



Gregor Renner,  
ISAAC President

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# isaac e-news

October 2017

## Message from the President

### Dear ISAAC Members:

While I am writing this message to you, some of you might be in the midst of preparing submissions for the 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial ISAAC Conference. At the same time, the Co-Chairs of the conference and the ISAAC Executive Board (EB) are continuing to prepare for this important event, to be held in Australia from July 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

In the year before a conference, both the Executive Board and Co-chairs' committees meet at the conference venue in person. So this past August the Co-Chairs, the EB members, as well as the Executive Director and Manager of Communications, headed for Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. Of course, we were curious to see the conference venue:



(L to R) Sally Clendon, Meredith Allan, Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk, Nadia Browning

the [Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre GCCEC](#). Make sure to check out the virtual tour, at <http://www.gccec.com.au/virtual-tour.html>.

We found an exciting building with perfect facilities for the conference – from a big auditorium for our plenary sessions to mid-size and smaller rooms for presentations and workshops. There were also perfect places for the exhibition, poster presentations and Silent Auction. The facility is completely accessible, as is public transportation on Gold Coast. We had the opportunity to meet with GCCEC managers and discuss our needs for the conference.

In joint meetings of the Co-Chairs and the EB we made good progress in planning the conference. Without revealing any details, I can tell you that the social events will be breathtaking. Presentations can be submitted until October 16<sup>th</sup> (extended deadline) and will be followed by a review of the submissions. The ISAAC Research

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## Message from the President ... *continued*



Committee helped in recruiting reviewers – many thanks to them and also to the reviewers. Based on their evaluation, we will schedule the full conference program. Online registration will open soon. We will keep you informed of all developments. Don't miss the opportunity for "early bird" reduced registration fees!

I hope the 18<sup>th</sup> ISAAC conference is on your calendar. For me it is always an exciting and inspiring time and an opportunity to learn about latest developments in the field, meet old friends and make new friends, continue existing collaborations and prepare new ones, and go back home with new ideas and new energy.

Before returning home after the conference you might want to enjoy some vacation time. The Gold Coast is perfect for recreation. Don't miss visiting beautiful, nearby Brisbane. Even though July is the middle of winter in Australia, on Gold Coast

this year we had temperatures well above 20°C / 68°F and nice sunny weather. If you travel up north you will have even higher temperatures, beautiful beaches, and the Great Barrier Reef, not to mention many attractions inland. In all places you can discover Australian Aboriginal culture. From Gold Coast you can travel to any place in Australia and the entire Asian-Pacific region. I am sure you will enjoy the conference, and more.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

[Gregor Renner](#)

ISAAC President

October 2015 - September 2018



ISAAC Executive Board Meeting, August 2017: (L to R) Sarah Yong, Sally Clendon, Tracy Shepherd, Heather Stonehouse, Franklin Smith, Gregor Renner, Lateef McLeod, Nadia Browning, Meredith Allan, Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk



AACcess All Areas  
**ISAAC 2018**  
**GOLD COAST**  
**AUSTRALIA**  
21-26 JULY 2018

### **CALL FOR PAPERS EXTENDED DEADLINE:** **OCTOBER 16, 2017 18:00 GMT**

If you are submitting or have already submitted an abstract for a **Research Seminar**, please view the [Call for Papers Abstract Submission Guidelines](#) for recent changes.

**ISAAC CONFERENCE 2018 REGISTRATION RATES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**



## From the Executive Director

*Message from the President and From The Executive Director are available in translation (French, Italian, Portuguese) on ISAAC's [website](#).*



Welcome to the October 2017 edition of the ISAAC E-News. This is a significant month in AAC calendar because International AAC Awareness Month is celebrated each October. Established by ISAAC's LEAD Committee in 2007, International AAC Awareness Month helps to raise awareness about AAC in countries, regions, and communities around the world.

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 2018 and beyond....**

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 in 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.

For those who have not yet submitted an abstract, there is good news: the deadline for

submissions has been extended to October 16, 2017, due to increased demands on the submission system in the final few days of September. We want to make sure we hear from everyone who wants to present a paper, poster, interactive workshop or research seminar. Please submit your abstracts online at <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2018/call-for-papers-2018/>.

With now a bit less than one year to go before the conference, the Conference 2018 Leadership Team is hard at work ensuring an amazing conference, program, and experience! Please keep checking back at our conference website (<https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2018/>) for new information. Now available on the website is Exhibitor and Sponsorship information, and one of the next major milestones will be the launching of our online conference registration system.

Also, travel assistance grant applications for Conference 2018 have now been released, and can be found on the ISAAC website at

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## From the Executive Director

*... continued*

<https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2018/awards-and-scholarships/>. Please make sure to thoroughly review the application packages to determine your eligibility, and note the application submission deadline dates. There is limited funding available.

**Finally, we are also thrilled to announce that winning bids for both Conferences 2020 and 2022 have been selected, and we are currently working with the proposed Co-Chairs' groups for each, finalizing important details. Stay tuned for further announcements!!**

### **ISAAC International Financial Audit 2016**

The audit process for 2016 is fully completed, along with the necessary government tax agency filings (Canada and the United States). All of the audit and tax filing information for 2016 and previous years can be found in the Members Only area of the website.

