THE ISAAC COMMUNICATOR

June 2020

Message from the ISAAC President

Meredith Allan

The past three months have shown me what a resilient community the ISAAC family is! We have all kept working, meeting, checking on each other, advocating for others, and accepted the restrictions brought about by shutdowns (for example, telehealth).

I have attended two of the chat rooms for people who use AAC that Lateef McLeod, Chair of the ISAAC LEAD/PWUAAC Committee, has been hosting. I have come away with a number of insights. For example, while others in our respective communities speak of lifting restrictions, our vulnerability demands that this happen, "only if absolutely safe to do so." For many people who use AAC, the world has changed little. Accessibility, though, for large numbers of us, has expanded, with streaming of church services, funerals, conferences, and online meetings, and services that deliver right our doors.

My admiration goes out to the Conference Committee, who had put in countless hours towards the ISAAC Conference in 2020, then took the decision to defer the conference until 2021. The Conference Committee met every week in March while negotiations with venues were taking place. We have secured the best possible outcome financially. My thanks must go to Franklin Smith, Executive Director of ISAAC, and our two Professional Conference Organizer companies (in the US and Mexico), who worked extremely hard to secure a positive outcome. We now look forward to being in Cancun July 31st- August 5th in 2021!



New dates: July 31 – August 5, 2021

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The passing of Lyle Lloyd and Bruce Baker has left the AAC community numb. Two great AAC pioneers who have created space in the world dedicated to people without speech. We will be forever grateful for the voice they gave us to speak for ourselves.

As I reflect on the elders of the world of AAC, I also must look to the great achievements of the younger members of ISAAC, especially people who use AAC.



The past three months have shown me what a resilient community the ISAAC family is!

Beth Mowlam, whom I met as a 12-year-old at the Düsseldorf conference, was selected to represent Great Britain in her sport of boccia at the nowpostponed Tokyo 2020 Summer Paralympics. Congratulations, Beth! It has been wonderful to watch Beth grow up, push herself academically, take on leadership roles within ISAAC, and then step back to pursue other dreams.

Meredith Allan

ISAAC President

ISAAC Conference 2020 Postponement Q&A

Messages from ISAAC's President and Executive Director are available in translation on our website.

<<< **1** From the **Executive Director**

Franklin Smith

Welcome to the June 2020 edition of The ISAAC Communicator.

The past few months have seen significant global challenges for all of us, regardless of where in the world we happen to live. This time has also reminded us of how, as a community, all of our AAC stakeholders have selflessly answered the call to help.

The ISAAC International Toronto-based office staff would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone around the world for their tremendous support and contributions during these difficult times. We want to especially thank all of our stakeholders who are in critically important front-line worker positions. Please stay safe, and thank you for helping all of us during these past few months.

Conference 2020



Preparations for Conference 2020 were in "high gear" during January and February. Paper acceptance notifications were sent out on schedule, and our online conference registration system, including our new member passcode

functionality, was working flawlessly. And then the COVID-19 pandemic hit the western hemisphere: borders closed, economies shut down, and the world witnessed emergency situations in every country.



From the Executive Director (cont'd)

During March, the Conference 2020 Leadership Team determined that to safeguard the health and wellbeing of all stakeholders it was necessary to postpone Conference 2020. The ISAAC Executive Board (EB) met, discussed the options, and concurred with this recommendation. We released on March 26th our <u>official notice</u> that Conference 2020 was being postponed to now take place between July 31st through August 5th, 2021.

This decision was also taken in light of the fact that people who use AAC and their personal support networks are at higher risk to more serious complications from contracting COVID-19. We did not want as an organization, in any way, to contribute to anyone becoming ill from this virus.

ISAAC would like to thank the very strong support and understanding for this decision we have received from all our stakeholders and conference service providers in Canada, the United States and, above all, in México. In particular, we wish to express our gratitude to the administration of the Cancún International Convention Center.

All other local service providers in Cancún have also been notified, most notably our five official Conference 2020 <u>hotels</u>. Any Conference 2020 registrant who also arranged a hotel reservation with one of our official conference hotels is requested to contact the hotel directly (if you have not already done so). Hotels will either cancel any existing reservation penalty-free, or will accommodate a transfer of the reservation to next year's conference dates.

