

Message from the ISAAC President

Tracy Shepherd

My Last Dance as Your President



(pictured above Tracy, ISAAC the Moose and a Mariachi band at ISAAC Conference Cancún, July 2023)

I don't know where ISAAC the Moose has gotten to, but I hope he shows up for the upcoming Vibes of AAC event in October. This is a lovely tradition which began at the ISAAC 2016 Conference in Toronto. ISAAC the Moose has had many trips and experiences with ISAAC members around the world in the intervening years. He did go missing in Cancún for a brief time, but he showed up for the dancing.



Inside this issue

[From the Executive Director](#)

Page 5-7

[AAC Around the World](#)

Page 8-17

[News](#)

Page 18-19

[PWU AAC Chats](#)

Page 20

...continued on page 2

Message from the ISAAC President ...continued



Dancing is an effective way to communicate so many things: the expression of love, joy, friendship and freedom. ***“Dance is the language of the soul communicating its passions without a word being spoken”*** - Author unknown. I think this relates to the mission of ISAAC in that spoken words are only just one way to communicate, and ISAAC folks love to dance. When you get a chance to sit it out or “Dance” (song by LeeAnn Womack), ISAAC members always choose to DANCE! (Both literally and figuratively).

Reflecting as I wind down the days of my Presidency, I feel I have brought all of myself to this role, and I hope I have served you well. It has not been easy; we have dealt with some tricky things and challenging times as ISAAC continues to recover from the effects of the pandemic. We still do not know what the new normal is just yet. It feels like we have been in a dance, with ever changing conditions — when we spin one way, the music take us another. We have practiced being agile and flexible and continued to dance, move and sway.

This family of ISAAC has been together over the last years in person at ISAAC Cancún in 2023 and virtually at ISAAC Connect in 2021. I now look

forward to gathering virtually at the Vibes of AAC Conference in October 2024. As we prepare for this event, please take a moment to honour and remember those members of our community who have sadly passed away since our last gathering in Cancún. To pay tribute to these valued colleagues and friends, we invite you to participate by sharing a photo and a few words about their life and contributions. Your heartfelt memories will help us celebrate their legacy and ensure that their impact on our community is never forgotten. Please take a moment to [complete this form](#) and upload a photo so that we can honour them.

Although the Executive Board (EB) was not able to meet in person in 2024, ISAAC governance activities are going strong, and the EB has been working to ensure everything is in order. A successful Council meeting occurred in August 2024 virtually.

October 1st also marks the changeover of the Executive Board. Several of the EB members have been on the board for 4 years and some for longer given the extended terms that were granted during the pandemic. We also have an amazing group of new board members joining who will take the torch and light a new path for ISAAC.

...continued on page 3

Message from the ISAAC President ...continued



I want to thank all the board members individually who are exiting and recognize all the time, energy and passion they have each brought to their role. This quote from Elizabeth Andrew is so true, ***“Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”*** And I would add to this, the passion to persevere.

Miroslav Vrankic (Croatia), Vice-President of BUILD for 4 years, has contributed his enthusiasm and great ideas. Miro has always been there to lend a hand, and you can always count on him. More specifically he is the founder of the ATAAC conference and offered a collaboration with ISAAC for referring new members. He initiated the Book Exchange Project which provided AAC textbooks to universities in various countries and also began the South Eastern Europe AAC Interest Group, which may join ISAAC as a new chapter one day.

Gabriela Berlanga (Mexico), Vice-President without Portfolio with responsibility for the biennial conference, joined the EB in 2018. One cannot say enough about Gabriela’s efforts during her tenure on the board. She will always say “yes” and find a way to get things done. Gaby was presented the President’s Award during ISAAC Conference Cancún not only for her

dedication and perseverance in bringing the Cancún Conference to life, but also for her role in forming the ISAAC Español chapter, which launched at Conference Cancún.

