



Since 1983, a worldwide alliance working to create opportunities for people who communicate using little or no speech.

International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication		www.isaac-online.org
	<i>Power of Communication Relays</i>	Awareness happens when you share a story . . .
		
AAC* Awareness Events Worldwide--October 2011		
More information plus stories and videos by people who use AAC: www.aacawareness.org		
Join us also at International AAC Month on Facebook . *AAC = other ways to communicate besides speech		

SEPTEMBER 2011

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Greetings, ISAAC members:

I hope this E-News finds you well and full of energy for the second half of 2011. It has been quite an active first six months, as the ISAAC International office and the rest of the team worked full-steam to prepare the new ISAAC website for its official launch in September/October 2011. We will keep you informed with more specific information as the launch date approaches.

Many thanks for all who are working so hard to get the website up and running. It reflects great dedication from the ISAAC International office, our ISAAC Website Development Committee and associates.

Your Executive Board and staff at ISAAC International have been hard at work over the summer developing the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan. As an organization, ISAAC places great importance on providing its members with opportunities for input and feedback. In keeping with this, we have already forwarded a Strategic Planning Review document to your Council Members and Chapter Presidents, with a request that it be shared with you, our membership. Please provide your feedback and comments back to your respective Council Members and/or Chapter Presidents, who will then consolidate all of the feedback and forward it to the ISAAC

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International office. Please make every effort to submit your comments and feedback by [October 14, 2011](#).

Finally, I would like to congratulate our members in Poland and South Africa, who hosted two most successful AAC conferences during the past three months. It was indeed a privilege to have been able to participate in these conferences to see first-hand the impact that ISAAC members are making in different parts of the world.

Till later - keep communicating!

[Erna Alant](#)
 September 2011

September 2011 *Message from the President* in **French, German, Italian** and **Spanish**:
 Septembre 2011 - Message de la Présidente [Click here](#)
 September 2011 - Brief der Vorsitzenden [Click here](#)
 Settembre 2011 - Messaggio del Presidente [Click here](#)
 Septiembre del 2011 - Mensaje de la Presidenta [Click here](#)

1. ...From the Executive Director

Welcome to the September 2011 edition of E-News. Over our summer here in Toronto, the ISAAC International office has been working hard on a number of different projects, all aimed at supporting our membership. [Click here to view full article](#).

...From the Executive Director, [Franklin Smith](#), in **French, German, Italian** and **Spanish**:

Septembre 2011 ...De la part du Directeur Exécutif [Click here](#)
 September 2011 ...Brief des Geschäftsführers [Click here](#)
 Settembre 2011...Messaggio del Direttore Esecutivo [Click here](#)
 Septiembre 2011...Del Director Ejecutivo [Click here](#)

2. October is International AAC Awareness Month!

International AAC Awareness Month is celebrated around the world each October. Community events are held to promote the many different ways people interact using AAC devices. Join us in raising Augmentative and Alternative Communication awareness, meet new friends who use AAC systems, and help raise funds for those in your community with speech disorders who need AAC devices to communicate with others. To watch a video on **Power of Communication Relays** events, new for 2011, [click here](#).

If you have any questions about plans for this International AAC Awareness Month, please contact [Faye Warren](#), ISAAC Leadership Chair for People Who Use AAC.

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3. ISAAC 2012 Update



Mark Your Calendar!

July 28-29: Pre-conference, AAC Camp, Executive & Council

July 30-August 2: Main Conference

August 3-4: ISAAC Research Symposium

We are pleased to invite you to participate in [ISAAC 2012](#), the 15th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC), to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, on July 30-August 2, 2012. We are planning exciting additions to the ISAAC experience to create more opportunities for sponsors to support the efforts of ISAAC and the conference and to be recognized for this support by conference attendees and others. [Click here](#) for Sponsor Information Packet.

Ready, Set, Go, SUBMIT! The ISAAC 2012 Call for Papers is now open. [Click here](#) for more information.