### **ISAAC Strategic Planning, 2018-21**

The ISAAC Executive Board worked extremely hard over the summer months to prepare the next round of strategic planning, for presentation to the ISAAC Council for review, comment, and input. 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/>.

The necessary documents were forwarded to all members of the ISAAC Council during the last week of September, so please communicate with your Council representative (or another one, including the Chair and Chair-Elect, if you are not directly represented on Council) to make sure that your input into this extremely important process is taken into consideration. A complete list of ISAAC Council members can be found on our website [here](#).

### **ISAAC Membership Renewal 2018**

Membership renewal time is fast approaching! If you are one of our valued Chapter members, please respond to your Chapter in a timely fashion to ensure that your membership is renewed for 2018. If you are an ISAAC International member, you will be receiving an email reminder directly from the ISAAC International offices.

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](#)



## October is International AAC Awareness Month!

\* For more #AACmonth news, please [click here](#)



**ISAAC-SWEDEN** held a day conference in Karlstad on October 13, 2017, for professionals, families and people who use AAC. Lectures and exhibits were enjoyed by all, and the registration fee included membership in ISAAC-Sweden for the coming year.

On October 23 at 7pm EST, join **USSAAC** in celebrating International AAC Awareness Month with the webinar *Model the Way*, with Yoosun Chung, PhD and Sarah Blackstone, PhD, in discussion with India Ochs and her son, Jack. Topics will include the basic qualities of being a leader, how to be a leader wherever you are, and leadership at any age. For more information and to register, please visit the [ISAAC website](#). A recording of the webinar will be posted afterwards.

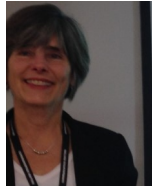
### **EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES OCTOBER 26, 2017, BARCELONA, SPAIN**

Keynote sessions on *AAC Tools in Daily Life* by Damaris Dominguez and *Alternative Forms of Communication* by Sol Solis, will be followed by a demonstration of Irisbond's eye-tracking technology. A pilot project is to be launched at the event by Irisbond and partners d-LAB, Institut Gutmann and Twitter. A round-table discussion and informal networking will happen at the end of the session. To register for this event (presented in Spanish only), please visit the [ISAAC website](#).

**ISAAC-NF** hosted 170 attendees, 20 presenters and 11 information market stands at their October 3, 2017 conference. The gathering was an exciting kick-off for International AAC Awareness Month in Netherlands-Flanders (*photo below, courtesy of ISAAC-NF*).



# isaac Chapter News



Report and photos submitted by Nadia Browning, ISAAC Council Chair-Elect

## COMMUNICATION MATTERS (ISAAC-UK)

The Communication Matters National AAC Conference was held on September 10-12, 2017 at the University of Leeds, with a full program of papers and posters on research, practice, and personal experiences, and an exhibition of low - and high-tech AAC for all ages and abilities.

ISAAC Chair-Elect Nadia Browning attended on ISAAC's behalf and, in her words, "It was fantastic!"

Bronwyn Hemsley was one of the keynote speakers. Her topic was, "Social Media for Engagement: Safe and Enjoyable New Frontiers for People who use AAC."



A/Prof Bronwyn Hemsley, The University of Newcastle Australia, and CM Co-Chair Toby Hewson, who chaired the session

Nadia's presentation was titled, "Networking with ISAAC: Part of the Family."

In addition to attending sessions and exhibits, many people visited the ISAAC Conference 2018 table to find out more about ISAAC and our upcoming conference. Many people who use AAC and their families stopped by to chat.



Nadia Browning chats with Sam Knapp at the ISAAC 2018 table, CM National AAC Conference

## THE SYMBOLS OF BLISS

A recent BBC radio broadcast tells the compelling story of Charles Bliss and his creation of a new communication system. Read a summary of the program on ISAAC's Blog.

It's not too early to start thinking about renewing your ISAAC Membership for 2018!

Renew through your Chapter or, if you are an ISAAC International member, you will be receiving an email reminder directly from the ISAAC International office.

## Chapter News ... continued

### ISAAC-BRAZIL

The 4th Regional Meeting of ISAAC-Brazil happened last June in the southern part of the country. The focus was on "alternative communication as a citizen's right". About one hundred people attended the meeting.

Rita Berch and her team invited some professionals and people who use AAC from each participant state (Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and Paraná) to demonstrate their work and offer personal



accounts of their experiences with AAC. The meeting lasted one full day.

One of the most impactful moments was witnessing the differences between the stories told by the group of young people who use AAC and the adults, which showed the progress of communication and the autonomy this progress has brought to them.



The VII Brazilian Congress happened in August in the wonderful city of Natal. "Trilhando juntos a Comunicação Alternativa / Together for Alternative Communication" was the theme for the four days of meetings.

*Submitted by Eliana Cristina Moreira, President, ISAAC-Brazil*



It was the first time we had organized a family meeting, and it was amazing. Families could speak out about their hardships, concerns and expectations.