Signhild Skogdal (Norway), Chair of the ISAAC Council since Sept 2021 and on the EB since 2018. She has sat on many committees and taken on many projects. She has had an extended term to accommodate for the changing times and COVID disruption. Her insights and point of view has been a welcome addition to the diverse group of EB members.

Kevin Williams (USA), Vice-President of LEAD since 2020 has shown tremendous leadership, ensuring the input from people who use AAC was considered in all our discussions. He keeps the biweekly AAC chats going with his LEAD Committee colleagues. I welcome all he has to offer – it was a pleasure to work together over these 4 years. I thank Kevin for his insights, wise words and keeping us on track.

Beata Batorowicz (Canada), served as the Chair of the ISAAC Research Committee from 2018 to 2023. She has provided countless hours ensuring that Research in AAC is heightened and highlighted amongst all stakeholders. Under Beata’s tenure, communication and collaboration between the EB and the Research committee was enhanced.

...continued on page 4

Message from the ISAAC President ...continued



Thank you for the support, collaboration, and friendship over these past 4 years. It has been a pleasure to work with each of you. You are in good hands with **Yonit Hagoel-Karnieli** as your new President and the new crew including...

Neil Hansen (UK), President-Elect
Claudia Marimón Rigollet (Chile), Vice-President of BUILD
Beth Moulam (UK), Vice-President of LEAD
Yoosun Chung (USA), Chair-Elect of the ISAAC Council
Usha Dalvi (India), Vice-President without Portfolio
Catia Walter (Brazil), Chair the ISAAC Council
Elena Radici (Italy), Vice-President without Portfolio
Kristine Stadskleiv (Norway), Research Committee

You will learn more about each of them in the coming months. I'm excited to see where the board goes next, and how you all will continue to make a difference.

As my time on the EB wraps up, it is hard to express what this experience has meant to me. It has been a highlight for me personally and professionally. The folks I have met, the

relationships I have forged and all that I have learned is unmatched. I have been supported and have offered support. I have gotten it wrong sometimes but hopefully I have gotten it right more often. It's been an amazing journey working with all of you.

This is my last dance as your President, and even though I'm leaving the stage, I'll be cheering you on from the audience. I intend to keep dancing alongside all of you and cheering you on.

My last dance quote is by Martha Graham: ***"Dance is the hidden language of the soul of the body."*** My hope for all of you is that you continue to dance as if nobody is watching, and I will always be there on the ISAAC dance floor.

[Tracy Shepherd](#)
ISAAC President



From the Executive Director



Franklin Smith

Welcome to the September 2024 edition of The ISAAC Communicator.

ISAAC Membership 2024

ISAAC International has seen one of its best membership cycles, in many years! Congratulations to our Chapters, Council Members, and volunteers around the world for promoting the benefits of an ISAAC membership.

As of September 1st, total membership is now at 1,900, a level not seen since 2018. Based on our own internal data and feedback from members, there are a few reasons that explain this exceptionally good membership performance, including the:

1. operationally positive and well received Conference Cancún from 2023;
2. excitement building around ISAAC's presentation of its all-virtual "Vibes of AAC" event next month (October), during AAC Awareness Month

3. continued positive performance of our scientific journal, AAC;
4. membership benefits such as this year's partnership and collaboration with this year's ATAAC conference; and,
5. continued effort of Chapters in conducting and promoting their own webinars.

During October and November, ISAAC will be working on membership renewals for 2025. As in previous years, members through our ISAAC-Australia, ISAAC-Canada, ISAAC-Español, and USSAAC (ISAAC-US) chapters, in addition to our "International Members," will receive membership renewal notification emails directly from ISAAC International. New member sign-ups and renewals for these members can be completed directly from the [ISAAC website](#).

If you are an ISAAC member (or interested in becoming a member) through any of our other Chapters, you can renew directly with your Chapter. A list of our Chapters is available from the [ISAAC website](#).

We look forward, as an organization, to continue our mission during 2025 in promoting AAC for all its stakeholders!

