

Message from the ISAAC President

Yonit Hagoel-Karnieli



Dear ISAAC Family,

As December arrives, I look back with amazement and gratitude at all we've accomplished together this year. Our online conference "*Innovation, Inclusion, and Advocacy in AAC*" brought more than 120 presentations and was a true team effort. I want to thank our office staff for keeping everything running smoothly, our volunteers for generously offering their time and energy, and our Executive Director Franklin Smith, whose countless hours of work made the event possible. I am deeply proud of what we achieved as a community.

I must also recognize the incredible work of our Research Committee. All year long, you dedicate yourselves to advancing knowledge and strengthening our community, but your efforts in preparing for the

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ISAAC International Virtual Conference were nothing short of remarkable. The care, thought, and expertise you invested made the event richer and more meaningful for everyone who participated. The feedback we received was among the best ever, and for those who couldn't join live, [recordings are now available](#).

This year also brought new friendships and collaborations. Signing an agreement with ESLA, the European Speech and Language Therapy Association, opens doors to fresh possibilities. Soon, a joint task group will begin its work, and I can already imagine the impact we'll make together. Another milestone was the approval of [ISAAC's four-year Strategic Plan](#) — more than just a document, it is a vision shaped by the voices of our community and endorsed by our council.

We also celebrated [the special issue of the AAC Journal](#) on collaboration, which has already been downloaded over 56,000 times. This extraordinary number reflects the hunger for connection and knowledge in AAC worldwide, and it is a testament to the outstanding work of our editors, Drs. Rose Sevick and MaryAnn Ronski, and guest editors Drs. Janice Light and David McNaughton.

On a personal note, I was honored to speak at the GesUK congress in Leipzig alongside President-Elect Uli Elhert (pictured below). Standing before colleagues from the German-speaking AAC community, I felt the strength of our shared mission. International collaboration isn't just a phrase — it is the heartbeat of our work.



Of course, none of this happens without you. ISAAC is powered by its members and volunteers. Whether you renew your membership, invite a friend to join, donate, run a fundraiser, or serve on a committee, every gesture keeps our grassroots spirit alive. To all our volunteers: you are the heartbeat of ISAAC, the reason we exist, and the reason we continue to grow. Your dedication inspires me every day.

From my heart to yours, I wish you happiness, peace, and health. May this season bring warmth to you and your families, and may the new year open doors to joy, connection, and hope.

With gratitude,
[Yonit Hagoel-Karnieli](#)
ISAAC President



From the Executive Director

Franklin Smith

Welcome to the December 2025 edition of The ISAAC Communicator.

The final few months of every calendar year is always a busy time here at the ISAAC International office, and this year is no exception!

ISAAC Membership 2026

2026 Membership renewal notification emails were sent to all [ISAAC-Australia](#), [ISAAC-Canada](#), [ISAAC-Español](#), [ISAAC-US \(USSAAC\)](#), and [ISAAC International](#) members, during November and December 2025.

New or renewing members for these Chapters / International members, can make use of our [online membership portal](#) to renew an existing membership, or take out a new membership. During the first weeks of January 2026, we will also be sending out first reminder notifications to these renewing members.

If you are an ISAAC member through one of our other Chapters, we look forward to you renewing your membership for 2026 through your Chapter directly. Please do watch for communication from them regarding this. As part of the membership sign-up / renewal process, either direct through the ISAAC International website or one of our Chapters, members can choose to subscribe to our widely acclaimed AAC journal, or one of our other affiliated publications, Communication Matters or AGOSCI.

And finally, please also consider a donation to one of ISAAC International's existing fundraising campaigns, as part of any new or renewing membership. ISAAC issues donation tax receipts for all donations in excess of ten (\$10) dollars.

AAC Awareness Month — ISAAC Virtual Event 2025

What an awesome conference this year's virtual event was!

With participants online from all over the world, attendees were able to access 120 live presentations, made by leading and upcoming AAC voices, researchers, and practitioners from around the world.

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Presenting this many sessions during four (4) time slots across two (2) days required using a maximum of seven (7) “Zoom rooms” simultaneously! We could not have achieved this without the invaluable assistance of the many volunteers who stepped forward to make this event a reality.

At our [online Opening Ceremonies](#), which is publicly available for viewing, we thanked the many volunteers who helped make this event a huge success. In particular, our over twenty-five (25) session moderator volunteers made it possible for us to present these many sessions simultaneously.

Thanks everyone, we could not have done it without you!

In addition to the live presentations, all sessions were recorded, and those recorded sessions are still available for viewing. If you were not able to purchase a ticket for the live event, you can still [purchase a ticket](#) for access to all recorded sessions.

And for those registrants who are also ASHA members, ASHA CEUs can be claimed for viewing all recorded sessions. More

information is available from the “My Account” page [of our event website](#), once you log into your account.

We would also like to thank our many attendees who likewise helped to make our event a huge success. In particular, attendees completed post-session surveys for 110 of our sessions.