Special Meeting of the ISAAC Council - July 31st, 2020

In accordance with section 11.5 of the Bylaws of ISAAC, ISAAC International has officially released a notification that a SPECIAL MEETING of the ISAAC COUNCIL is being called by Meredith Allan, President, and Nadia Browning, Chair of the ISAAC Council. You can see the full details of this announcement by clicking <u>here</u>.

The ISAAC International office will follow-up with our membership once this meeting has been held, to update everyone on the outcomes and decisions of this important governance meeting.

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ISAAC 2020 Council Meeting / Membership and Awards Meeting

As a result of the postponement of ISAAC Conference 2020, ISAAC International has also postponed and rescheduled the previously announced ISAAC 2020 Council and Membership and Awards Meetings.

COVID-19

ISAAC International is pleased to provide easy access to all COVID-19 developed information to inform our global AAC community. A special webpage on the ISAAC website has been developed to showcase all the information that has been made available to us, which can be accessed by clicking <u>here</u>.



From the Executive Director (cont'd)



Many of these resources are provided in languages other than English, and we encourage you to visit this page frequently as we are continuously updating as new information becomes available. any further information or assistance.

Webinars

ISAAC is committed to ensuring we provide our stakeholders with access to informative and engaging topics and speakers through our widely recognized <u>webinar series</u>. In conjunction with our partners at USSAAC, we are continuing with this webinar series, and recordings of these webinars can be accessed from our <u>Archived Webinars</u> webpage. We have also engaged with our friends at ISAAC-Canada, recently launching a new webinar series on behalf of our Canadian Chapter. Their first webinar was highly successful and informative!

ISAAC is also currently speaking with a number of our conference sponsors who are planning on presenting their own webinars to our stakeholder groups, as part of our ISAAC International Conference Sponsor Webinar Series. Any conference sponsor interested in arranging for a webinar, can do so by contacting our ISAAC Conference 2020 Sponsorship Specialist, Judy Shapiro, at judy@isaac-online.org.

ISAAC International Organizational Capacity

Part of our mandate here at ISAAC International, as identified in our Council-approved Strategic Plan, is to continuously build and improve our organizational capacity, to ensure our long-term viability. Organizational capacity can have many different facets including, but not necessarily limited to, financial, human resources, information technology, and risk management:

- The current COVID-19 pandemic and global economic shutdown has forced the ISAAC International office in Toronto to physically close. This has not restricted us at all in our ability to maintain the various business functions of the organization. All ISAAC International staff were already fully able to access all office functions and servers remotely prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also last year migrated our membership database onto a brand-new physical server, also remotely accessible to key staff members. This database migration has enabled us to integrate data management onto a more modern single machine, providing a higher level of response and data security.
- Despite the downturn in the global economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the financial status of ISAAC remains strong. Thanks to the very positive financial performance of both our membership and AAC journal, revenues of the organization are sufficiently robust to meet our needs. Combining this with excellent cost control, as well as very strong partnerships and risk management initiatives, our current 2020 expenditures will be easily managed. We plan on providing full financial assessments at the upcoming July 2020 Special Meeting of the ISAAC Council.





From the Executive Director (cont'd)



In addition to webinars, ISAAC International is thrilled to assist our LEAD Committee in their recently launched biweekly "Google Hangout" chats. Attendance at each of these "hangouts" has been steadily growing, so a "tip of the hat" to both Lateef McLeod and Kevin Williams who have been sharing the meeting Chair duties!

On a final note, I would like to express many sincere thanks to our very own Jackie Brown, who has been the ISAAC AAC Journal Editorial Assistant for the past many years. Jackie recently announced to us her plans for a very well-deserved retirement. As a result of her professionalism and thoughtfulness, ISAAC was successful in hiring a new AAC Editorial Assistant, Ian Maness, of Kingston (Ontario), Canada. Jackie and Ian are currently working very closely together to ensure a smooth transition. Thanks also to our AAC Editors, Ralf Schlosser and Rajinder Koul, for their support during this process. I know all ISAAC members will join me in wishing Jackie the very best for a wonderful retirement, as well as joining us in welcoming Ian on-board!

