

## Message from the ISAAC President

Yonit Hagoel-Karnieli

### Dear ISAAC Family,

As spring awakens around us, in this part of the world, with renewed energy, we too embrace this season of growth as an opportunity for fresh ideas and bold initiatives that will carry us forward: **ISAAC International Forum** – A New Way to Connect.

I'm excited to share a new opportunity for us to come together, learn from one another, and continue moving the AAC field forward.

The ISAAC International Forum has been created in response to what so many in our community have been asking for—more opportunities to meet in person. These gatherings will bring people from around the world together to exchange ideas, spark inspiration, and strengthen the sense of community that makes AAC so special.



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To make this possible in a sustainable way, ISAAC is partnering with established AAC and AT organizations. By joining forces and sharing a platform, we can continue offering meaningful in-person events while being mindful of financial realities.

Of course, we'll also continue hosting virtual conferences, which have been incredibly successful and have welcomed participants from across the globe. Our next virtual conference is planned for November 2026 and is further discussed in Franklin's Executive Director message in this issue of The ISAAC Communicator.

And looking ahead, ISAAC remains committed to bringing back full standalone in-person conferences as soon as global conditions and ISAAC's resources make it feasible. We're all eagerly awaiting the next full ISAAC

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

International Conference in Italy when the time is right.

### ISAAC International Forum 2026



In October 2026, ISAAC will host its first in-person ISAAC International Forum in Zagreb, Croatia. This two-day pre-conference, held in collaboration with ATAAC, will take place October 19–20, just before the ATAAC Conference. ISAAC will lead the development, sponsorship, and management of these pre-conference days.

We're delighted to share that the speaker lineup already includes John Costello, Kathryn Drager, Karen Erickson, Lori Geist, and Janice Light. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

With gratitude,

[Yonit Hagoel-Karnieli](#)

ISAAC President

# From the Executive Director



Franklin Smith

Welcome to the March 2026 edition of The ISAAC Communicator.

Another spring is “springing” here in the Northern Hemisphere, and this always represents a time of hope, renewal, and warmer temperatures (and relief from the vast quantities of snow that fell in Toronto over the past few months!). 2026 is shaping up to be an exciting and rewarding year for ISAAC International, and “spring” is always a great time to communicate exciting announcements!

As announced in this issue of The ISAAC Communicator by our President Yonit Hagoel-Karnieli, ISAAC International is thrilled to be launching a new in-person event format, **the ISAAC International Forum**.

This year’s edition of the ISAAC International Forum is being presented in Zagreb, Croatia on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, immediately preceding the 2026 ATAAC Conference.

ISAAC International will also be presenting, during November 2026, the next “edition” of its highly successful and informative Virtual Conference.

ISAAC International is working hard to get our [online registration system](#) ready for online ticket sales for both of these events. We anticipate making additional announcements of the opening of registration for both events soon, which will be done by eblast, social media blast, and by posting on both our [event](#) and [ISAAC International](#) websites.

## **ISAAC International Website Redevelopment Project**

Speaking about websites, ISAAC International is now beginning its main website redevelopment project. Put off by our need to develop our own online event website, the organization is now ready to put the necessary time, energy, and effort into a full redevelopment of its main website, which went live “way back when” in 2011.

The first phase of the re-development project is being led by our Manager of Communications, [Cheryl Jackson](#). Cheryl will be engaging directly with key stakeholders, including Chapter and Council leadership, in

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## From the Executive Director ...continued



one-on-one conversations. The purpose of these conversations is to seek input from those who have already been involved in similar efforts, and to better identify how ISAAC could leverage a new website and updated technology to provide more efficient and effective services and the sharing of information to our stakeholder communities.

If anyone who has not yet been communicated with would like to take part in these initial conversations, please communicate directly with [Cheryl via email](#).

Following this initial phase, the next task will be to create a detailed assessment of functionalities to be incorporated into a new website, that will permit ISAAC to meet its key strategic goals and objectives, as outlined in the 2026-2029 version of its Strategic Plan.