...continued on page 6

From the Executive Director
...continued



AAC Awareness Month 2024 and “Vibes of AAC”

In response to numerous requests, ISAAC has extended the Early Bird registration period, through September 30, 2024. In order to secure the lowest possible registration prices, you will need to register for this exciting event by this date.

ISAAC has also recently announced a prize draw as part of our “Vibes of AAC” opening ceremonies, which are currently being organized. Eligibility for being named a winner in the prize draw is limited to paid registrations – ISAAC and “Vibes of AAC” volunteer leadership, staff, sponsor, and presenter registrations are not eligible.

“Vibes of AAC” is the theme for this year’s AAC Awareness Month, and ISAAC is thrilled to be presenting an all-virtual event this October, to coincide with AAC Awareness Month. With online presentations scheduled for October 29th and October 30th, 2024, this event is shaping up to be both informative and exciting!

We are thrilled to announce that, so far, hundreds have registered. Registrations include access to the live presentation of all events

AND the recordings of all sessions. For more information, and to register, simply connect to our event [registration site](#). We have also published a [registration FAQ](#), should more information on registering be required.

Information on presenters and online registration is available directly from the [ISAAC Event website](#). ISAAC members receive special discounts, so make sure to purchase your registration now, during our NOW EXTENDED Early Bird sale!

Special Meeting of the ISAAC Council

On August 29th, the ISAAC Council held a special meeting, as called by ISAAC President Tracy Shepherd and Chair of the ISAAC Council Signhild Skogdal.

At that meeting, a number of ISAAC governance items were discussed, including a review of the 2023 audited financial statements of ISAAC. The audited financial statements and associated PowerPoint slides have now been posted in the Members Only area.

Handover to 2024-26 Executive Board

On October 1st, those Executive Board (EB) members whose terms have ended are handing over their responsibilities to new members of the EB.

...continued on page 7

From the Executive Director ...continued



On behalf of the organization, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks for a heartfelt “job well done” to our departing EB members:

1. Tracy Shepherd (Canada) – President
2. Signhild Skogdal (Norway) – Chair of the ISAAC Council
3. Gabriela Berlanga (Mexico and USA) – Vice-President without Portfolio
4. Miroslav Vrankic (Croatia) – Vice-President of BUILD
5. Kevin Williams (USA) – Vice-President of LEAD

And I know you all join with me in welcoming our new incoming members of the EB:

1. Neil Hansen (UK) – President-Elect
2. Yoosun Chung (USA) – Chair-Elect of the ISAAC Council
3. Usha Dalvi (India) – Vice-President without Portfolio
4. Claudia Marimon Rigollet (Chile) – Vice-President of BUILD
5. Beth Moulam (UK) – Vice-President of LEAD

Our current President-Elect, Yonit Hagoel-Karnieli (Israel) will become President, and our current Chair-Elect of the ISAAC Council, Catia Walter (Brazil), becomes Chair of the ISAAC Council. We also thank Elena Radici (Italy), for continuing her role as Vice-President without Portfolio for a second term!

Please join me in thanking all of these amazing volunteers for their efforts, past, present, and future, in support of our organization!

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

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

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.

An AAC Summer Camp at the Little Red Dot

by Tanushree Saxena-Chandhok (ISAAC Singapore Committee Member & AAC Also Can, Practicing SLT and ATP)



ISAAC-Singapore, a local chapter of ISAAC in Singapore, grew from the desire of a group of like-minded individuals in the country who envisioned that AAC should be recognised, valued and persons who use AAC should become an integral part of society!

Over the past two years, since being registered as a local chapter and as a Society in Singapore, the Committee and its volunteers have hit the

ground running. The Chapter quickly grew to have 'three' main avenues of achieving its mission and vision - (1) Advocacy and awareness raising took place through talks and Social Media articles and updates; (2) Education and learning about AAC was conducted through an 'AAC Can Share' group; and (3) Gatherings for the AAC community was executed through its 'AAC Also Can' group.

The name 'AAC Also Can' was chosen for its catchy Singlish word 'can', which denotes that 'something can be done' or is possible! The team believed this phrase could help people associate with the notion that 'communication CAN also become a means of communication and is acceptable!'