Membership 2020

Membership renewal for 2020 is proceeding very well. Although the current global situation has certainly created issues for all non-profit / membership organizations, ISAAC membership renewal is certainly still at levels similar to previous years. The ISAAC International office is hard at work on the 2020 Membership Directory, which we plan on releasing in the July-August timeframe.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly, at <u>franklin@isaac-online.org</u>, should you require any further information or assistance.

Regards and thanks, <u>Franklin Smith</u> ISAAC Executive Director

COVID-19 Resources

Visit the ISAAC website for a list of **COVID-19 Resources** for people who use AAC during the pandemic, including a sources compiled by the ISAAC UNCRPD Working Group. ISAAC Chapters in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Israel, and the US have added to this page, which also features screening guidance kits available in Chinese, English, and Vietnamese.

Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC)

continues to advocate for governments to address the communication needs of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Issues for patients with communication disabilities include: the lack of protocols for health care workers to identify and provide communication accommodations and supports; the "no visitor" protocol, which denies people their right to essential support persons for communication; the need for communication devices and services for patients with pre-existing communication disabilities and those who require communication supports as a result of medical interventions (e.g., respiratory support, intubation); the lack of personal protection equipment (PPE) and the fragility of personal attendant services to keep people with disabilities safe in their homes; and the need for plain language information for people with disabilities about issues that address their needs. CDAC advocacy letters are available here.



Chapter News



Patient-Provider Communication in the Time of COVID-19

By Tami Altschuler, ISAAC Liaison, USSAAC Chapter

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought growing attention to a long-existing need for enhanced patient-provider communication support in hospital settings. Throughout the global pandemic, hospitals have experienced a surge of patients who may temporarily be unable to speak due to ventilator support for respiratory distress. This is in addition to patients already seen in hospitals with baseline or acute complex communication needs, neurogenic difficulties, sensory impairments (vision and hearing), and limited English proficiency. The need for tools and strategies to support all patients with communication vulnerabilities, including those with COVID-19, has never been more apparent than in recent months.

Several weeks before the pandemic hit its peak in the United States, an interprofessional group of speechlanguage pathologists, nursing leaders, and engineers collaborated as a joint effort from the US Chapter of ISAAC, USSAAC, and the Patient-Provider Communication (PPC) Forum. In a very short time this group developed communication boards for patients across the age span and motor access abilities in multiple languages (verified by certified medical interpreters). A growing online library of free, downloadable tools ha evolved to also include specialty topic boards related to medical decision-making and bedside comprehension.

Instructions are provided for healthcare workers to utilize these tools with patients via direct

selection or partner-assisted scanning. Given the degree of infection control measures in hospitals right now, these boards are meant for single patient use only. All of these resources and more are available to download for free on patientprovidercommunication.org.

Additional resources on the site include tips for bedside communication to overcome the challenges that arise in the ICU and with the presence of PPE (personal protective equipment, such as masks and face shields). Case studies highlight the barriers and solutions to problems specific to COVID-19 such as visitor limitations and virtual patient consultation. Since the tools and resources have been made available on the site, global colleagues have offered to share their <u>resources</u> as well, which were created in response to the pandemic (some inspired by this group's work). In the past few months, many companies have also responded swiftly by releasing free or discounted access to their own communication tools, training videos, and communication applications, which are currently listed on the site.

As we all hope to return to some normalcy in the near future, we believe that the dedication and support for communication access in healthcare must remain as standard practice in patient care, beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Task Force: Tami Altschuler, MA, CCC-SLP; Sarah Gendreau, MS, CCC-SLP; Jessica Gormley, PhD, CCC-SLP; Mary Beth Happ, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA; Richard Hurtig, PhD, SLP; Sarah Marshall, MA, CCC-SLP; Rachel Santiago, MS, CCC-SLP; Judith Tate, PhD, RN; Rachel Toran Towbin, MS, CCC-SLP; Sarah Blackstone, PhD, CCC-SLP; and Harvey Pressman.



