & Scholarships, continued...

ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award

We had the pleasure of presenting Fiona Given of Australia with the ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award at ISAAC 2014. Fiona's fascinating lecture, accompanied by stunning photography from her travels, was titled,



“A Journey of Discovery to the Last Frontier: Discovering an Adventure in Antarctica”

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Fiona for her truly outstanding presentation. Thanks also to John Costello for his ongoing work and dedication on behalf of this biennial event, which is always a highlight of the ISAAC conference.

Fiona Given was a featured presenter at the conference on July 22, 2014.

Photo: Heather Stonehouse

ISAAC Lifetime Achievement Award

This year marked the inception of a new ISAAC award – an exceptional award for an exceptional



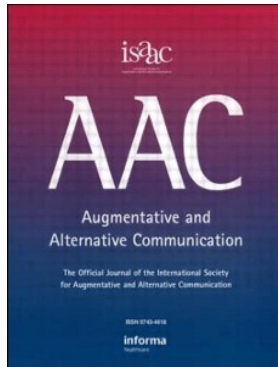
*Photo: Philip Mynott
©2013*

The ISAAC Lifetime Achievement Award was presented at the Opening Ceremonies. Professor Hawking was unable to attend in person, but pre-recorded an [acceptance speech](#) that was met with an enthusiastic response from delegates who were clearly moved by his words.

The award is linked to a newly established endowment fund, which represents the legacy of achievement attained by Professor Hawking during his lifetime, in the work that is done by ISAAC worldwide.



ISAAC/AAC Editors' Awards



Each year, the AAC Associate Editors choose the most significant articles published in the journal during the preceding calendar year in two categories: *Most Significant Research Article* and *Most Significant Student Article*.

The following authors were recognized at the 2014 Awards and Membership Meeting for their outstanding contributions to AAC during 2013. The awards were presented by David McNaughton, AAC Editor.

MOST SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH ARTICLE:

Presented to R. Michael Barker, Sanae Akabe, Nancy C. Brady, and Kathy Thiemann-Bourque for their December 2013 article:

Support for AAC Use in Preschool, and Growth in Language Skills for Young Children with Developmental Disabilities. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 29, 334-346.

[Read more [here](#)]

MOST SIGNIFICANT STUDENT ARTICLE:

Presented to Virginia L. Walker and Martha E. Snell, for their June 2013 article:

Effects of augmentative and alternative communication on challenging behavior: A meta-analysis. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 29, 117-131.

[Read more [here](#)]

ISAAC Resources

A flash drive was included in each ISAAC 2014 delegate bag, featuring the Conference Proceedings and the 2014 ISAAC Membership Directory in PDF format. A limited number of flash drives are still available. Please contact ISAAC International Membership Coordinator, [Teraiz El-Deir](#), to make the necessary shipping arrangements.

The Directory is also available online [here](#), in the Members Only section of the ISAAC website.

Silent Auction Results 2014

Thanks to the efforts and energy of the Friends of ISAAC, a silent auction is held at each biennial conference to raise funds to assist people who use AAC to attend future conferences.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone for their donations and participation in the ISAAC 2014 Silent Auction. This year more than \$1,800 was raised for the ISAAC Travel Fund, which enables people who use AAC to attend future conferences.

A big thank you to Karen Bloomberg for taking the lead in 2014, to the Friends of ISAAC who volunteered during the conference, and to Pat Politano for her help in organizing the event.



2014 Research Symposium Update

The 2014 Research Symposium was held on July 25 - 26, following the 16th Biennial Conference of ISAAC in Lisbon. Co-chairs Lyle L. Lloyd, Stephen von Tetzchner, Linda Koehler, and Isabel Amaral would like to thank all of the organizers, presenters and delegates for their efforts and commitment to the success of this year's Research Symposium

The 2014 seminar topics and organizers were:

Psycholinguistic Models and AAC

Organizers: Filip Loncke, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Communication

Disorders Program Linguistics Program, University of Virginia, and Bruce R. Baker, A.M., L.H.D. (Hons. caus.), Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh, and CEO/President, Semantic Compaction® Systems, Inc.

