

Friends and Colleagues,

This year's conference theme "highest performance communication; best life experience - WOW!" focuses on ISAAC's mission that people anywhere in the world who communicate with little or no speech deserve to achieve the most effective communication possible in order to achieve their maximum potential.

I would like to thank the dozens of volunteer members who have worked voraciously to insure this conference provides the most up-to-date, successful and evidenced-based practice and information available and is an international success! Those USSAAC/ISAAC members include Amy Goldman, Dr. Katya Hill and Søren Vintergaard the **ISAAC 2012 Conference Co-Chairs**. As well, the committee chairs including Debbie Witkowski (AAC Camp); Bob Conti (Accessibility & AAC Users/Families); Carolyn W. Higdon (Exhibition Hall); Shelley Deegan (ISAAC Awards); Jennifer Lowe; Faye Warren, ISAAC Liaison (PWUAAC); Lyle Lloyd (Research Symposium); Donald Fuller and Rose Sevcik (Scientific & Educational Program Committee); Caroline Musselwhite and Beth Sinteff (Special Events); Patricia Politano (Silent Auction) and Tracy Kovach (Sponsorship). To each of these individuals and anyone I may have inadvertently missed, please know your work is appreciated by many!

Many of the individuals attending this conference who are from the US are currently USSAAC members, but some are not. To those who are members, I say thank you! To those who are not, I ask that you consider joining this rambunctious group!

And now, without further ado, I have the distinct opportunity to welcome you to the 15th Biennial Conference of the International Society for augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) convening in Pittsburgh, PA, US. Join members from a host of countries from the 15 ISAAC Chapters who are coming together to address the ISAAC mission through learning, networking and socializing. USSAAC, the United States Chapter of ISAAC hopes that the energy, excitement, passion and potential of this conference will truly be an overwhelmingly positive experience for all!

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Ourand

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USSAAC, President '14