Please note the following important dates:

Conference registration opens on **October 4, 2011**

Paper Submission Deadline is **November 1, 2011**

Paper Acceptance Confirmation is **January 31, 2011**

Proud Exhibitors and Sponsors ISAAC 2012 wishes to acknowledge the new companies and organizations that have been added to the Exhibition Hall. We're proud to have them participating at ISAAC 2012 and know they are proud to be part of our growing international mission:

Brookes Publishing Company
LC Technologies, Inc.
AAC TechConnect, Inc.
AssistiveWare
TBox Apps
Blue Sky Designs

Resna (Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America)
Semantic Compaction Systems, Inc.
SHOUT
TapSpeak

ISAAC 2012 also wishes to express our sincere gratitude to the businesses and organizations that have officially agreed to sponsor events or items for the conference. Our newest sponsors include: The Romich Foundation for sponsoring the Technical Support Center in the Hall; AAC Institute for sponsoring the ISAAC 2012 gift bag item; CAAC Research Conference for sponsoring the dinner event for the Research Symposium.

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4. IMPORTANT INFORMATION on Travel Assistance for ISAAC 2012

ISAAC has limited funding to support members from countries where AAC is in an "emerging" state to attend [ISAAC 2012](#). For an application form for **Travel Assistance to Attend ISAAC Conference - Emerging Countries (BUILD)**, [click here](#).

Similarly, ISAAC can provide limited funding to support people who use AAC to attend the conference. For an application form for **Travel Assistance to Attend ISAAC Conference - PWU AAC**, [click here](#).

ISAAC emphasizes the importance of good research underpinning the practice of augmentative and alternative communication. ISAAC wishes to encourage higher degree research students and emerging, early career researchers in furthering AAC research. As part of ISAAC's mission to promote and facilitate research, researchers in AAC who are in the beginning stages of their career can apply for funding support to attend ISAAC 2012. The applications will be reviewed by ISAAC's Research Committee. For an application form for **Financial Support for Emerging Researchers' Attendance at ISAAC 2012**, [click here](#).

The deadline for submission of applications for all of the above assistance programs is **November 15, 2011**.

5. 2012 ISAAC Research Symposium - Call for Seminar Proposals

The ISAAC Research Symposium is an independent part of the ISAAC Biennial Conference, which follows the main conference at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, USA, on August 3-4, 2012. The aim of the Symposium is to create opportunities for in-depth discussions. The focus of the Symposium is on research questions. [Click here](#) for full Call for Seminar Proposals document. The submission deadline for proposals is **November 11, 2011**.

6. 2012 Membership Fees

It is that time of year again, when ISAAC International prepares itself for the coming year, and develops proposals for submission to your Executive Board regarding next year's membership fees.

As an organization, ISAAC has consistently worked hard to make the best and most effective use of your membership dollars. That is why we were able to hold membership fees for 2011 at the same rate as for 2010. Part of our forward planning for 2012 includes a review of the existing Council approved budget, taking into consideration more current projections based on existing membership levels on a country-by-country basis.

We will keep all members apprised of this work as it progresses, and will certainly communicate to you any decisions taken by your Executive Board that impact on 2012 membership rates. In the meantime, if you have any comments or questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me at franklin@isaac-online.org

7. Kilometres for Communication

ISAAC Canada is very proud and happy to announce that the **Kilometres for Communication** journey across Canada to raise awareness and funds for those who communicate differently has come to a successful conclusion. You can read about the ride (accomplished by Skye Wattie and inspired by his brother, Kerr) and associated AAC awareness events by visiting the [website](#) and reading the extremely engaging and moving [blog](#)!

Although the ride is complete, the work that Kilometres for Communication and ISAAC Canada endeavour to do to further raise awareness will continue. Look for more details in future!

Please [click here](#) to listen to the Voice of America broadcast, "Speaking with Technology When your Voice Doesn't Work," originally aired on July 19, 2011. The interview features Gail Fisher-Taylor, Kerr Wattie's mother, and Tracy Shepherd, President of ISAAC Canada.

