

ISAAC FACILITATED COMMUNICATION (FC) COMMITTEE

For Immediate Release

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ISAAC Announces Adjustments to the Framework Within Which the FC Committee is Conducting its Efforts

Woodbridge, Ontario, CANADA — February 8th, 2013 — The ISAAC Executive Board (EB) and the Facilitated Communication (FC) Committee have taken into account feedback provided to ISAAC at the Membership Meeting this past summer in Pittsburgh.

These modifications are consistent with the direction given to the ISAAC EB by the ISAAC Council, which was ratified by a vote at the Council Meeting on July 29th, 2012.

The first modification is that the scope of the review will include both quantitative and qualitative studies. The second modification is that both published and unpublished sources will be included in the search and appraisal process in developing the draft.

The resulting draft document from the FC Committee will provide (a) a clear description of the methods followed in finding and appraising the evidence, (b) an evaluation of the evidence, and (c) the implications of the evidence for decisions relating to the use of Facilitated Communication. Progress on this will be updated in the March E-News bulletin.

As the FC Committee members will have gathered all available scientific evidence (along with other evidence), the FC committee will also be preparing a proposal for a scientific systematic review of the evidence pertaining to Facilitated Communication, for publication in an international peer reviewed journal. The full parameters of the systematic review of the evidence are separate and will not impact upon the parameters set for the draft final document that will be presented to the EB. As the topic is of general interest, the full parameters of the proposal for a systematic review will be made available to all ISAAC members and to the general public, if and when the proposal is accepted by the international journal.

Once the draft final document is presented by the FC Committee, the ISAAC EB will review it, and will then prepare a final draft document for release to the ISAAC Council and the ISAAC membership. At that time, the names of the FC Committee membership will also be released.

ISAAC provides a single contact for all communication and materials submission regarding this effort, namely ISAAC's Executive Director, Franklin Smith. Franklin can be contacted directly by email, to franklin@isaac-online.org.

ISAAC works to improve the lives of children and adults who use AAC. 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.