### **Strategic Plan, 2026-29**

The ISAAC Executive Board (EB) last year completed the work associated with the transition to its Strategic Plan, 2026-29, which was approved by the ISAAC Council. Full versions of ISAAC's Strategic Plans, including the latest version, are posted on the [ISAAC website](#).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the ISAAC EB and Council for all the effort increasing, reviewing, and passing this key governance document. The importance of creating and successfully implementing a Strategic Plan on behalf of our organization cannot be overstated!

### **ISAAC Council Meeting, 2026**

ISAAC Council Meetings are, in accordance with our Governance Handbook, linked to the presentation of our Biennial in-person Conference.

Since there is no in-person "Biennial Conference" planned during 2026, a Special Meeting of the ISAAC Council will be called, and Council members will be made aware of the date and time of the meeting by way of electronic communication (email and website).

### **ISAAC Executive Board, 2024-26 and 2026-28**

Inextricably linked with scheduling a Special Meeting of the ISAAC Council in 2026, is the governance requirement to publish a proposed slate for the new ISAAC Executive Board that will hold office during the 2026-2028 period.

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## From the Executive Director ...continued



Led by the [ISAAC Nominations Committee](#), this process identifies qualified individuals willing and interested in taking on a leadership role with ISAAC International. Any such interested member can always communicate directly with the Chair of the Nominations Committee, [Catia Walter](#).

### **ISAAC Membership, 2026**

As in previous years, members of ISAAC-Australia, ISAAC-Canada, ISAAC-Español, ISAAC-US (USSAAC), and ISAAC International can make use of our [online membership portal](#) to renew an existing membership. The ISAAC International office has already sent out multiple membership reminders during the November 2025 through January 2026 timeframe. We will do one final round of reminders prior to the end of March.

Specific membership renewal information for both returning members and those wishing to become new members, are available on the ISAAC website for each of the above as follows:

- ISAAC-Australia.....[2026 Membership Portal](#)
- ISAAC-Canada.....[2026 Membership Portal](#)
- ISAAC-Español.....[Portal de membresía 2026](#)

ISAAC-US (USSAAC)..[2026 Membership Portal](#)  
ISAAC International  
(English).....[2026 Membership Portal](#)

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly, at [franklin@isaac-online.org](mailto: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.

## AAC Mentorship Program BUILD Committee

The **AAC Mentorship Program** is an initiative of the **BUILD Committee of ISAAC International**, designed to strengthen competencies, leadership, and support networks within the global Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) community, with particular attention to contexts with limited access to training and resources.

This program connects **ISAAC members with experience in AAC**—including professionals, families, and AAC users—with other members who wish to **learn, grow, and receive targeted support**, fostering a collaborative, ethical, and context-responsive exchange of knowledge.

### **How does it work?**

Mentorships are structured as intentional learning relationships with **clearly defined goals, an agreed time frame, and shared expectations**, focused on mutual learning and capacity building while respecting cultural, linguistic, and communicative diversity.

### **Who can participate?**

**ISAAC International members** may apply as **Mentors or Mentees**, including:

- AAC professionals
- Families
- AAC users

There is no single required profile or level of expertise. Participation is based on a **willingness to share experiences, learn collaboratively, and engage actively** within the ISAAC community.

### **Expected impact**

Through this program, the BUILD Committee aims to:

- Reduce inequities in access to AAC training and support
- Strengthen local and regional leadership
- Recognize and share diverse knowledge and lived experience
- Build a sustainable international AAC support network

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## AAC Around the World ... continued

### Alignment with ISAAC values

The AAC Mentorship Program aligns with **ISAAC International's mission and values**, promoting the **right to communication**, inclusion, equity, and the meaningful use of AAC worldwide.

