

Message from the ISAAC President

Tracy Shepherd

Somehow, I can't believe that just this month we have been able to change our masking requirements here in Ontario, Canada, with hospitals transitioning to only requiring masks when client facing. It feels strange walking around at work with my face hanging out. This makes me ask myself: *where have the last three years gone?*

Which also makes me recall all the things your ISAAC leadership team have managed to accomplish in the midst of some chaos. The two highlights that stand out to me, other than just keeping the wheels turning, are the very successful ISAAC Connect virtual conference in 2021 and the October 2022 AAC Awareness month with the theme, "Show Your Voice."

Now the focus is on the upcoming Conference Cancún. The resilience of the ISAAC Conference Cancún team has been remarkable. Although at times it seemed that this conference was never going to arrive, now it is only over

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a month away! We couldn't be more excited to see all the work this incredible team has done finally come to life in July. They have not only had to pivot but stand on their heads while doing it to shape and reshape the event in so many ways and for so many reasons. All of their efforts will be appreciated, and I anticipate this to be the event of the year. So many ISAAC members have told me that the Natal conference was one of their favourites (I wonder if it had anything to do with it being on the beach?) Well, Cancún just might match it!

As the Conference Cancún team is in high gear (i.e., super busy) these last few months, I want to share my appreciation for their dedication to ISAAC and to their positive enthusiasm, ready to take on any challenge that comes along with a smile and a solution.

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



A special thank you to Gabriela Berlanga, Miriam C. Boesch, Yoosun Chung, Gabriela Mangino, Marcela Manzur, Wendolyn Moreno and Sarah Blackstone for all of your incredible work. This team should be acknowledged and thanked by us all.

I am looking forward to seeing them in person in Cancún and celebrating a successful, interactive, educational and fun conference together with the rest of you!

See you all soon.

[Tracy Shepherd](#)

ISAAC President

From the Executive Director



Franklin Smith

Welcome to the June 2023 edition of The ISAAC Communicator.

As the temperatures (slowly but surely!) begin to rise here in Toronto, the summer months ahead are beginning to feel within reach. It won't be long until we finally make it past the worst of this spring allergy season!

While summers in Canada can be unpredictable, I am looking forward to what is guaranteed to be a warm and sunny visit to Cancún, México for the long-awaited ISAAC Conference Cancún in just over a month's time.

Like the rest of you, I have been anticipating this Conference over the past five years now, and although our postponements were necessary given the global conditions, it is exciting to now be counting down the final two months. I want to thank our extraordinary and incredible Conference Cancún leadership team for organizing what is promising to be a truly

amazing and unforgettable ISAAC Conference experience for all of us.

If you have not yet registered for Conference Cancun, [please do so today](#)! Our Early Bird rates are still in effect, and you have a tremendous opportunity to attend and save money doing so!

I am especially looking forward to meeting with all of you in person very soon!

Conference Cancún

The Conference Cancún Main Conference will be taking place next month from July 24-27, 2023, at the [Cancún Center](#) (previously called the Cancún ICC) in beautiful Cancún, México. There will also be some not-to-be-missed workshops, AAC Camp and Executive and Council Meetings to attend during the Pre-Conference happening from July 22-23, 2023.

Conference Cancún is proud to offer a robust scientific program with accepted presentations from around the world. The presentation list and Program at a Glance are [available to view here](#), and are subject to change, so continue to visit the site for the latest information.

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We are also happy to report that the Official Press Release announcing Conference Cancún has now been finalized and [can be read here](#). We welcome press coverage of this important event and can provide interviews upon request.

The **Conference Cancún online registration system is still [open and available](#)** for registrations, and we are excited to finally welcome the world to the 19th Biennial Conference of ISAAC this July! Early Bird pricing has been extended until **June 9, 2023**, so be sure to register now for your final chance at these exclusive Conference savings!

[Hotel room blocks](#) have been secured at multiple properties, all within an easy and accessible walk to the Conference venue. If you book your stay for the duration of the Conference at one of the hotels arranged by ISAAC International and are entering Mexico as a visitor specifically for attending Conference Cancún, you will not have to pay the 16% value-added (IVA) tax.

More information about the exciting offerings in store at Conference Cancún can be found

[on page 7](#) of this issue of the Communicator and [on the Conference Cancún section of the ISAAC website](#).

Many thanks to the Conference Cancún team, local service providers, our sponsors and exhibitors for your hard work and collaboration in making this year's Conference come to life. We remain committed to making Conference Cancún a fun, safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors.

ISAAC Membership 2023

Membership is critical to the success of ISAAC and our stakeholders, and I am thrilled to announce another very positive membership year for our organization in 2023.