## Chapter News ... continued

There were about 98 posters. It was fantastic!



People who use AAC spoke about their lives, communication systems and work.



At the end of the Congress there was a musical show where all the participants were invited to dance together. It was quite a party!



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### ISAAC-POLAND

On behalf of [Mówić bez Słów - ISAAC Poland](#) members, we would like to thank you for your warm welcome to the ISAAC International community. We hope that, as the newest and the youngest ISAAC Chapter, we will be successful in accomplishing ISAAC's vision "That AAC will be recognized, valued and used throughout the world" by learning how other Chapters are realizing this vision and also by sharing ideas for improving the quality of life of people who use AAC in our country.

*Submitted by Katarzyna Cichocka-Segiet,  
President of ISAAC-Poland*

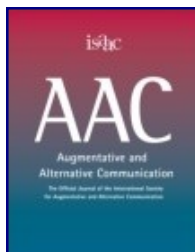
### ISAAC-US (USSAAC)

The **USSAAC AAC Disaster Relief Committee** continues to help individuals with CCN affected by the recent natural disasters. We are continuing to accept donations until December 31, 2017. All donations will go towards helping individuals and families impacted by the disasters. Your help is greatly needed. Please donate through [USSAAC.org](http://USSAAC.org). Individuals can also volunteer to help with the efforts by signing up at [harveyaac.recovers.org](http://harveyaac.recovers.org) or through [aacdisasterrelief.recovers.org](http://aacdisasterrelief.recovers.org)





## ISAAC Activities & Projects



View the  
[Table of Contents](#)  
for the current  
issue:  
Vol 33, Issue 3,  
2017

### 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. For updates from around the world, join [ISAAC BUILD AAC](#) on Facebook.

### LEAD COMMITTEE

The [ISAAC LEAD Project](#) Committee encourages and supports people who use AAC in taking a leadership role within ISAAC. Follow [ISAAC LEAD Project News and Happenings](#) on Facebook. For those attending ISAAC 2018, LEAD will be hosting the half-day leadership workshop called “Dare to Lead” and, 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, please join [Family Engagement](#) on Facebook.

The first ISAAC Edition of the **CSWN Newsletter** was published in July 2017. If you haven't already seen it, you will find it posted on the [CSWN page 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. For ISAAC members who are receiving it for the first time, please enjoy this new benefit of ISAAC membership, to be published twice each year. The next edition will be published in November 2017. Much appreciation from ISAAC to CSWN Co-editors Dorothy Fraser and Nadia Browning for their hard work and dedication!



Stay informed about ISAAC news on **social media** by clicking on the logos at left. Your likes, follows and feedback are much appreciated!



## Awards & Scholarships

**Now Available Online:** Details and application forms for [Conference 2018 Travel Assistance Grants](#) to attend ISAAC Conference 2018:

- [Travel Assistance to Attend ISAAC Conference: People Who Use AAC](#)
- [Travel Assistance for Emerging Country Members to Attend ISAAC Conference 2018 \(BUILD\)](#)
- [New Professionals' Travel Assistance Grant for Attending the ISAAC 2018 Biennial Conference—Sponsored by AssistiveWare®](#)
- [Travel Award for Emerging Researchers' Attendance at the Biennial Conference of ISAAC](#)

To apply, download a copy of the form-fillable PDF application to your local computer before completing and saving. Please note that funding through these programs is limited.

### ISAAC OUTSTANDING CONSUMER LECTURE AWARD

Every two years the [ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award](#) is presented to a person who uses AAC. This award provides a platform for a person who uses AAC to present a topic in which s/he has special expertise. ISAAC wishes to highlight the talents (such as storytelling, creative writing, humour), perspectives (on current events, relationships, etc.) or individual endeavours (scholarly, entrepreneurial, recreational, etc.) of an individual beyond AAC, reinforcing the point that a person who uses AAC is not defined by AAC. **Application deadline: November 30, 2017.**

### ISAAC FELLOWSHIP AWARD

This 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) is given for the life of the recipient and may be abbreviated as F.ISAAC. [Application guidelines](#) can be found online. **Application deadline: April 28, 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 may be sent to Vicki Casella, [vcasella@bridgeschool](mailto:vcasella@bridgeschool).

# 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

([Isaac.org.in](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

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

## ISAAC-US

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



## **ISAAC Membership Directory© 2017**

Available online in the ISAAC website's  
Members Only section

Please click here for access  
using your member ID# and password

## **NEW FROM COMMUNICATION DISABILITIES ACCESS CANADA (CDAC)**

The latest report from Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) provides information and recommendations for overcoming barriers to access to justice through the use of communication intermediaries. You will find the report, *Communication Intermediaries: Access to Justice for Ontarians with Communication Disabilities*, on the [CDAC website](#). A link to the report is also posted on the News page of the [ISAAC website](#).

**INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY FOR  
AUGMENTATIVE  
AND  
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, 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.

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

### **Executive Board 2016-2018**

Gregor Renner  
President, GERMANY

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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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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*