### How to participate

Interested individuals should complete the **Mentor or Mentee application form** which will be available soon on the **ISAAC International website**. Applications will be reviewed by members of the **BUILD Committee**, who will facilitate mentor–mentee connections based on areas of interest, expertise, language, and context. At the end of the mentorship, participants will be invited to provide brief feedback to share learning outcomes with the ISAAC community.

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## Proyecto de Mentorías en Comunicación Aumentativa y Alternativa (CAA) Comité BUILD

El **Proyecto de Mentorías en CAA** es una iniciativa del **Comité BUILD de ISAAC Internacional**, orientada a fortalecer

competencias, liderazgos y redes de apoyo dentro de la comunidad global de Comunicación Aumentativa y Alternativa, con especial atención a contextos con acceso limitado a formación y recursos.

Este proyecto conecta a **miembros de ISAAC con experiencia en CAA** —profesionales, familias y usuarios de CAA— con otros miembros que desean **aprender, fortalecerse y recibir apoyo específico**, promoviendo un intercambio colaborativo, ético y contextualizado.

### ¿Cómo funciona?

Las mentorías se desarrollan como vínculos de aprendizaje intencionados, con **objetivos claramente definidos, un período de tiempo acordado y expectativas compartidas**, centradas en el aprendizaje mutuo y el fortalecimiento de capacidades, respetando la diversidad cultural, lingüística y comunicativa.

### ¿Quiénes pueden participar?

Pueden postular como **Mentores o Mentees** los **miembros de ISAAC Internacional**, incluyendo:

- Profesionales del ámbito de la CAA
- Familias
- Usuarios de CAA

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## AAC Around the World ... continued

No se requiere un perfil único ni un nivel específico de experiencia, sino **disposición a compartir, aprender y participar activamente** dentro de la comunidad ISAAC.

### Impacto esperado

A través de este proyecto, el Comité BUILD busca:

- Reducir inequidades en el acceso a formación y acompañamiento en CAA
- Fortalecer liderazgos locales y regionales
- Visibilizar saberes y experiencias diversas
- Consolidar una red internacional sostenible de apoyo en CAA

### Alineación con los valores de ISAAC

El Proyecto de Mentorías en CAA se alinea con la misión y los valores de **ISAAC Internacional**, promoviendo el **derecho a la comunicación**, la inclusión, la equidad y el uso significativo de la CAA a nivel global.

### ¿Cómo participar?

Las personas interesadas deberán completar el **formulario de Mentor o Mentee** disponible en la página web de **ISAAC Internacional**. Las postulaciones serán revisadas por el **Comité**

**BUILD**, que facilitará la vinculación considerando intereses, áreas de experiencia, idioma y contexto. Al finalizar la mentoría, se solicitará un breve feedback para compartir aprendizajes con la comunidad ISAAC.

## News

### ISAAC-Singapore



Dear Friends of ISAAC-Singapore,

As I conclude my term as President of ISAAC - Singapore, I want to sincerely thank you for journeying with and supporting us over the past few years. With your partnership, we have successfully advanced our mission, impacting over 630 AAC users, caregivers, volunteers, professionals, and community members. Personally, it has been a wonderful experience to see different communities come together to integrate AAC into their daily interactions.

I am beyond thrilled to hand over the leadership to the fantastic Fadillah. I have had the privilege of knowing Fadillah for several years, most recently in her role as Secretary of ISAAC-Singapore. I have always been inspired by her passion and energy, and I look forward to the impactful work she will continue to do for our AAC community.



Fadillah firmly believes that everyone deserves a voice and that communication should never be a barrier to inclusion. As a mother, advocate, and parent coach, her journey with her son, Sayfullah - an AAC user himself - has taught her the power of persistence, patience, and love in unlocking potential. Through her work, she supports families and educates the public on the importance of assistive technology. Her mission is to foster a more inclusive society where individuals with communication needs are heard, respected, and empowered to participate fully.

Thank you once again for your partnership. I humbly ask for your continued support for Fadillah and the new leadership team at ISAAC - Singapore.