AAC Also Can meets 3 to 4 times a year; through carefully thought-out activities, by the Chapter's planning team. It aimed at having participants (AAC users) and their family members interact, engage, build friendships and, of course, have a good time!

The AAC Also Can events began during the initial wave of COVID-19, where families stayed at home. This didn't deter the planning team, who used this opportunity to craft out online meet-ups. Local themes were important in creating a sense of community and comfort,

...continued on page 9

AAC Around the World

... continued



and our first celebration activity was about 'Hari Raya' (a celebratory occasion for the Muslim community). Other events followed, such as celebrating 'Chinese Lunar New year' with virtual 'Lohei' (the tossing of raw fish salad, an important part of the Chinese New Year celebrations). With each event, we saw returning and new participants grow in numbers. We welcomed AAC users, parents of children and young adults who use AAC, helpers (caretakers), and siblings.

Events were planned by small volunteer teams including caregivers of people who use AAC, AAC users, professionals working with AT/AAC, and members of the public! Aside from the committee members, a dedicated group of volunteers took up essential roles across each event, such as being an emcee or a 'buddy' for a participant.

As COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, the team couldn't resist extending the AAC Also Can events to in-person ones! We dived right into running a small in-person 'Art' themed event! It was received with much appreciation. Our Chapters' Vice President and AAC user, Yong Seng Koon, egged the Committee on, by hoping for an AAC Camp, after having been inspired by

the international ISAAC community. This was just the push the team needed. In 2023, we held our **first one day, in-person camp!** A 'sports' themed camp with adapted games and music about 'sports' received raving reviews and feedback.

With a 'roaring' spirit, the team couldn't resist ideating a 'two-day' in-person camp. And, we successfully completed one in June 2024!

The camp theme was 'Traveling around the world'. The planning team, a wonderful group of 10, envisioned that participants would get to experience different countries through culturally themed activities. Meal times and experiential and fun activities (such as, smelling of spices from Indonesia; Country themed art activity, a K-pop 'dance', Indonesia themed 'treasure hunt', Music-inspired by Tagalog in Philippines) were used to create opportunities for interaction, commenting, communicating and building friendships.

The Camp's planning team included caregivers, AAC users, professionals, and individuals interested in AAC/ISAAC Singapore's vision. The team planned across several months, however, the run-up to the event was the most exciting! Even participants who signed up for the camp shared their excitement. Sayfullah, a 21-year-old, freelance digital artist, who uses AAC and a

...continued on page 10

AAC Around the World

... continued



returning participant of the Camp shared, “I feel excited” and Rizq, an 11-year-old AAC user said “Happy. Mama, Qays, me (Happy because Mama and Qays are accompanying me).”

8th and 9th June, the days of the Camp were fun-filled, to say the least. Participants arrived at 10 am to have fun and dine with us. Everyone left fulfilled and exhausted at 3 pm each day. Here are some glimpses of the activities and fun we had.



The first day of the Camp began with a fun parachute activity, supported by volunteers

Tanushree is seen in red, standing at the back, leading one of the groups during the parachute activity



A process art activity gave the Campers a chance to take the lead on the colors or materials they wished for their creation.



An adapted painting activity gave the opportunity for all campers to create a piece to call their own

Campers ‘caught’ their treasures with nets, and volunteers shared their excitement for the find



One of the campers has found his last ‘treasure’ item from the list of items to search for. They were hidden by volunteers and activity leads.

The camp was concluded with a song. ISAAC Singapore’s President, Calvin, and Vice-President, Seng Koon, are seen singing



Some comments from attendees:

Sayfullah’s sharing:

- *How was the camp? It was wonderful.*
- *What was most enjoyable? I get to communicate with people. I like the food.*
- *Will you return for another year? Yes. I want to communicate with people again. The food not spicy. I like.*

...continued on page 11

AAC Around the World

... continued



Rizq's sharing

- How was the camp? **I think that is good**
- What was most enjoyable? **I do flag Rizqland. We do Rizqland Qaysland (I made up the country called Rizqland with my brother who made up a country called Qaysland)**
- Will you return for next year's Camp? **Yes**

Siblings, like Qays (who is 11-years-old and Rizq's twin brother) also attended the camp. He shared his thoughts about the camp.