Chapter News



ISAAC-Denmark

ISAAC-Denmark has, as we suppose many of you have as well, experienced an incredibly special spring filled with great insecurity because of COVID-19.

According to the plan, we should have had our annual conference March 16-17. Getting closer to the dates, the situation got more insecure. Our worries grew as we had cancellations from participators and presenters from Denmark and abroad. We felt a responsibility to protect the fragile citizens who are in contact with the conference participants every day, and we felt a responsibility to prevent further spreading of the virus.

On March 11 the Board of ISAAC-Denmark decided to cancel the conference and shortly after, the Danish government shut down a lot of functions in Denmark, including gatherings of more than 100 persons.

Due to the late cancellation of the conference, ISAAC-Denmark was financially committed to the Conference Centre, and even though they have been flexible and have agreed to take some of the loss on the condition that we remake the conference in October, we have been insecure on our future economically.

Being an organization depending on volunteers, our financial means are limited and dependent on revenue from conferences and memberships.

The Danish government has offered support because of COVID-19, and we have just received the maximum amount, which helps a lot. We are also happy that the great majority of the participants who wished to attend the March conference, wish to attend in October.

The Conference Group has reconstructed the program for the conference, and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone to a conference on Oct. 19-20 (and please do not talk of a second wave of virus).

We have collected links to free resources – communication boards, electronic books, etc. – introduced to reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus for both ISAAC members and user organizations and authorities in social and health care areas. The resources have been contributed by various donors: special teachers, companies and others.

Here is an example of an AAC resource related to COVID-19, made by Vivi Løkkegaard:



Due to ISAAC-Denmark's participation in the Scandinavian Conference of Cerebral Palsy in Stockholm, we have been asked to contribute to the Danish CP magazine with articles on AAC.

ISAAC Denmark has different tasks in cooperation with "Socialstyrelsen," the National Board of Social Services, an agency under The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior. We have written a detailed answer concerning the target group: "People with complex communication support needs," a group we have pointed out for them as in need of special attention.

We are also invited to be part of a group to qualify the content on a governmental website concerning knowledge of AAC.

– Submitted by Birgitte Brandt and Margit Grønkjær, with Gert Krabsen



Chapter News



ISAAC-Israel

I have been working very hard from the beginning of COVID-19 to compile together freely available resources for intubated patients in three languages: Hebrew, Arabic, and Russian.

All can be freely downloaded from our website: <u>https://www.ami.org.il/augmentative-</u> communication/news/covid-19-free-tools/

We have contacted all the hospitals in Israel and provided more than 150 AAC booklets with simple explanations to the ICU teams, according to specific demands.

I'm working now on a survey to find out what more we can do to provide better resources.

- Submitted by Yonit Hagoel-Karnieli, ISAAC-Israel



The May 2020 issue is online! Click to view

News +

Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC)

Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) is working on a Canada-wide project to describe the communication supports that people may need to exercise their right to express opinions, preferences, choices and decisions that matter to them. The project addresses the implementation of Article 12 in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. CDAC recognizes that communication supports must be considered and provided, as required in all decision-making contexts, regardless of whether a person makes and communicates their own decision, gets support from trusted people to assist them to make a decision, or relies on other people to make decisions on their behalf.

Resources will be available in Sept 2020 at https://www.cdacanada.com/

- Submitted by Barbara Collier, CDAC Executive Director

In Memoriam

The year 2020 has been one of loss and mourning within the AAC world. Two giants in the field, Dr. Lyle L. Lloyd and Dr. Bruce R. Baker, will be missed by their many friends and colleagues around the world. Follow the links below to read tributes submitted to ISAAC in remembrance of these two extraordinary individuals.

<u>Dr. Lyle L. Lloyd</u> was a true AAC pioneer. He was among a small group of dedicated individuals who founded ISAAC in 1983. Over many decades, he had a decisive influence on the field of AAC.