Processes of Aided Language Development in Cognitively High-Functioning Children and Adolescents

Organizers: Prof. Stephen von Tetzchner, Department of Psychology, University of Oslo, and Judith Oxley, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Communicative Disorders, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

BUILD AAC Committee News

***BUILD AAC** is an ISAAC committee that supports the development of augmentative and alternative communication in emerging AAC countries.*

Once again many books and other resources were donated for distribution to ISAAC members from emerging AAC nations at ISAAC 2014. Delegates who attended the BUILD Meeting on Wednesday, July 23rd in Lisbon were invited to review these materials and take home any that they would find useful.

Thanks to everyone who donated resources! Rajul Padmanabhan, BUILD Chair for 2012 - 2014, expresses her sincere appreciation to Alina Tutu and Dianne Martins, who worked her as members of the 2014 BUILD Book Donations Program Committee.

Follow BUILD on Facebook

For regular updates on resources and ideas around the world, find [ISAAC BUILD AAC](#) on Facebook. Check in often, because ISAAC member and BUILD supporter Petra Autnam Dillman (Namibia) is keeping the site lively, sometimes posting more than once a day. Petra has also set up a [BUILD Resource Group](#) linked to the Facebook page. Everyone may post there, and also share information on free resources. All that is required is to provide the source. Thanks, Petra!



Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2014 - 2016

The new *ISAAC Executive Board (EB)* assumed its responsibilities on September 18th, 2014. To introduce the new EB, we asked each member to provide a brief bio:

Jeffrey K. Riley, ISAAC President 2012 – 2015*, Canada



Jeff Riley's lifelong interest in human communication began with his exposure to multiple languages as a child growing up in Quebec, southern Belgium, and Saskatchewan, and continued during his world travels and studies as a young man. In his graduate work in the mid-1980s he became fascinated with the potential for AAC to free the human spirit. His Master's thesis was the product of a one-year longitudinal study of a young boy who was one of the first in the world to receive a portable talking communication device, the Vois 160. He instantly became hooked and AAC entered his life as a passion. He went on to develop further skills and become an AAC specialist in 1990.

In the course of his professional work he realized that individuals without voices were generally not heard and usually neglected. In the late 1980s he joined with colleagues, people who use AAC, and friends to push policy and decision-makers to accommodate the needs of people who cannot speak. Since then he has worked in many capacities to expand funding and services to people who use AAC in his home province of British Columbia and in Canada. Jeff's current position is Manager of CAYA (Communication Assistance for Youth and Adults), which provides AAC technology, and professional and technical services to people who use AAC across the province of British Columbia.

Jeff has a long history with ISAAC, having been a member for over 20 years and serving the Society in a variety of capacities: President of the national chapter for Canada for four years and co-chair of the 2008 Biennial Conference of ISAAC, serving as ISAAC President-elect 2010-2012, and ISAAC President 2012-2014, and Chair of the ISAAC 2014 Conference Scientific Program Committee. At the request of the ISAAC Executive Board and the ISAAC Council, Jeff has agreed to extend his term as ISAAC President by an additional year to September 2015. Jeff continues to participate on a variety of advocacy initiatives for ISAAC Canada. He is proud of the many achievements of ISAAC both within Canada and on the broader international stage.

Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2014 - 2016, continued



Gregor Renner, ISAAC President Elect 2014-2015*, Germany

Gregor Renner's first contact with persons with disabilities was when he worked in community services as conscientious objector after school. From this time forward he was convinced that persons with disabilities must have their place in all areas of life.

He studied electronics and special education in Berlin and started to work in the AAC field in the early 1990s. At that time he became a member of ISAAC. He founded an AAC centre and established a national association for AAC centres in Germany.

In 2004 he completed his doctorate about the theoretical basis of AAC. He worked as a postdoc on different research projects in Berlin and Halle. In 2008 he received the offer of the first professorship of AAC in the German-speaking area at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences in Freiburg. He continues to conduct studies on AAC. He has established an AAC focus in the special education program at the university and an advanced AAC training program for professionals there as well. He has been co-chair of the ISAAC Research Committee since 2004.

Gregor and his wife Kathrin have three daughters Viola (2002), Annika (2004) and Leonie (2004) and live near Berlin.