- How was the camp? **I liked the camp, I liked the food and enjoyed the activities.**
- What was most enjoyable? **The most enjoyable part of the camp was learning about different cultures and meet and interact with people who use AAC like my brother.**

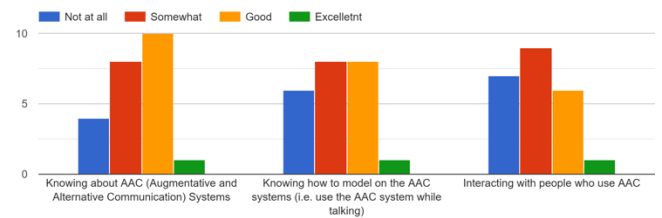
This event would definitely not have been possible without its volunteers. We had ~40 volunteers (outside of the Committee) come forward to share their weekend with us. The ISAAC Singapore committee collaborated with students and student groups across colleges in Singapore and felt such involvement of youngsters and colleges is important for its

vision and mission. The volunteers were briefly trained about AAC and how to use it for communication, ahead of the camp.

At the end of the Camp, the student volunteers (~30) shared that they were positively impacted by participating in the event. The committee sent out simple pre- and post-event questions, and one aspect noted through the responses by the students was that they felt their confidence to use and knowledge about AAC grew through the event, and interactions through the run up as well as during the camp.

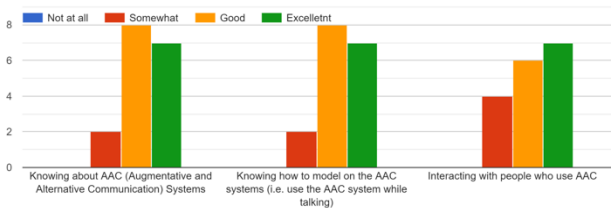
Self-rating before the event:

Please rate your confidence with the following:



Self-rating after the event:

Please rate your confidence with the following:



...continued on page 12

AAC Around the World



... continued

This event was supported in many ways by the community. The venue was sponsored by a local college, National Junior College, and we received funds from local funders - The Majority Trust- too! Such support goes a long way.

The ISAAC Singapore Committee and the AAC Also Can group of volunteers couldn't have been happier with the outcome of the Camp. Yong Seng Koon, our VP and one of the planners of the camp, shared his joy in actualizing his hope - **"Good job committee!"**

However, the AAC Also Can team is all set to dive into planning for its year end event. And if you are traveling to the 'red dot', join us!

Bruce Baker AAC Globalization Initiative

by Dave Hershberger

Alongside the [International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(ISAAC\)](#) and the 2022 Bruce Baker award winners, PRC-Salttillo is excited to announce the release of two AAC vocabularies in Mandarin! As part of the [Bruce Baker AAC Globalization](#)

[Initiative](#), 2022 award winners HauKei Lam, Yahui Lin, Yusa Liu, and Kewei Jiang worked with the support of our AAC apps team to adapt MultiChat 15 and Communication Journey: Aphasia in Mandarin Chinese (spoken) and Simplified Chinese (written). Celebrate the winning team's dedication and these new vocabularies by sharing the news with someone who is eager to have a voice in their language.

"We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the Bruce Baker team's invaluable contribution to this project," said Cara Hubers, Director of Mobile Apps at PRC-Salttillo. "Their attention to detail, linguistic proficiency, and commitment to delivering high-quality work were instrumental in ensuring the project's success. The impact of their efforts extends far beyond the completion of the project; they have played a crucial role in bridging communication gaps and fostering understanding."