<u>Dr. Bruce R. Baker</u> was widely known as the inventor of Minspeak (Minimum Effort Speech), a voice output language system used in speech-generating devices. This innovative system made a life-changing difference for countless individuals around the world, and has been translated into numerous languages.



Feature





What It's Like Campaigning During COVID-19 as a School Board Candidate with a Disability by India Ochs

Early in March I had every intention of writing about my experiences campaigning with a speech disability as my state's primary was quickly approaching. Door knocking was about to ramp up tenfold, forcing me to challenge one of my last internal barriers of speaking out of the blue to strangers. I had already experienced the "Sorry, I can't help," and "not interested," in the early days of canvassing, as the door was closed in my face before my iPad could finish my opening introduction as a Board of Education candidate.

I didn't get a lot of closed doors, but like with any campaign, they do happen on any given day of canvassing, and there is no way to know if it's due to the person not wanting anyone knocking on their door or not interested in me specifically. And after initially thinking "why?" when one door was closed in my face by a family I knew had a nonverbal child, I looked at it as a sign of being treated normally. After all, people in the middle of projects and/or with loud dogs tended to be the most likely to interrupt my intro with a "Not now." But that was one of my last days of any normalcy in my campaign — and my life — as COVID-19 quickly commandeered my city, my state, our country, and the world.

Nothing has been more fun in my life than climbing over a wall to get through an obstacle course literally and figuratively.

But let me back up a bit. Two of the most prominent things I was born with were a tremendous amount of self-confidence and an undiagnosed speech disability. Over time, sometimes my disability easily integrated with my selfconfidence and sometimes my disability clashed with such self-confidence. My self-confidence definitely enabled me to handle the bullying growing up (knowing such behavior primarily occurs from people deflecting their emotions due to a lack of their own self-confidence) and allowed me to pursue my dreams regardless of how society/strangers viewed me. Be in the school chorus: done! Play soccer: done! Skydive, twice: done! Teach in a classroom: done! Decide at age 5 to be an attorney: done! Decide at age 10 to name my firstborn Jack: done! Yet life is never perfect for anyone, and even the strongest of us deal with internal worry or doubt at times.

Over the years it has been easy to push any doubts aside as my self-confidence would loom larger, whispering in my ear that I've "got this" and not to worry. After all, nothing has been more fun in my life than climbing over a wall to get through an obstacle course — literally and figuratively. Yet, speed up over four decades later and I am forced to confront both my self-confidence and self-doubt when entering the local election for a seat on the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.



If I win, it would be living up to another lifelong vow I set back in elementary school: supporting our public schools and teachers no matter what. It also appears I would be the first person with a speech disability (who is not deaf) to ever serve on any Board of Education in the nation, although I do somewhat cringe inside when mentioning that to people since that "history-making event" has nothing to do with why I am running.

My self-confidence — and passion for life — is at its peak every time I testify on behalf of our kids or teachers at a Board of Ed meeting, have a chance to hear directly from our kids about what they need/want, or talk with other activists or parents about ways to close the inequity gaps, eliminate unwarranted arrests of students of color, or ensure students with disabilities are never exposed to restraints or seclusion. And just like I still smile looking at the thank you notes I received from second graders when I gave my first lecture at age 12, there is nothing more uplifting than getting an email from a special ed teacher or firefighter vet of 53 years saying how valuable the emergency communication aid was that I mailed to all residents in my district during this pandemic.

But like I said, life is not perfect. I am also a quote person, and of course, if you Google self-confidence and self-doubt, you will get a lot of motivational quotes — many of which I actually believe in.

- "Having a rough day? Place your hand over your heart. Feel that? That's called purpose. You're alive for a reason. Don't give up." —Joyce Meyer
- "You can't 'bounce back' to a previous point in time; all you can do is move through where you are and progress forward." —Chris Winfield
- "Rather than sitting on the sidelines...we must dare to show up and let ourselves be seen. This is vulnerability." —Brene Brown

That last one about showing up and letting ourselves be seen is especially poignant during these final weeks of my campaign. COVID-19 has put all my hidden self-doubts front and center during these extended weeks of the campaign. With the state moving our primary back from April 28 to June 2 and restrictions canceling all inperson candidate forums and meetups, I am literally having to put my face — and computerized voice — front and center as I host Zoom meetings or go live on Facebook.