Membership renewal notification emails have already been sent to all ISAAC-Australia, ISAAC-Canada, ISAAC-US (USSAAC), and ISAAC International members.

For anyone who has not yet renewed or signed up as a member for 2023, and as in previous years, you can make use of our [online membership portal](#) to renew an existing membership, or take out a new

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From the Executive Director ...continued

membership. The ISAAC office has sent out multiple membership reminders during the first quarter of 2023.

If you are not yet an ISAAC member, join us! Specific membership renewal information is available on the ISAAC website for each of the above as follows:

ISAAC-Australia: [2023 Membership Form](#)

ISAAC-Canada: [2023 Membership Form](#)

ISAAC-US (USSAAC): [2023 Membership Form](#)

ISAAC International (English): [2023 Membership Form](#)

ISAAC Internacional (Español): [2023 Membership Form](#)

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



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](#)

ISAAC Executive Director

Important Notice



ISAAC Biennial Membership and Awards Meeting

In accordance with section 8.1.5 of the Bylaws of ISAAC, this is the official notification of the date, time, and location of the upcoming ISAAC Biennial **Membership Meeting**, taking place at the **19th Biennial ISAAC Conference**.

Date: Wednesday, July 26th, 2023

Time: 14:00 to 15:00

Location: Cancún Center (formerly the Cancún ICC)

Blvd. Kukulcan Mz. 48, Punta Cancún, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., México
Room: Cozumel 5

*Called by the Chair of the Council,
Signhild Skogdal
March 31st, 2023*

ISAAC Biennial Council Meeting



In accordance with section 11.4 of the Bylaws of ISAAC, this is the official notification of the date, time, and location of the upcoming ISAAC **Council Meeting**, taking place at the **19th Biennial ISAAC Conference**.

Date: Sunday, July 23rd, 2023

Time: 9:00 to 17:00

Location: Cancún Center (formerly the Cancún ICC)

Blvd. Kukulcan Mz. 48, Punta Cancún, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., México
Room: COBA

*Called by the Chair of the Council,
Signhild Skogdal
March 31st, 2023*

A Guide to Conference Cancún



We have many exciting events and initiatives planned for **Conference Cancún** taking place from **July 24-27, 2023!**

For all that's in store, check out this comprehensive guide to Conference Cancún!

Pre-Conference Workshops

Are you eager to kick off Conference Cancún? Join us for the **Pre-Conference Workshops** on **July 22-23, 2023** before the Main Conference!


The following workshops still have openings:

Dare to Dream/Atreverse a soñar.

Presenters: Diane Bryen and Gabriela Rangel

Apoyo al Desarrollo del Lenguaje Asistido por Sistemas Aumentados Comunicación (SAAC).

Presenters: Gloria Soto and Sol Solis

All workshops go from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM for a full day of learning about specialized topics in the field of AAC. 

For more information and registration, visit the site [here](#).

AAC Camp



Children and young people between the ages of 8 and 30 years old who use AAC are invited to **AAC Camp** with their families!

The program encourages children and young people to practice their communication skills and promotes communicative independence through games, crafts, contests, recreational activities and more! At the same time participants will be enjoying and learning about the cultural richness of Mexico.

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A Guide to Conference Cancún ... continued

To learn more about AAC Camp and register, please [visit the AAC Camp section of our site](#) for more information.

Film Festival



Cam on Wheels and ISAAC are excited to announce the **Conference Cancún Film Festival!**

The theme for the film festival is Communication Beyond Borders. All films must be submitted before the **June 10, 2023**, deadline.

The top 10 films will be screened during the Conference Welcome Reception on July 24, 2023, with the winner receiving a free one-year ISAAC membership!

For more information, example videos, guidelines and the festival entry form, [visit the site here](#).

Social Event: Xoximilco



Join us for the **Conference social event** and experience a Mexican party in Cancún on **July 26, 2023**, from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM!

Hop on a gondola for a tour through the canals of Xoximilco Cancún while enjoying the best of Mexican food and drink with new friends, mariachi music and a personal host.

Learn more and sign up [here](#).

Lightning Pitch



Do you have an AAC-related research or technology idea, update or clinical breakthrough to share with a large audience?

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A Guide to Conference Cancún ... continued

Consider pitching it at the **AAC Lightning Pitch on July 26, 2023!**

Pitches must be in English and submitted by **July 7, 2023**. The author of the winning pitch will receive \$1000 CAD to further their idea over the next 12 months.

For more information on presentation criteria and how to submit your pitch, [visit the Lighting Pitch section of our site](#).

Resource Exchange

Are you passionate about AAC and have resources, books, devices and materials in good condition that you no longer use?

Consider recycling and sharing them at the **Conference Resource Exchange!**

By donating your unused resources, you're helping others that might not have access to these same materials.