*Alone we can do so little, Together we can do so much - Helen Keller*

Best Regards,  
Calvin Eng

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## News

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## AAC Journal



### Stijn Deckers - Co-Editor of the AAC journal

ISAAC is pleased to announce that as of the beginning of 2026, Stijn Deckers has joined MaryAnn Ronski and Rose Sevcik as Co-Editor of the AAC journal.

Dr. Stijn Deckers is a Pedagogical Scientist and received his PhD in the field of AAC at Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands in 2017. He is director of the Research & Development department of Milo, AAC Center of Expertise, in Schijndel and works as lecturer and researcher at the Pedagogical Sciences department and the AAC Chair of the Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands. From 2015 until 2020 he was the president of ISAAC-NF, the Dutch chapter of

ISAAC. He has served as associate editor for the AAC journal for the past years. His own research focusses on clinical decision-making and dynamic assessment in AAC, interprofessional collaboration, and inclusive or co-research approaches.

[Visit the AAC website.](#)

## Chapter Updates

**Communications Matters, the UK Chapter of ISAAC** - [Andrea Sharples](#) is now Chair.

**ISAAC Singapore** - [Fadillah Noor](#) is now Chapter President.

**ISAAC- NF (Netherlands and Flanders)** - [Gerna Scholte](#) is now Chapter President.

Please join ISAAC International in welcoming Andrea, Fadillah, and Gerna.

See the full Chapter list with contact emails at:

<https://isaac-online.org/english/about-isaac/chapters/>

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News

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## ISAAC International

### **In-Person Conference Budget Decision Guidelines**

The ISAAC Executive Board (EB), at its March 19, 2026 meeting, has published an important document to better inform our stakeholders. The ISAAC In-Person Conference Budget Decision Guidelines document is a high-level overview of the preconditions required to organize a full international in-person ISAAC Biennial Conference. ISAAC International recognizes the feedback from many in our community, of the wish to re-start the presentation of full in-person biennial conferences as soon as possible. The ISAAC Executive Board shares this goal, and is actively taking steps to make this happen, which is why ISAAC is continuing, in 2026, with its very successful annual virtual events, and is this year launching the new ISAAC Forum event.

If, after reviewing this document, you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to reach out directly to our Executive Director, Franklin Smith, at [franklin@isaac-online.org](mailto:franklin@isaac-online.org)

## Chapters



ISAAC-Australia • [www.isaacaustralia.com](http://www.isaacaustralia.com)

ISAAC-Brazil • [www.isaacbrasil.org.br](http://www.isaacbrasil.org.br)

ISAAC-Canada • [www.isaac-canada.org](http://www.isaac-canada.org)

ISAAC-Denmark • [www.isaac.dk](http://www.isaac.dk)

ISAAC-Español • *Coming soon* - [www.isaac-espanol.org](http://www.isaac-espanol.org)

ISAAC-Francophone • [www.isaac-fr.org](http://www.isaac-fr.org)

ISAAC-India • [www.isaac.org.in](http://www.isaac.org.in)

ISAAC-Israel • [www.isaac.org.il](http://www.isaac.org.il)

ISAAC-Italy • [www.isaacitaly.it](http://www.isaacitaly.it)

ISAAC-NF • [www.isaac-nf.nl](http://www.isaac-nf.nl)

ISAAC-Norway • [www.isaac.no](http://www.isaac.no)

ISAAC-Poland • [www.aac.org.pl](http://www.aac.org.pl)

ISAAC-Singapore • [www.isaac-singapore.org/](http://www.isaac-singapore.org/)

ISAAC-Taiwan • [twsaac.blogspot.com](http://twsaac.blogspot.com)

ISAAC-UK • [www.communicationmatters.org.uk](http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

ISAAC-US • [www.ussaac.org](http://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](mailto: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!



## Staff

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## The ISAAC Communicator

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