



Gregor Renner,
ISAAC President

June 2017

Message from the President

Dear ISAAC Members:

I would like to direct your attention to the Asia-Pacific region. There have been tremendous developments in AAC in this region. However, the situation for people who use AAC is as diverse as their home countries and support systems are. The ISAAC 2018 Conference, AACcess All Areas in Gold Coast, Australia, is intended to support AAC networking in all areas in the Asia-Pacific region, as does ISAAC's Australian partner, AGOSCI. The AGOSCI biennial conference, a national AAC conference held in May 2017, was an opportunity to provide information to delegates about the ISAAC 2018 Conference in Australia. Many thanks to our friends from AGOSCI for their ongoing support. Don't miss visiting their [homepage](#), where you will find information on the annual literacy intensives (next in Winter 2018) and, of course, the 2019 AGOSCI conference in Perth, Western Australia.

Meredith Allan, Co-Chair of the ISAAC 2018 Conference and President-Elect of ISAAC, went to

the Pacific Disabilities Forum Conference in Samoa to network and inform people about the conference. The attendees at this conference value all information on AAC, but are reliant on funding. All Co-Chairs of the ISAAC 2018 Conference are working hard to get funding for delegates from the Pacific region to attend the conference.

[The Bridge School AAC by the Bay Conference](#) offers remote participation by video streaming. Singapore hosted a successful AAC by the Bay event this year, which included international and local speakers. Find more information [here](#). The Chair of ISAAC's BUILD Committee, Sarah Yong, was one of speakers. Don't hesitate to [contact her](#) for more information.

There are at least another two upcoming AAC conferences this year. An AAC Conference in Taiwan is planned for October. And there will be a First East Asian Regional AAC Conference in Beijing, China, November 20-22,

... continued on page 2

In this issue

Message from the President	1
ISAAC Conference 2018 Call for Papers	2
From the Executive Director	3
Chapter News	6
Awards	8
Activities and Projects	9
News/Views	10
ISAAC Chapters	12
ISAAC to Publish CSWN	12
Contact Us	13

Message from the President ... *continued*

2017. There has been a promising increase in experience with AAC in East Asia, but networking is still lacking. The aim of the conference is to bring people together and increase collaboration in this field within the region. The Call for Papers will be open for submissions until September 1, 2017. For submission guidelines and further information, please contact Xuiyin Fu at AAC2017@wucailu.com.

The ISAAC 2018 Co-Chairs plan to attend the IASSIDD (International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) Asia-Pacific in November in Bangkok, Thailand, and to visit the Hong-Kong Association

of Special Schools (2018).

These are only a few highlights from the Asia-Pacific region. Please support the development of AAC in the region – from wherever you are. It is ISAAC's mission to spread the word about AAC all over the world.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

Gregor Renner
ISAAC President

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



AACcess All Areas
ISAAC 2018
GOLD COAST
AUSTRALIA
21-26 JULY 2018

ISAAC Conference 2018 Call for Papers is Now Open Theme: AACcess All Areas

The Submission Guidelines are now available for the [2018 Call for Papers](#). The submission portal opened on June 26th and is scheduled to close on September 30th, 2017. The first 20 complete submissions will be entered into a draw to win a prize of a single half-price conference registration discount. [Terms and Conditions](#) available on the ISAAC website.

ISAAC International is looking forward to welcoming the world to Gold Coast, Australia. For more information, please visit [Conference 2018](#) on our website. Don't miss the handy Call for Papers [one-page summary](#), also on the website.



From the Executive Director

Welcome to the June 2017 edition of ISAAC E-News. The ISAAC International office continues its work on behalf of the membership around the world, and is pleased to advise on the following initiatives:

Conference 2018 and beyond....

After the tremendous success (both operationally and financially!) of Conference 2016, the entire organization is now engaged at ensuring similar successes for Conference 2018 in Gold Coast, Australia! Our 2018 Conference (<https://www.isaac-online.org/english/conference-2018/>) will represent the very first time an ISAAC Conference will be hosted in Australia, and is a not-to-be-missed event!