Make a difference to those with communication needs, their families and their caregivers, and learn more [here](#).

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Call for Volunteers



We are looking for passionate volunteers at Conference Cancún!

If you are looking to get volunteer experience in an international conference setting and learn more about the field of AAC, register today!

Volunteers will receive a t-shirt and a certificate of recognition, free meals and registration for one day if you volunteer for a minimum of three days.

Volunteers must commit to 4.5 hour shifts and may assist in a variety of Conference areas.

For more information and registration, visit our [Call for Volunteers page](#).

Visitors to México

We understand that travel can be stressful, so [we have put together a list](#) of some

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important things to remember before you embark on your journey to Cancún.

Visa Requirements for México

You may or may not require a visa to enter México depending on the passport being traveled under.

Important visa information can be found [here](#). Visitors from [these countries](#) are exempt from requiring a visa. For visitors from all other countries, visa requirements can be found [here](#).

Electrical Plug/Socket and Voltage Information

Mains voltage in México is 127V 60Hz. Travellers from Canada and the US should have devices/appliances that work on the same mains voltage as México.

Many modern devices/appliances run on a variety of mains voltages. Your appliance should be marked with this information or mentioned in the product's instruction booklet; e.g., a power supply marked as "Input: AC 1.5A 100-240V 50/60Hz" does not require the use of a voltage converter as it



works on a mains voltage range between 100V and 240V. In addition to power considerations, most visitors to México (excepting visitors from Canada or the US) will need to ensure that their devices/appliances have the correct power plug adapter. México uses the international Plug Type A and B standards, which are described further by the International Electrotechnical Commission.

Why come to Cancún?



Are you still on the fence about attending Conference Cancún?

There are many things to explore in the [Mexican Caribbean](#) including white sand beaches, lagoons and islands.

But don't just take it from us, **hear from people who have attended previous ISAAC Conferences** about their experiences [here](#).

We hope to see you in Cancún!

News



Communication Matters



Communication
Matters
more than just talking

Communication Matters International AAC Conference 2023



The Communication Matters annual [International AAC Conference](#) will take place at the University of Leeds from 10-12th September 2023.

Over the course of two and a half days, participants will enjoy a diverse programme of presentations, posters and an extensive exhibition from AAC supplier companies.

The conference provides a unique forum to meet and exchange information with representatives from all disciplines associated

with AAC, including AAC users, parents, personal assistants, professionals, and suppliers of AAC equipment.

Communication Matters encourages and supports AAC users to attend.

Residential accommodation will be in modern student residences, which is at the centre of the pedestrianised campus. The transport links to Leeds are very good, with a nearby airport and train station.

Registration is now open! Book early to take advantage of the Early Bird discount which expires on **14th July**.

Further information can be found on our website: <https://bit.ly/cm2023conf>

Art Exhibition at University of Leeds - More Than Just Talking



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News

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As part of the Leeds Year of Culture 2023, a Photography, Poetry and Art Exhibition was held at the University of Leeds from 26th April to 5th May, in collaboration with Communication Matters.

A diverse range of painters, poets and photographers, including artists using assistive technology, responded to the theme 'More than Just Talking'. The event showcased their work at the University's Parkinson Court.

Read more and watch a video of the exhibition at
<https://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/news/art-exhibition-2023/>

Receive updates from Communication Matters!

WELCOME TO COMMUNICATION MATTERS

We aim to increase awareness, understanding and knowledge of the needs of people who struggle to communicate.



Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Join our [AAC Forum](#) google group.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please email
admin@communicationmatters.org.uk.

Chapters



ISAAC-Australia • www.isaacaustralia.com

ISAAC-Brazil • www.isaacbrasil.org.br

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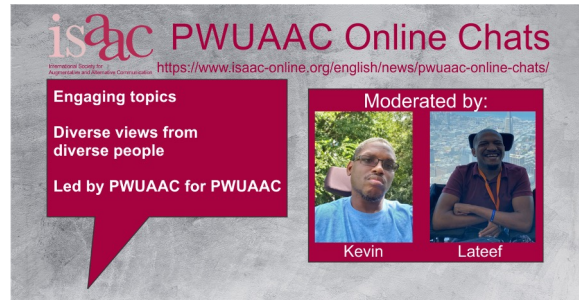
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ISAAC-US • www.usaac.org

Contact Us

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

PWUAAC Online Chats



Visit [PWUAAC Online Chats](https://www.isaac-online.org/english/news/pwuaac-online-chats/) on the ISAAC website for information about the next scheduled chat.

ISAAC Webinars

As of January 2021, 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](#).



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

Published four times each year. Comments welcome! Please contact [Chloe Leon](#), ISAAC's Publication Specialist.