I always hated the fact that I couldn't verbally speak when talking to groups, that I couldn't do hand or other body movements in sync with verbal dialogue. Such perception is even worse now that the camera is literally in my face as I sit in front of my iPhone, mouth not moving as my iPad is talking (except for facial expressions as I hear humorous moments in my dialogue). And I have to accept the fact that people just have to be patient as I look away from the camera and type responses as fast as I can during those live events on social media.



It's never easy as I worry about what is in the best interest of my audience and people's attention spans. But you know what? The very fact that I am writing about my self-doubts on a national platform and risking potential voters thinking I am too vulnerable goes to another quote I think everyone should live by: **"Confidence doesn't mean you won't fail.** It doesn't mean you're always smiling or that you never experience anxiety or self-doubt. Instead, it means you know you can handle those feelings and push through them to conquer the next challenge." It also goes to the mantra from one of my son's favorite songs, "This Is Me" from "The Greatest Showman" — "I am who I'm meant to be, this is me; Look out 'cause here I come; And I'm marching on to the beat I drum; I'm not scared to be seen; I make no apologies, this is me."

In some ways, I have never been scared to be seen. Much like Abraham Lincoln, who lost more elections than he won, growing up I lost 13 elections in a row — starting with sixth-grade hall monitor — before I finally won an uncontested one in college and then my first contested election as law school class president (an election I admit was also on my to-do list back in elementary school: done!) Yet all of those losses only propelled me forward, analyzing what I did right and what could be done better. Just like going through 80+ in-person interviews before getting a job offer, twice, made me stronger as I learned to navigate all the different ways people react to my disability. The bottom line is facing self-doubt and defeat does not have to be seen as a negative, and in fact can build up a person's self-appreciation, self-worth and self-confidence. It definitely has for me over my lifetime.

We all have battles in life. Some we win, some we lose. But there are many battles in a war and we must find ways to wage war on self-defeating attitudes. When I decided to be a lawyer as a kid, it wasn't to be a voice for others but to help people let go of internal self-defeating attitudes and find their inner voice. And at the time I knew if someone couldn't find their inner voice yet, I would be a voice for them until they did. That concept has never changed in all I do in life, including my fight for our kids and public schools. Once we discover we have more strength and courage than we thought, we will discover we already were OK.

Just to close, as I think of the long road ahead and the different challenges we all will likely face as we move to a new "normal" once COVID-19 is contained and we go back to most of our usual routines, I think of one of my own personal favorite quotes from the movie "Swing Time": "Don't lose your confidence — if you slip, be grateful for a pleasant trip and pick yourself up, dust yourself off and start all over again." Win or lose, not only will I continue advocating for high-quality education for all our kids and community support to ensure their health, safety, and welfare, but I know I will gain a lot from this campaign and how COVID-19 has put a larger spotlight on a person's vulnerabilities — including their disability if they have one — when running for office.

India Ochs is a parent, attorney, human rights advocate, and civil servant, who just happens to have been born with an undiagnosed neurological speech disability. India served on ISAAC's Executive Board from 2012 – 2016. This article was first published in <u>The Mighty</u> and is reprinted by permission of the author.



Chapters



- ISAAC-Australia <u>www.isaacaustralia.com</u>
- ISAAC-Brazil <u>www.isaacbrasil.org.br</u>
- ISAAC-Canada <u>www.isaac-canada.org</u>
- ISAAC-Denmark <u>www.isaac.dk</u>
- ISAAC-Francophone <u>www.isaac-fr.org</u>
- ISAAC-India <u>www.isaac.org.in</u>
- ISAAC-Israel <u>www.isaac.org.il</u>
- ISAAC-Italy www.isaacitaly.it
- ISAAC-NF <u>www.isaac-nf.nl</u>
- ISAAC-Norway <u>www.isaac.no</u>
- ISAAC-Poland www.aac.org.pl
- ISAAC-Sweden <u>www.isaac-sverige.se</u>
- ISAAC-Taiwan <u>http://twsaac.blogspot.com</u>
- ISAAC-UK <u>www.communicationmatters.org.uk</u>
- ISAAC-US www.ussaac.org