Make sure to book your calendars for ISAAC Conference 2018, being held from July 21st through July 26th, 2018 in Gold Coast, Australia. This will be the first time an ISAAC Conference is being hosted “Down Under”, and we are excited to be promoting the field of AAC in the Asia-Pacific region.

**** NEW **** We have just opened the Call for Papers for Conference 2018. Please check our [Conference 2018 Call for Papers webpage](#) regularly

during June for updated information.

We are also thrilled to announce having received Letters of Interest for both Conferences 2020 and 2022. More about these conferences will be announced in the coming months.

ISAAC 2017 Membership and Directory

ISAAC International, specifically our Teraiz El-Deir, ISAAC’s Membership Coordinator, has been very busy processing our 2017 memberships. We are thrilled that this year’s membership sign-up is tracking at the same level as last year. We are also thrilled to welcome our newest Chapter, ISAAC-Poland.

We are now hard at work preparing the 2017 Membership Directory, and we anticipate releasing that very soon.

ISAAC International Financial Audit 2016

Our auditors have completed the work on the 2016 financial audit, and have presented the results of their work to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has reviewed the audit results, and has advised the Executive Board to accept the audit, which has now been posted in the Members Only area of the ISAAC

... continued on page 4



From the Executive Director

... continued

website. We are thrilled to advise that the organization achieved a strong financial performance during 2016, owing to a very successful Conference 2016 and a continued focus on revenue growth (membership and AAC journal) and expense control.

ISAAC International is in the process of completing its government tax filings with both the Canada Revenue Agency and the Internal Revenue Service and, when complete, these will also be made available in the Members Only area of the ISAAC website.

ISAAC Strategic Planning, 2018-21

The ISAAC Executive Board is currently engaged in its next round of strategic planning, which is a continuation of the very successful strategic planning process initiated during 2011. The existing Strategic Plan, 2012-17, which was approved by the ISAAC Council at its 2012 meeting in Pittsburgh (USA), can be found on the ISAAC website at: <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/about-isaac/organization/long-range-plans-operational-plans/>.

At its upcoming August 2017 meetings in Gold Coast, Australia, the ISAAC EB will be finalizing a draft of the recommended 2018-21 Strategic Plan, for presentation to the entire ISAAC membership

through the ISAAC Council.

We anticipate presenting the ISAAC Council with the draft Strategic Plan this September, so please plan on being involved in this important governance process.

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](#)



The UN Enable Newsletter is prepared by the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (DSPD/DESA) with input from UN offices, agencies, funds and programs, as well as from civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities. Please take a moment to visit their [website](#).

The April 2017 *UN Enable Newsletter*, as well as past issues going back to 2008, are posted on the [United Nations website](#) in many different languages.

Chapter News

WELCOME, ISAAC-POLAND!

Mówić bez Słów - Speaking Without Words (ISAAC-Poland) is a national organization that promotes augmentative and alternative communication methods.

ISAAC-Poland is engaged in many activities, including developing educational and information resources; participating in training, workshops, conferences, congresses, seminars, exhibitions, and other events; and creating public awareness about AAC, as well as within scientific institutions, local authorities and the state, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and other organizations in Poland and abroad. One of its goals is to advocate for better availability of AAC professionals in different regions of the country.

Please join with ISAAC President, Gregor Renner, and all of us at ISAAC International as we warmly welcome our newest Chapter!

For more information, please visit [*Mówić bez Słów - ISAAC-Polska*](#).



Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk, Chair of the ISAAC Council, personally expressed a warm "Welcome to ISAAC!" at the first ISAAC-Polska (ISAAC-Poland) membership meeting. She presented Katarzyna Cichocka-Segiet, President of ISAAC-Polska, with a pink orchid (ISAAC colours!) as a symbol of belonging within the ISAAC community.