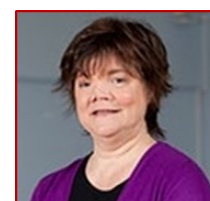
** Irregular term duration by approval of ISAAC Council, July 2014*



Janice Murray, Chair of Council, United Kingdom

Janice Murray graduated in speech and language therapy in the mid-1980s and almost immediately began work in the area of AAC, setting up a regional provision in Scotland, UK. Since then she has seen many changes in this area in terms of policy and service provision, technology and involvement of people who use AAC and their families in actions and initiatives. Janice currently works at Manchester Metropolitan University as a Reader in Community Rehabilitation.

Over the years, Janice has contributed to a number of AAC initiatives in the UK, including post-graduate education in AAC, developments in funding, policy and service standards, outcome measurement tools and user-led research activities.





Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2014 - 2016, continued

Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk, Chair-Elect of the Council, Poland



Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk has been speech and language therapist for nearly thirty years, of which almost twenty she dedicated to AAC, working with people of various ages, mostly youngsters.

Among the first therapists introducing AAC to Poland, with hardly any resources available, she was desperately looking for knowledge and information in the field of augmentative and alternative communication. Joining ISAAC in 1997 started a new chapter in Aldona's professional career, and the Washington 2000 ISAAC conference opened her eyes to the abundance of AAC, while raising the awareness of how much had to be done towards social inclusion of people with special communication needs in Poland. Since then, as one of very few Polish members, she has attended all ISAAC conferences (a big challenge for no financial support from any institution). She represented Poland in ISAAC Board of Directors/Council (2008-2012). In the years 2006-2012 she was on Board of *Mówić bez słów* (Speak without Words), a nationwide AAC society, where she oversaw international relations and served as Vice-President. With a view to uniting AAC groups in Europe in 2011 she co-organized in Warsaw the VIII Eastern and Central European AAC Conference "Let's Talk Together – AAC in Europe," attended by the President of ISAAC Erna Alant.

Cooperating with NGOs all over Poland, she has conducted numerous workshops on AAC and AT. In an effort to promote the idea of AAC, as well as to increase awareness of the many achievements in the field, Aldona has invited ISAAC friends from several countries to visit Poland.

A passionate believer in making connections and collaborating, she has visited AAC centres worldwide (Croatia, Czech Republic, India, Russia, Singapore, UAE and USA) to develop a better understanding of cultural differences in the use of AAC systems, while at the same time discovering how much all human beings have in common.



India Ochs, Vice President without Portfolio, USA

Stemming from a lifelong belief in making change from within "the system," India Ochs currently works for the U.S. Federal Government on national security and safety issues involving foreign nationals participating in U.S. exchange programs. Acquiring both a law degree and master's degree in



Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2014 - 2016, continued

public affairs, India's passion for social justice has included work on juvenile detention reform issues in the U.S. and legal and legislative initiatives with human rights activists on the ground in 24 countries. She also previously established and ran a nonprofit to unite youth with and without sensory disabilities through sports and service- learning activities and worked with victims' families during the Pan-Am 103 bombing trial. During graduate school, she supplemented her income through freelance web design for local governments, universities, and small businesses. During that time she also volunteered as a guardian ad litem representing children in foster care.

Born with an undiagnosed neurological speech disability, India has almost 30 years' experience in public speaking and leadership training. Within the AAC community, India has been a member of the USSAAC Board of Directors since 2006, including guiding the organization as President from 2010 to 2012. During her tenure, India worked hard to strengthen the organizational structure and procedures within USSAAC, including advocating for multiple nominations for USSAAC's 2011 elections, resulting in contested elections for the first time in years and the largest contingent of PWUAAC and family members on the USSAAC Board ever. Since her term, USSAAC has elected a PWUAAC as President in the last two election cycles, which will result in a PWUAAC representing USSAAC on the ISAAC Council until at least 2018. India has served as one of ISAAC's Vice President without Portfolio since 2012.

Along with taking on her highest priority of being a mother, India is a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and entering her 30th year playing soccer (*futbol*).

Tracy Shepherd, VP – Conference Planning, Canada

Tracy Shepherd is a speech language pathologist with a long-standing passion for AAC. As a student she worked part time doing home support for a family who had two young girls who used AAC. It sparked her interest and love of this field, which enables people to share themselves with the world. She has been practicing clinically in AAC since 1991.