Contact Us

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

Events 2020

June 29, 2020 @ 7 pm ET

<u>Tips and Tools to Support</u> <u>Communication</u>, an <u>ISAAC webinar</u> sponsored by Tobii Dynavox, with support from USSAAC.

tobii dynavox USSAAC

June 30, 2020 @ 8 pm ET

<u>PWUAAC Online Chat</u> ISAAC invites people who use AAC to meet online on June 30th for an informal chat. Kevin Williams will be our moderator this time. Chats are scheduled every two weeks.

July 31st, 2020

Special Meeting of the ISAAC Council RSVP only.

October 2020

International AAC Awareness Month Our official 2020 sponsor is Attainment Company.









ISAAC is pleased to announce that ISAAC 2020, the 19th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, has been rescheduled for 2021. As originally planned, the Conference will be held at the Cancún International Convention Centre (ICC) in beautiful **CANCÚN**, adjoining the Riviera Maya on México's Caribbean coast.

JULY 31 – AUGUST 1, 2021 AAC Camp, Pre-Conference Workshops, Executive and Council Meetings

AUGUST 2 - 5, 2021 Main Conference at the Cancún ICC, México

Surrounded by Mayan culture and with easy access to beautiful beaches, tours, shops and restaurants of both Cancún and the Riviera Maya, the ISAAC conference will feature AAC events and perspectives; cutting edge research and clinical innovations; workshops, seminars, exhibits, social events, and entertainment, all in a unique cultural setting.

> Mark your calendar today, and save the date for ISAAC 2020 (now 2021) in Mexico! For more information, visit us at www.isaac-online.org and follow #ISAAC2020 on Twitter.



www.isaac-online.org



ISAAC se complace en anunciar que el próximo XIX congreso de la Sociedad Internacional de Comunicación Aumentativa y Alternativa se ha sido reprogramado para 2021. Según lo planeado originalmente, la Conferencia se llevará a cabo en el Centro Internacional de Convenciones (ICC) de la bella ciudad de CANCÚN, contigua a la Riviera Maya de la costa del caribe mexicano.

31 DE JULIO - 1 DE AGOSTO, 2021 Campamento de CAA, Talleres Preconferencia, Juntas Ejecutivas y del Consejo 2 - 5 DE AGOSTO, 2021

Congreso principal en el ICC de Cancún, México

Rodeado por la cultura maya y con fácil acceso a playas hermosas, tiendas, restaurants y tours tanto de Cancún como de la Riviera Maya, el congreso de ISAAC contará con eventos de CAA, perspectivas, lo último en investigaciones e innovaciones clínicas, talleres, seminarios, exposiciones de las compañías más importantes, eventos sociales y entretenimiento. Todo en un sitio culturalmente único.

> ¡Anótalo en tu calendario y aparta la fecha para ISAAC 2020 (ahora 2021) en México!

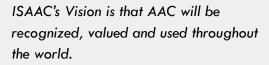
Para mayor información, consulta nuestro sitio web www.isaac-online.org y siguenos en Twitter #ISAAC2020



www.isaac-online.org



Our Vision & Mission



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

Keep informed about ISAAC news & stay in touch with the AAC community on our social media!



Staff

Û

Franklin Smith Executive Director

Carol Silverberg Membership Coordinator

Heather Stonehouse Manager of Communications

Tony Needer Conference 2020 Exhibitor Sales Specialist

Judy Shapiro Conference 2020 Sponsorship Specialist

Ralf Schlosser Editor-in-Chief Rajinder Koul Co-editor

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Augmentative and Alternative Communication AAC

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Published four times each year. Comments welcome! Please contact <u>Heather Stonehouse</u>.

The International Society for Augmentative & Alternative Communication 312 Dolomite Drive Suite 216 Toronto, ON M3J 2N2 Tel: 905-850-6848 Email: feedback@isaac-online.org