Anna Walkiewicz (*not pictured*) is the ISAAC-Poland's second representative, elected to be a member of the ISAAC Council.



Stay informed about ISAAC news on social media by clicking on the logos above. Your likes, follows and feedback are much appreciated!

isaac Chapter News

Submitted
by Margit
Grønkjær

NEWS FROM DENMARK

Conference News

On March 20-21, ISAAC-Denmark had a very successful conference with over 200 participants, beating past attendance records for the second year in a row.

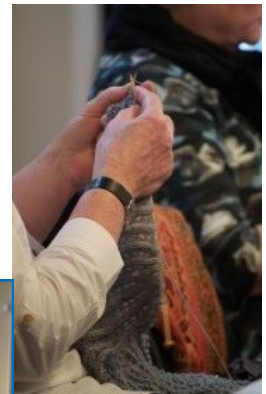
The content also was a success and we had very fine evaluations. In particular, Gloria Soto from San Francisco, who was a keynote speaker, made a great impression on all participants. Her keynote speech was titled: "Beyond Participation: Providing True Access through Language Intervention for Children and Youth who use AAC."



She made two smaller presentations and she now even has a Danish "fan group" that wants her to come back in an Awareness Month arrangement next year concerning "Considerations for the Provision of Services to Bilingual/Multilingual Children who Use AAC."

Hygge

A Danish Conference is always focused a lot on *hygge*, celebrating to be part of communities and sharing common experiences. We also do a lot to support AAC user communities and their *hygge* as well.



Film Competition

We were inspired by the ISAAC 2016 international conference to make a film competition. The winner this year was a school for children with severe challenges, [Kirkebækskolen](#). The reason they won was that they showed it is *always* possible to use AAC, even in situations when many people are entering the classroom or you have to give the children a meal, etc.

continued on page 7...

Chapter News ... *continued*



Trying to Influence

In the Danish chapter we are still working seriously on making our influence felt on the governmental level, and you will hopefully hear more about that later. We hope to change the Danish translation of AAC in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into something inclusive of all users – not only blind people.

Awareness Month Plans

We are planning an event for October 2017 in cooperation with the National Board of Social Services, a government institution. The theme will be

Transitions for People Who Use AAC. David McNaughton, PhD, Professor of Special Education at Penn State University, will attend this event, along with a number of Scandinavian lecturers.



USSAAC WEBINAR SERIES

USSAAC's popular Webinar Series continued over the past months with two new topics:

Cortical Visual Impairment: The Everyday Impact on People Who Use AAC on June 6th and *When Getting Started is Tough, How the Tough Get Going: Fostering Emergent Language in Profound Expressive Language Disorders among Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, on April 5th. Materials, including a recording for each webinar, are available [here](#).

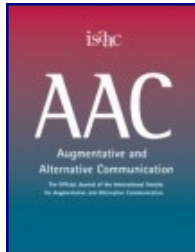
COMMUNICATION MATTERS (ISAAC-UK)

The **Communication Matters National AAC Conference** will be held on September 10-12, 2017 at the University of Leeds, with a full program of papers and posters on research, practice, and personal experiences. Also to be featured is an exhibition of low- and high-tech AAC for all ages and abilities, relevant to education and allied health professionals, as well as people who use AAC and their families. Keynote Speaker Bronwyn Hemsley (speech pathologist and clinical researcher at The University of Newcastle, Australia), will present *Social Media for Engagement: Safe and Enjoyable New Frontiers for People Who Use AAC*. Our second Keynote, [Lisa Simpson](#), a choreographer and workshop leader with a disability, will present on AAC and choreography using the "Simpson Board," an inexpensive but effective tool that enables people with disabilities to choreograph their own work.

Full conference and day passes are available; subsidies are still available for families and people who use AAC. Early-bird rates are available until July 28th.