Tracy works in the Augmentative Communication Service at Thames Valley Children's Centre in London, Ontario, and as an Education Coordinator at the Centralized Equipment Pool (operated by Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital) in Toronto, Ontario. She has co-developed an extensive educational program to train clinicians in Ontario, Canada, who



Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2014 - 2016, continued

work in the area of AAC. Tracy is also involved with Communication Disabilities Access Canada, a national non-profit organization working on a variety of projects related to communication accessibility and human rights.

Her research interests span many areas, including reliability of speech-generating devices (SGDs), abandonment of technology, outcome measurement as well as other areas of clinical interest (teamwork, listening and family impact). Along with colleagues she has implemented the *Libraries for All* program in London, Ontario, which encourages communication access in the community.

Tracy was on the Executive Board of ISAAC Canada from 2006-09, President of the Canadian Chapter of ISAAC from 2009 to 2013, and is currently finishing up her tenure as Past President. In addition, Tracy is a member of the organizing committee for the Breaking the ICE conference (a national consumer-focused conference for people who use AAC) and will be one of the co-chairs for the upcoming ISAAC conference in Toronto, Canada, in 2016! She has been a member of ISAAC in good standing since 1990.

Vic Valentic, VP, Leadership Chair for People who Use AAC, Canada

As a result of two Reye's syndrome episodes, Vic Valentic lost his ability to speak and experienced difficulty with fine and gross motor movements. It has been necessary for him to undergo intensive physiotherapy, and occupational therapy at the Cerebral Palsy Centre at Chedoke Hospital to acquire the skills to enable him to function independently. This therapy made it possible for him to attend public schools, despite often being the only student in his class with a physical disability. Only a team effort by highly qualified teachers and therapists, his parents and himself allowed him to use different means to cover the regular course requirements.

In 1990 he joined a local group, the Hamilton Wentworth Communication Collective (HWCC). HWCC is a volunteer advocacy organization that was formed in 1977 to help support individuals who use AAC. Members are from all sectors of the community, including people who use AAC and their families, teachers, therapists, and support workers.

Vic won an HWCC contest in 1992, earning a trip to the ISAAC Conference in Philadelphia, PA, USA. At that time he became a member of ISAAC and

Meet the ISAAC Executive Board 2014 - 2016, continued



eventually was appointed to the Board of Directors for ISAAC International at the ISAAC 1998 conference in Dublin, Ireland. He attended and presented at the ISAAC Conference in Washington D.C., in August 2000.

Vic is also engaged in his own business venture, which will deliver an Internet Search Engine specially designed to meet the needs of people who use AAC. He has a Diploma in Computer Technology-Systems from Mohawk Community College in Hamilton, Canada.

Sarah Yong, VP without Portfolio, BUILD Chair, Singapore

Sarah Yong's first encounter with AAC was when she saw a LIGHTWRITER being used during a placement in Chicago. Since then, she has been passionate about enabling people to "find their voice." Sarah, a speech therapist by training, lives in Singapore where she is Head of Clinical Services at the Specialised Assistive Technology Centre, SPD. AAC is one the main focus areas at the Specialised ATC and she has had the privilege of seeing individuals with complex communication needs become competent AAC users. Sarah also lectures on AAC at the National University of Singapore Speech and Language Pathology program. She believes training potential speech therapists is essential as they will be working with individuals who will need AAC. Through her work, she has also collaborated with teachers and therapists to integrate AAC into classrooms.



Her connection with ISAAC began about ten years ago. She was the recipient of the third ISAAC/Bridge School Teacher in Residence Award. The many experiences at ISAAC conferences, advise and discussions, as well as the many friendships formed, have positively shaped her as a person who works with people who use AAC. She has especially learnt a lot from those in emerging countries. She has been greatly inspired by the examples of how they have pioneered and accomplished so much, often in very challenging circumstances. Sarah is excited about working together with the BUILD Committee to increase AAC presence and support.

UPDATE ON FACILITATED COMMUNICATION

At the biennial meeting of the ISAAC Council on July 20, 2014, the Council voted to adopt the draft report and position statement submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Facilitated Communication as ISAAC's Position Statement on facilitated communication. The position statement will be published in the December 2014 issue of the AAC Journal. Our thanks go to Dr. Ralf W. Schlosser, head of the Ad Hoc Committee, and the other committee members, for the rigour applied to the process and the countless hours they dedicated to this process.