8. Social Media Update

Twitter Tips for Beginners

You may know by now that ISAAC-Australia's Bronwyn Hemsley has a mission to get anyone involved in AAC connected on the social media platform **Twitter**. Previous editions of this newsletter have introduced some of the benefits and some simple methods or techniques to get people started. She has boiled these down to five steps. [Click here for more...](#)

#EvidAPPchat Evidence Chats in Twitter: AAC and APPS (mobile technology apps)

Dr. Bronwyn Hemsley (The University of Queensland) and Dr. Tricia McCabe (The University of Sydney) in Australia have joined the forces of AAC and EBP (evidence-based practice) to develop a method for people in Twitter to discuss evidence relating to mobile technology apps. [Click here for more...](#)

Articles submitted by [Bronwyn Hemsley](#). Bronwyn is in Twitter at [@bronwynah](#).



Please note: ISAAC is working on a **Social Media Policy** to explore how we can use Facebook, Twitter and other networks to engage with the AAC community and further our mission. While the policy is still in draft form, we share it here for your interest. [Click here for document](#) Your comments are welcome. Many thanks to Bronwyn Hemsley for her assistance in preparing this draft policy!

9. Update on the ISAAC AAC Glossary of Terms in Many Languages

The **ISAAC Translation of Terms and Definitions for AAC** is in progress, with translations into Polish, Norwegian and German currently underway. Work is set to begin on the Italian and French versions.

We are hoping to have at least 150 terms from the AAC English-language glossary in translated into each of the above languages by the end of 2011, depending on the availability of volunteers.

We realize that 2011 has been a difficult year for many people in countries that have experienced natural disasters. We particularly extend our sympathies to the people of Norway following the attacks in Oslo. If you can, please offer to help us accomplish what amounts to a big task for a small group. Our goal is to help as many people as possible to discover more about AAC.

If you can assist with translation in the above or other languages, please contact [Bronwyn Hemsley](#) or [Paul Andres](#). They can put you in touch with the relevant person working in each language.

10. Recent ISAAC Conferences

VIII Eastern and Central European AAC Conference in Warsaw, Poland

June 30 - July 2, 2011. [Click here](#) for an article and photos by Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk, Poland, Conference Organizer.

2nd Regional African AAC Conference, Boksburg, South Africa
August 1-4, 2011.

The **11th General Meeting and Augmentative Communication Conference of ISAAC GSC**, the German-speaking section of ISAAC, September 17, 2011. A preconference workshop on September 16th featured occupational therapist Karen Kangas, speaking on the topic, "Facing the Challenges of Access to AAC Device Use."

11. Words+ Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award Deadline is October 31, 2011

The **Words+ /ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award** is presented every two years at the ISAAC biennial conference to a person who uses AAC. The deadline for submissions for the 2012 WORDS+ Award is **October 31, 2011**. For more information, see [Guidelines for Submission](#).

12. AbleNet - ISAAC Remarkable Achievements Award 2012

The **AbleNet - ISAAC Remarkable Achievements Award** recognizes the work of a professional ISAAC member who has utilized easy-tech AAC in a remarkable manner to improve the lives of people with disabilities and further the field of AAC. Easy-tech (not to be confused with NO-TECH) is defined as battery-operated, lower cost, simple-to-use technology designed for communication. The deadline for submissions is **February 1, 2012**. [Click here](#) for more information.

13. The Bridge School Teacher-in-Residence Award 2012 - 2013

[The Bridge School Teacher-in-Residence Award](#) provides an opportunity to an individual from a country with emerging technology innovation for an internship within [The Bridge School](#) program in Hillsborough, California. The Award is presented in collaboration with ISAAC at the biennial conference. The application process for the 2012-2013 award will open in December 2011. Deadline for submissions is **March 1, 2012**. [Click here for full award details](#).

14. ISAAC Fellowship Awards 2012

The **ISAAC Fellowship Award** is presented to ISAAC members for their outstanding and distinguished achievements. The deadline for Submissions is **April 30, 2012**. [Click here](#) for more information.

15. Contact Us

ISAAC Chapters and members worldwide are invited to submit items of interest from your country or region. News, AAC practice tips, research, personal essays - whether in article format or as a link to online articles or resources - will be reviewed and made available on the new ISAAC website as appropriate. Please send articles and photos to [Nola Millin](#), Editor, ISAAC Website.

ISAAC E-News is published five times each year. Your comments on this issue are welcome. Please contact [Heather Stonehouse](#), Manager-Communications.

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