Over 90% of sessions were rated by attendees at 8 out of 10 or higher, in terms of presenter and presentation quality!

Thanks of course go to all of our session presenters, for the very high quality of their presentations!

ISAAC Executive Board (2024-26)

2026 will be the final year for our current ISAAC Executive Board. As we progress into 2026, we will be communicating directly with the ISAAC Council and, through them, our membership, regarding the composition for our next ISAAC Executive Board, that will steward the organization for the period 2026-2028. Stay tuned everyone!

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Ongoing ISAAC International Financial and Operational Management

ISAAC International is continuing its ongoing management efforts, in order to position the organization for realizing more successes in both finances and operations. Part of these successes have already been achieved, through our 2024 and 2025 virtual events.

Currently, we are actively involved in developing a number of partnerships and collaborative efforts with individuals and organizations around the world, aimed at expanding ISAAC's ability to meet its all its strategic objectives.

At the same time, we are also committed, as an organization, to review ongoing operations, and seek opportunities to rationalize operational expenditures, and also seek opportunities for bringing online new

Messages from ISAAC's President and Executive Director are available in French, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese translation on our [website](#).

processes and technologies that would, in the long-term, lower the overall costs associated with running the organization.

December 2025 Holiday Break

The ISAAC Executive Board recently released its [2025 Season Greetings video](#), which we encourage everyone to watch.

The ISAAC International office will be closed for the upcoming holiday break, beginning at the close of business on December 19th, re-opening again as at 9 am (Toronto time) on January 5th, 2026. During this period, members of the ISAAC staff team will not be available to respond to email or telephone enquiries.

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

AAC Around the World



Editors Note:

"AAC Around the World" is a new, permanent section of the ISAAC Communicator, which now replaces the CSWN newsletter. ISAAC welcomes articles contributed for this section from around the world, that focus on AAC and assistive technology.

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) AAC Webinar

PAHO



Pan American
Health
Organization



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE
AMERICAS

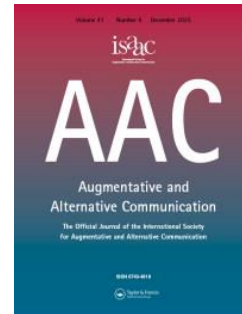
Claudia Marimon, VP of BUILD on the ISAAC Executive Board, recently presented a webinar for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The webinar was on AAC communication systems and the right to a voice.

The recording to the webinar is available to view at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysUBj9B22Xc>.

Presentations slides [can be viewed here](#).

AAC Journal



What a year for Augmentative and Alternative Communication!

This month, the journal saw the release of Volume 41, Issue 4, our final issue of 2025. Articles published in this issue examine mental health of AAC users, synthetic child speech in South African languages, communication access in restaurant settings, spelling in communication, parent-implemented AAC intervention, reflections of special education teachers, and smart AAC technologies. Alongside these articles, the issue also recognizes achievements of excellence with the 2024 Editor's Awards for "Most Significant Research Article" and "Most Significant Student Paper," for papers published in the previous volume of the journal. We congratulate these researchers on their contributions to the field, and their papers will be available for free download for the next year.

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AAC Around the World ... continued



The journal would also like to pay tribute to Alice Wong, who passed away this November. A pillar of the AAC community and the disability justice movement, Alice dedicated her life to challenging systemic barriers and amplifying the experiences of all those living with disabilities. Alice shared her lived experience with a neuromuscular disability across various outlets, including social media, podcasts, and advisory councils, and the journal is especially fortunate to have published her article, “How Ableism Impacts People Who Need and Use AAC,” in Volume 41, Issue 3, our September special issue on perspectives of AAC users and collaborative research. Alice’s article is available for free access online, and we continue to celebrate her life and impact as we anticipate a future where everyone, as she said, can be “[their] full selves unapologetically.”

The next issue of AAC will be released in March 2026, and we look forward to opening Volume 42 with a special issue on Basic Research in AAC. In the meanwhile, we encourage our readers to check out the journal’s new webpage on the ISAAC website: <https://isaac-online.org/aacjournal>.

You can stay updated on all things related to the journal through this page, including the editorial board, current reviewers, metrics, the submission process, special issues, subscription information, our publisher, and how to access new articles as they appear online.

As always, thank you to the many contributors, Associate Editors, and Reviewers whose time, dedication, and passion make AAC a success every year. The Editorial Team wishes you a safe, restful, and happy holiday season, and we look forward to receiving new manuscripts in 2026.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication on Taylor & Francis:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/iaac20>.

Chapter News

ISAAC-Australia



[ISAAC Australia](#) has had an awesome finish to 2025, with some special happenings occurring.

The first of these was another chapter of the [ISAAC Australia Awards](#). The awards have been happening for over a decade now – and are a fabulous way of us recognising excellence in AAC. There are four categories of awards, although not all categories are awarded every year. Each year we get outstanding nominations, and the selection process is a difficult one.

We announced this year's award winners at the end of AAC Awareness Month – and would like to congratulate them all.