ISAAC 2014 Media Gallery



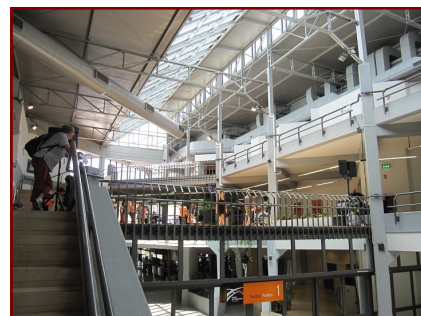
Opening Ceremonies: Minister Pedro Mota Soares, on behalf of the Government of Portugal, welcomes delegates to ISAAC Conference 2014.



President's Reception: Dinner followed by an evening of music and dancing, hosted by ISAAC President Jeff Riley.



Fiona Given, with John Costello, Coordinator of the ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture, after her award-winning presentation.



Lisboa Congress Centre



Welcome Reception: Entertainment by CiM (Companhia Integrada MultiDisciplinar)



ISAAC 2014 Exhibit Area: Informative, lively, always busy!

Watch [videos](#) [here](#) for:

Opening Ceremonies

Prof. Stephen Hawking's ISAAC
Lifetime Achievement Award
Acceptance Speech

Closing Ceremonies

Photo Gallery to be posted soon in
the "[Members Only](#)" area of the
ISAAC Website.



International AAC Awareness Month 2014

ISAAC has chosen “Discovering Communication” as the theme for International AAC Awareness Month 2014, to continue the momentum from the recent ISAAC conference. We want to challenge our members to continue sharing their discoveries.

Please let [Vic Valentic](#), ISAAC’s Leadership Chair for People who use AAC, know about events happening in your area. Also, [Submissions are welcome](#) for [ISAAC’s Blog](#) (400 words max, with a photo or two) on a significant event or “discovery” in your community, country or region during International AAC Awareness Month.

Do you have a blog? Please let us know where we can find you. We will publish the URL in the December ISAAC E-News.

What’s Happening?

AUSTRALIA

[Silent Morning Tea](#), community events held through the month of October.

CANADA

October 9th has been designated as [2014 AAC Awareness Day](#).

SOUTH AFRICA

[AAC Research Seminar](#) on the October 3rd.

USA

[6th Annual 24-Hour AAC Chat](#) on Skype, Facebook and Twitter, beginning on October 22, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time (USA)

News from ISAAC Brazil

On November 8th the first AAC Meeting will take place in São Paulo. The goal of this one-day meeting is to discuss how to disseminate augmentative and alternative communication to small groups/regions. Other small groups are expected to be organize in other parts of Brazil. Also, the VI Brazilian Congress of Alternative Communication will be held at UNICAMP (Campinas – São Paulo), June 9 – 12, 2015. ISAAC Brazil is currently working on a website, to be launched by November. For more information, contact [Eliana Cristina Moreira](#), President, ISAAC Brazil.

isaac Chapters

[ISAAC Australia](http://www.isaacaustralia.com)

(www.isaacaustralia.com)

[ISAAC Brazil](http://www.isaac-brazil.org)

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

(www.isaac-canada.org)

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

(www.isaac.dk)

[ISAAC Finland](http://www.papunet.net/tikoteeki)

(www.papunet.net/tikoteeki)

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

(www.isaac-fr.org)

[ISAAC India](http://www.ayjnihh.nic.in)

(www.ayjnihh.nic.in)

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

(isaac.org.il)

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

(www.isaacitaly.it)

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

(www.isaac-nf.nl)

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

(www.isaac.no)

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

(www.isaac-sverige.se)

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

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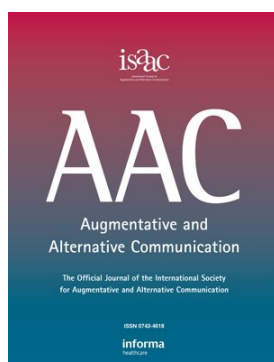
[ISAAC UK](http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

(www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

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

(www.ussaac.org)

ISAAC has 15 Chapters worldwide. For information about how you can participate, contact the organizations listed above, or ISAAC International for areas not listed.



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Current issue of AAC Journal

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