Awards



View the
[Table of Contents](#)
for the current
issue:
Vol 33, 2017

AAC JOURNAL EDITORS' AWARDS 2016

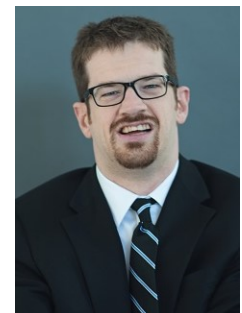
In April 2017, Gregor Renner, ISAAC President, and Martine Smith and Bronwyn Hemsley, AAC Co-editors, presented the ISAAC/AAC Editors' Award 2016, for Most Significant Research Article, to **Nina Klang, Charity Rowland, Melanie Fried-Oken, Sandra Steiner, Mats Granlund** and **Margareta Adolfsson** for "The content of goals in individual educational programs for students with complex communication needs," *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, Vol 32, March 2016.

Also presented was the Most Significant Student Article, to **Kara F. Medeiros** and **Cynthia J. Cress** for the "Differences in maternal responsive and directive behavior during free play with and without aided AAC," *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, Vol 32, June 2016.



Erna Alant, Past-President of ISAAC and founder of the [Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication](#) (CAAC) in Pretoria, South Africa, was presented with the prestigious Neville Cohen Award on May 24, 2017. She was honoured for her outstanding contribution in the field of AAC and severe disability. Erna's acceptance lecture, "Mean-making in interpersonal interactions: Moving beyond exchanging messages in interaction," was enjoyed by more than 60 of her former students and colleagues at CAAC. She is currently Professor and Otting Chair in Special Education at Indiana University, Bloomington, USA.

Also this past May, **John Draper** of [Together We Rock!](#) received the David C. Onley Leadership in Accessibility Role Model Award. According to the Government of Ontario (Canada) [backgrounder](#), "The David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility was created in 2014 to recognize Ontarians who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving accessibility for people with disabilities." John was an outstanding Keynote Speaker at the Opening Ceremonies of ISAAC Conference 2016 in Toronto last August.



Activities and Projects

BUILD AAC COMMITTEE

Aldona Mysakowska Adamczyk (Chair of the ISAAC Council) and **Dorothy Fraser** (member of the ISAAC BUILD Committee), with **Irina Tekotskaya** (Russian member of ISAAC), from Caritas, St. Petersburg, received a lovely welcome from staff at the school in Novgorod that hosted the first day of their AAC training program.

ISAAC representatives are working hard to establish and develop a collaboration network with colleagues in Russia.

Aldona and Dorothy also visited Caritas, St. Petersburg, providing AAC workshops planned in collaboration with Irina and participated in a round-table discussion on AAC. A full report of their visit will be included in the CSWN Newsletter, to be published by ISAAC in July (see page 12).



BUILD AAC COMMITTEE

[ISAAC BUILD AAC](#) supports the development of augmentative and alternative communication in emerging AAC countries, finding practical ways to offer them support. For updates from around the world, join [ISAAC BUILD AAC](#) on Facebook.

LEAD COMMITTEE

The [ISAAC LEAD Project](#) Committee encourages and supports people who use AAC in taking a leadership role within ISAAC. Follow [ISAAC LEAD Project News and Happenings](#) on Facebook.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The goal of this Committee is to support families of people with communication disabilities around the world. If you are interested, please join [Family Engagement](#) on Facebook.

 **News/Views**

Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) submitted a report in January 2017 to the Government of Canada on the communication access needs of people with speech and language disabilities. The 28-page report, *People with Speech, Language and Communication Disabilities Provide Input to the Federal Government's Consultations on Accessibility Legislation*, summarizes input from 2,200 Canadians about how communication access can be incorporated into the government's emerging accessibility legislation. The report is available on the [CDAC website](#).