Mandarin Vocabularies in TouchChat

Mandarin MultiChat 15 and Communication Journey: Aphasia are included in the [TouchChat® iOS app](#) (version 2.50 or newer). These files feature around 400 new culturally appropriate symbols from SymbolStix and eight new Almagu voices representing adult and child, male and female.

...continued on page 13

AAC Around the World

... continued



MultiChat 15 Adolescent in Mandarin (Simplified Chinese)

MultiChat 15, or 多聊15 青少年 (MC15), offers multiple forms of communication:

- individual words
- phrases
- sentences
- recordings for storytelling
- visual scenes

Communication Journey: Aphasia in Mandarin (Simplified Chinese)

Communication Journey: Aphasia, or 沟通之旅 : 失语症 (CJA), is designed to support people with aphasia – a disorder caused by damage to the parts of the brain where language is stored. It's adaptable for use by people with different types of aphasia and a range of cognitive levels and degrees of severity. You'll find pages that facilitate:

- supported communication techniques
- self-advocacy
- directing care
- repair of communication breakdowns

Customization to reflect the individual's life, experiences, and abilities is strongly recommended. This vocabulary file was originally created by a group of speech-language

pathologists (SLPs) from Canada working in a rehabilitation hospital (G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre) and the community (CAYA – Communication Assistance for Youth & Adults). The adaptation into Mandarin continues their work to help more people with severe aphasia or traumatic brain injury.

AAC in Mandarin

The Bruce Baker team's winning proposal shared the great need in the Mandarin-speaking community for a Mandarin Chinese AAC system. They noted an increase in professionals raising awareness for communication disorders and AAC as a valuable voice output solution for children who are minimally verbal and adults with acquired communication deficits such as aphasia.

MultiChat 15 Student and Communication Journey: Aphasia have been adapted both linguistically and culturally to better suit the needs of Mandarin-speaking individuals. They are the first Mandarin vocabularies on PRC-Salttillo AAC solutions. The team said, "We hope these Chinese files will expand more communication options for multimodal communicators and users and we are honored to be part of this project! 我们希望这些汉语词表能让多模态沟通的使用者有更多的沟通选择。我们感到非常荣幸能参与这个项目!"

...continued on page 14

AAC Around the World ... continued



With more than one billion speakers worldwide, Mandarin ranks as the second most spoken language after English. Mandarin speakers can be found in countries like Malaysia, United States, Singapore, New Zealand. We're excited for more individuals to successfully communicate and interact in their environment with these two Mandarin vocabularies.

About the Bruce Baker AAC Globalization Initiative

The Bruce Baker AAC Globalization Initiative pays tribute to the dedicated linguist's contributions to the field of AAC and creates an opportunity for materials to be adapted in languages in which AAC is under-represented. The inaugural award was given to a team with extensive experience implementing high- and low-tech solutions for clients of all ages. PRC-Salttillo supported their work through software for creating vocabulary sets and translating materials as well as a financial stipend.

International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication

PRC-Salttillo is pleased to partner with ISAAC for this prestigious award. Formed in 1983, ISAAC is a membership organization working to improve

the lives of children and adults with complex communication needs. ISAAC's goal is to create worldwide awareness about how AAC can support individuals without speech by promoting innovative approaches to research, technology, and literacy through AAC.

Presentación Mesa Directiva ISAAC Español by Claudia Marimón Rigollet and Gabriela Berlanga



La Sociedad Internacional de Comunicación Aumentativa y Alternativa (ISAAC), fundada en 1983, trabaja para mejorar la vida de los niños y adultos que usan CAA, disciplina que ayuda a millones de personas en todo el mundo que no pueden confiar en su habla natural para comunicarse.

La visión de ISAAC es que la CAA sea reconocida, valorada y utilizada en todo el mundo y su misión es promover la mejor comunicación posible para las personas con necesidades complejas de comunicación.

