



ISAAC Welcome message

Welcome to ISAAC 2012 in Pittsburgh! This is the 15th Biennial Conference of ISAAC, which brings together professionals and users of AAC from all over the world. It is a unique event in that it attracts the participation of significant numbers of AAC users and their families, while also providing ample opportunities for professionals and researchers to share their work and interests. This 15th conference includes an AAC camp, pre-conference training sessions, the different conference strands, and a research symposium at the end of the conference.

We are proud to hold this conference in Pittsburgh, one of the most livable cities in the world and the city with the highest livability ranking in the United States.

As the city of bridges, Pittsburgh provides a remarkable setting for the conference. With 446 bridges with piers and stands within the city limits, Pittsburgh holds the world record for the number of bridges, surpassing even the Italian city of Venice. These bridges not only link together the different parts of the city, but also allow for the establishment of a city on the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers into the Ohio River. Symbolically therefore Pittsburgh provides an ideal setting for the ISAAC 2012 conference, not only because AAC provides communication bridges between its users and the rest of the world, but also because ISAAC joins a great diversity of professionals and users of AAC together.

Pittsburgh offers an appropriate venue for an AAC conference in at least one other respect: Following the downturn of its foundational steel industries, the city's economy is today largely based on technology, robotics, healthcare and education, sectors which have all contributed to the establishment of Augmentative and Alternative Communication as a field of knowledge and practice.

This year conference organizers expect close to 850 participants from at least 34 countries to attend the conference.

Enjoy this unique opportunity to share, interact and learn from one another to ensure that the ability to communicate becomes a reality for all across the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erna Alant'.

Erna Alant D. Phil
ISAAC President 2010-2012