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International Society for
Augmentative and Alternative Communication



ISAAC Conference 2020

Postponement Informational Webinar

Thursday, April 2nd, 2020

Beginning at 4:00 pm Eastern (Toronto) Time

GoToWebinar

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ISAAC is a membership organization working 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.

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ISAAC's Goals are to:

- ▶ create worldwide awareness about how AAC can help individuals with complex communication needs.
- ▶ promote innovative approaches to research, technology and literacy through AAC, by organizing **biennial conferences**, sharing **information**, hosting and recording **live webinars**, coordinating **projects**, and presenting **awards and scholarships**, and more.

ISAAC is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

COVID-19 Global Pandemic

According to WHO Situation Report - 70 (April 2nd, 2020):

- ▶ Over 857K confirmed cases globally.
- ▶ Over 42K deaths confirmed globally.
- ▶ “Older persons and persons with pre-existing medical conditions appear to develop serious illness more often than others.”
- ▶ Over 50% of European deaths are in people age 80+ and 95% of European deaths are in people age 60+.
- ▶ More than 80% of European deaths are in people with at least one other chronic underlying condition like cardiovascular disease, hypertension, or diabetes

Global Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

- ▶ Most western economies now shut down except for essential products/services.
- ▶ International travel severely restricted or eliminated and national travel limited.
- ▶ National borders within North America and Europe closed to essential traffic only.

ISAAC 2020 Cancún, México

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Given the current COVID-19 global pandemic and its progression, the ISAAC EB has come to the following conclusions:

- ▶ That it is not possible to hold Conference 2020 during its scheduled dates of August 1st through August 6th, 2020, in a way that protects the health and safety of our stakeholders, particularly people who use AAC and their families / personal support networks;
- ▶ Given border and travel restrictions, as well as local, regional, and national states of emergencies in place, it is not physically possible for those wishing to attend Conference 2020 to travel, and this situation is likely to continue for an unknown period of time.
- ▶ The ISAAC EB has therefore approved a postponement of Conference 2020, to July 31st through August 5th, 2021.

ISAAC 2020

Cancún, México

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- ▶ The 19th Biennial Conference of ISAAC is still planned to be held at the Cancún International Convention Centre (ICC)

NEW DATES

- ▶ July 31 and August 1, 2021: AAC Camp, Pre-Conference Workshops, Executive and Council Meetings
- ▶ August 2 -5, 2021: Main Conference

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ISAAC Conference 2020 Postponement

- ▶ Rescheduled dates confirmed with Cancun ICC.
- ▶ All conference hotels have been advised of postponement, and have confirmed that all reservations for July-August 2020 can be cancelled with no penalty.
- ▶ Room blocks with same conference hotels for rescheduled dates are currently being arranged.
- ▶ Pre-conference workshop and social event venues have either already, or are in progress, of being rescheduled.



ISAAC Conference 2020 Postponement (cont.)

- ▶ Additional Call for Papers opportunity to be offered.
- ▶ Currently connecting directly with Sponsors and Exhibitors to offer enhanced marketing opportunities through August 2021.
- ▶ Offering full refunds for conference registration cancellations through May 29th, 2020.
- ▶ Early Bird conference registration rates extended through December 31st, 2020.
- ▶ Registration rates subject to increase after May 29th, 2020.

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ISAAC Conference 2020 Postponement (cont.)

- ▶ More information is available online at:

<https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2020/>

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ISAAC Conference 2020 Postponement (cont.)

Questions / Comments?