...continued on page 15

AAC Around the World



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Como es bien sabido, el lenguaje y la comunicación (y por tanto la CAA) se desarrollan en el seno de las distintas interacciones sociales y conversaciones con interlocutores competentes desde el punto de vista lingüístico. Además, la manera en que los niños y el resto de las personas aprenden a usar el lenguaje depende de los interlocutores familiares más cercanos, pero también de la comunidad a la que pertenecen, que ofrece un contexto y unas claves culturales determinadas que cambian en función de cada región y cultura.

El desarrollo de la CAA, por tanto, no puede desligarse del contexto cultural en que se produce. Distintos/as autores/as han señalado el proceso de aculturación al que se ven sometidas las familias y personas usuarias de CAA no angloparlantes debido a que la mayor parte de conocimiento no se generan en países de habla inglesa.

Por este motivo, nos complace informar de que con fecha de julio de 2024 se ha constituido la primera mesa directiva del capítulo de ISAAC-español que pretende impulsar el desarrollo de la CAA en todos los países y personas hispanohablantes, muchos de los cuales se consideran emergentes en esta disciplina.

Confiamos en poder promover al crecimiento y progreso de la CAA en todas sus dimensiones (investigación, difusión del conocimiento, aplicación de prácticas basadas en la evidencia, puesta en valor de las experiencias en primera persona de las personas usuarias de CAA, etc.) en todos los países de habla hispana.

Así mismo, animamos a todas las familias, usuarios/as, profesionales e investigadores/as a unirse a este capítulo inscribiéndose en el capítulo ISAAC-español para sumar su grano de arena a esta misión.

President: Claudia Marimón Rigollet **Chile**
Vice-President: Ruth Candela Ramírez **España**
Chair of Academic Committee: Soledad Cordero Solis **España**
Chair Elected of Academic Committee: Amanda Blackwell **Estados Unidos**
Guatemala
Chair of Council: Marcela Manzur **México**
Elected of Council: Ana María Jara Moreira **Costa Rica**
Chair of User/Family Committee: Mónica Macho de Quevedo Leiva, **España**
Patricia Velasco **España** and Rui Pereira Lima **Brasil Chile**
Communications: Wendolyn Moreno **México** and Sara Vinueza Montalvo **Ecuador**

...continued on page 16

AAC Around the World

... continued



Inglés:

The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC), founded in 1983, works to improve the lives of children and adults who use AAC, a discipline that helps millions of people around the world who cannot rely on their natural speech to communicate. ISAAC's vision is for AAC to be recognized, valued and used worldwide and its mission is to promote the best possible communication for people with complex communication needs.

As is well known, language and communication (and thus AAC) develop within various social interactions and conversations with linguistically competent interlocutors. Moreover, the way children and others learn to use language depends not only on their immediate familiar interlocutors, but also on the community to which they belong, which provides a context and cultural cues that change according to region and culture.

The development of AAC, therefore, cannot be separated from the cultural context in which it is produced. Several authors have pointed out the acculturation process to which non-English-speaking families and users of AAC are subjected

since most of the knowledge is not generated in English-speaking countries.

For this reason, we are pleased to inform that as of July 2024 the first board of directors of the chapter ISAAC-Spanish has been formed to promote the development of AAC in all Spanish-speaking countries and people, many of which are considered emerging in this discipline.

We hope to promote the growth and progress of AAC in all its dimensions (research, dissemination of knowledge, application of evidence-based practices, highlighting the first-person experiences of AAC users, etc.) in all Spanish-speaking countries.

Likewise, we encourage all families, users, professionals and researchers to join this chapter by registering in the ISAAC-Spanish chapter to add their grain of sand to this mission.