The awardees for this year are:

The Community Award: [Brenton Ponza](#)

The School/Organisation Award: [Hills Christian Community School](#)

The School/Organisation Award: [Goolwa Secondary College](#)

The Information Award: [Sheridan Forster](#)

You can get more information about the current and past awardees on the [Awards page](#) on our website.

ISAAC Australia was also fortunate to be able to announce some [Small Grants for AAC Research](#). The funding was an outcome of the highly successful 2018 ISAAC Conference in Australia, and the 2018 Conference Convenors, Meredith Allan, Sally Clendon, Jane Farrall and Gayle Porter reviewed the submissions along with members of the current ISAAC Australia executive, Meredith Allan, Jane Farrall and Emma Grace.

We received some outstanding submissions and have recently notified all applicants of the outcomes. We were able to fund three projects (pictured below) – and are very excited to hear the progress on each of these over the next three years.



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As well as the above, AAC Awareness Month events, many of which were organised by our friends-in-AAC [AGOSCI](#), happened around the country during October.

We look forward to continuing to share AAC Awareness and Information in 2026 – and to seeing our members. If you haven't done it already, we encourage you to [renew your membership soon](#).

We hope all our ISAAC Australia members have a great summer and we'll see you in 2026.

ISAAC Australia Executive – Meredith, Jane, Emma and Lisa

ISAAC-Denmark



The board of Isaac Denmark consists of nine resolute members. We are users, SLPs, consultants, AAC coaches, university professors, teachers, and Occupational Therapists. A highly active and competent board! Our most important activity in ISAAC Denmark was our conference in March (pictured below). We had 280 participants – the biggest conference ever! The conference was over 2 days, and speakers were both Danish and international practitioners, researchers, and specialists. Participants were from all over Denmark (ok we are a little country, so it is not that far!) and represented all kinds of people interested in AAC. We were very keen on making room for networking and exchanging experiences among the participants. The next conference program is ready and will take place on the 23 and 24 of March 2026.



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A part of the conference is the meeting for users of AAC. Their program includes planning interesting assemblies for users. The last event was in September where 12 users were working together with a gaming specialist on how to use joysticks, switches, etc. It was so successful, and the participants had so much fun that we finally got rumors around the country about the event and had families contacting us for more of this.



Gaming Event Organizers Tenna, Jeppe, Rikke and Vibe

We consider it a significant success. We had good funding, which is helping the finances, but our challenge is that AAC users in Denmark often have very few days a year where they can leave their homes and travel due to the community's way of enforcing legislation in supporting people with disabilities. So, people would like to participate but cannot get assistants.



AAC Awareness Month in Denmark was also one of our main initiatives. We decided to go all in with our social media, and we had superior results, especially activity on Facebook and LinkedIn. We made a campaign of small "How to..." videos on nice user stories and links to activities, the ISAAC International Virtual Event, a new Danish TV Series about seldom Danish children – one of them is an AAC user, and the community election campaign pushing the electees to take care of disabled people. We have 1,400 followers on the Danish Facebook - rather good for a small country like ours.

Besides this, our activities cover working with accessibility, finetuning our homepage, collaborating with communities' unwillingness to allocate communication aids, and following up on the disability/ability agenda in Danish political discussions.

And, at last, we are celebrating, that our co-work with the Danish educational system has resulted in, a full Diploma in AAC at the Bachelor level!

Chapters



ISAAC-Australia • www.isaacaustralia.com

ISAAC-Brazil • www.isaacbrasil.org.br

ISAAC-Canada • www.isaac-canada.org

ISAAC-Denmark • www.isaac.dk

ISAAC-Español • *Coming soon* - www.isaac-espanol.org

ISAAC-Francophone • www.isaac-fr.org

ISAAC-India • www.isaac.org.in

ISAAC-Israel • www.isaac.org.il

ISAAC-Italy • www.isaacitaly.it

ISAAC-NF • www.isaac-nf.nl

ISAAC-Norway • www.isaac.no

ISAAC-Poland • www.aac.org.pl

ISAAC-Singapore • www.isaac-singapore.org/

ISAAC-Taiwan • twsaac.blogspot.com

ISAAC-UK • www.communicationmatters.org.uk

ISAAC-US • www.ussaac.org

PWUAAC Online Chats



Visit [PWUAAC Online Chats](#) on the ISAAC website for information about the next scheduled chat.

ISAAC Webinars

Most ISAAC webinars and archived recordings are available as a benefit of membership, and accessed through the Members' Only portal. A limited number of [webinar recordings](#) will remain open to the public. Find out how to become an ISAAC member [here](#).

Contact Us

Do you have a question or comment? Please feel free to send an email to feedback@isaac-online.org

Our Vision & Mission



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 & Social Council.

Stay Connected

ISAAC Chapters and members worldwide are invited to submit items of interest from your country or region. News, AAC practice tips, research, 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](#).

Stay Social

Stay in the loop! Follow ISAAC news & views in the AAC community on our social media!



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The ISAAC Communicator

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