President: Claudia Marimón Rigollet **Chile**

Vice-President: Ruth Candela Ramírez **España**

Chair of Academic Committee: Soledad Cordero Solis **España**

Chair Elected of Academic Committee:

Amanda Blackwell **Estados Unidos Guatemala**

...continued on page 17

AAC Around the World



... continued

Chair of Council: Marcela Manzur **México**

Elected of Council: Ana María Jara Moreira **Costa Rica**

Chair of User/Family Committee: Mónica Macho de Quevedo Leiva, **España**

Patricia Velasco **España** and Rui Pereira Lima **Brasil Chile**

Communications: Wendolyn Moreno **México** and Sara Vinueza Montalvo **Ecuador**



President: Claudia Marimón Rigollet (Chile)



Chair of Academic Committee: Soledad Cordero Solis (España)



Chair Elected of Academic Committee: Amanda Blackwell (Estados Unidos Guatemala)



Chair of Council: Marcela Manzur (México)



Elected of Council: Ana María Jara Moreira (Costa Rica)



Chair of User/Family Committee: Mónica Macho de Quevedo Leiva (España)



Chair of User/Family Committee: Patricia Velasco (España)



Chair of User/Family Committee: Rui Pereira Lima (Brasil Chile)



Communications: Wendolyn Moreno (México)



Communications: Sara Vinueza Montalvo (Ecuador)



News

International Communication Rights Alliance

ICRA

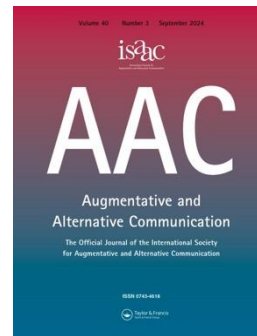
International Society for
Augmentative and Alternative Communication

International Communication Rights Alliance is presenting at conferences around the world.

The International Communication Rights Alliance (ICRA) is pleased to share we have had three conference papers accepted. Beth Moulam (UK) and Jacob Matthews (Australia) will present on behalf of the ICRA at the Communication Matters conference in the UK and the International Council of Educators of the Vision Impaired, India. Jacob and Meredith Prain (Australia) will present at the Virtual Disability Conference, Australia. We will be sharing preliminary findings of a review of concluding statements written by the CRPD committee in response to reports from signatory countries. The review focused on Article 21. The right to access to information and freedom of expression and opinion. A key finding being that most recommendations refer to information access, rather than the expression of opinions and ideas, critical for a civic voice.

The ICRA is still seeking new committee members and general members. If you are interested, please contact the chair Dr Meredith Prain at meredith.prain@ableaustralia.org.au.

AAC Journal



As the official journal of ISAAC, *Augmentative and Alternative Communication* publishes scientific articles on recent advancements in the field of augmentative and alternative communication, including the assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, and education of those who use or have the potential to use AAC systems and tools. With its international and multidisciplinary readership, AAC welcomes manuscripts from both established researchers and students that fall into the following categories: research articles, including intervention and technical notes; systematic reviews and meta-analyses; tutorials; forum papers; and case studies.

...continued on page 19

News

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AAC is published quarterly by Taylor & Francis, and the journal recently celebrated the release of Volume 40, Issue 2 in June 2024. The seven-article issue comprises research on a variety of AAC topics: AAC use by children and teaching staff in the classroom, speech-output technologies, the picture exchange communication system, communication skills in children with autism, decoding and encoding skills of adults with Down syndrome, and a tribute to AAC pioneer David Yoder.

At the end of June, AAC also bid farewell to Editorial Assistant Jackie Brown. After many years of service to the journal, Jackie now embarks on her well-deserved retirement. AAC expresses profound appreciation for Jackie's expertise and dedication to her role and wishes her well as she begins her new adventure. Join us at the ISAAC Virtual Conference in late October as we honor her service. AAC welcomes Anastazia Csegeny as the journal's new Editorial Assistant. Anastazia is currently pursuing her PhD in Media Studies at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada, and she brings a range of publishing and communications work experiences to her role. Anastazia can be reached via email at ea@isaac-online.org.

The next issue of AAC will be released in September 2024, and articles continue to be published on a rolling basis online via Taylor & Francis. The AAC Editorial Team looks forward to receiving new manuscript submissions for the remainder of the year and extends many words of thanks to the journal's new and longtime contributors, Associate Editors, and Reviewers.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication on Taylor & Francis:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/iaac20>.

Chapters



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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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