Yvette Abdel Malek (Egypt) has shared photographs of recent AAC trainings sessions, with students who use AAC training participants on how to use sign language. Another student used Blissymbols to train participants on how to use Blissymbols. Please visit [Yvette on Facebook](#) for photographs and more news about AAC in Egypt.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

July 4-7, 2017

11th Biennial Eastern and Central European Regional Augmentative and Alternative Communication Conference (ECEAAC Conference), Bucharest, Romania. A report on the conference will be featured in the July 2017 issue of the CSWN Newsletter. **Dorothy Fraser**, co-editor of CSWN, will be in attendance. For more information on the conference, visit [AAC Conference Romania](#) on Facebook.

August 3-4, 2017

WHO Global Research, Innovation, Education in Assistive Technology (GREAT) Summit, Geneva, Switzerland. GREAT Summit, hosted by the World Health Organization, will bring together 100 top global researchers, innovators, and educators who are carrying out research or offering training programs related to assistive technology policy, products, personnel, provision, and use. **Hanne Rohde (Denmark)**, who was recently honoured with the ISAAC Distinguished Service Award, will attend the Summit as ISAAC International's representative. For details, read the full [announcement](#) and visit the [website](#).

... continued on page 11



News/Views ... *continued*

[A Chat with Elizabeth Kenkel](#) is an engaging video submitted to us for posting on our YouTube channel by Saltillo, an ISAAC Corporate Member. Elizabeth, who is a Saltillo ambassador, made this video to help people better understand how her daily life is enhanced through the use of her AAC device, Nova Chat. Not only has she found a stronger voice, says Elizabeth, she has also found her smile.

This has been made available for viewing with the permission of Elizabeth Kenkel and her family, who also appear in the video.

This video is available on the [ISAAC Video Channel](#) as a benefit of corporate membership.

ISAAC 2018 OUTSTANDING CONSUMER LECTURE AWARD APPLICATIONS ARE WELCOME FROM PEOPLE WHO USE AAC DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: NOVEMBER 30, 2017

The ISAAC Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award provides a platform for a person who uses AAC to present a topic of interest. ISAAC wishes to highlight the talents (such as storytelling, creative writing, humour), perspectives (on current events, relationships, etc.), or individual endeavours (scholarly, entrepreneurial, recreational, etc.) of an individual beyond AAC, reinforcing the point that a person who uses AAC is not defined by AAC.

The recipient will be a featured presentation speaker at the ISAAC 2018 Biennial Conference in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, and will receive a cash award of \$5,000 CAD.

The lecture should not be focused on AAC, how a person got their AAC system, "How AAC changed my life," etc. *Proposals that focus primarily on AAC issues WILL NOT be accepted.* As Conference 2018 is being held in Australia and it is officially an Asia-Pacific themed event, we particularly encourage proposals from individuals in the Asia-Pacific region.

Submission guidelines are posted on the [ISAAC website](#). Recordings of past lectures can be found [here](#). Please pay particular attention to the eligibility requirements.

Questions? Please contact franklin@isaac-online.org for more information.

isaac Chapters

[ISAAC-Australia](#)

(www.isaacaustralia.com)

[ISAAC-Brazil](#)

(isaac.org.br)

[ISAAC-Canada](#)

(www.isaac-canada.org)

[ISAAC-Denmark](#)

(www.isaac.dk)

[ISAAC-FSC](#)

(www.isaac-fr.org)

[ISAAC-India](#)

(www.ayjnihh.nic.in)

[ISAAC-Israel](#)

(isaac.org.il)

[ISAAC-Italy](#)

(www.isaacitaly.it)

[ISAACNF](#)

(www.isaac-nf.nl)

[ISAAC-Norway](#)

(www.isaac.no)

[ISAAC-Poland](#)

(www.aac.org.pl)

[ISAAC-Sweden](#)

(www.isaac-sverige.se)

[ISAAC-Taiwan](#)

(twsaac.blogspot.tw)

[ISAAC-UK](#)

(www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

[ISAAC-US](#)

(www.ussaac.org)

ISAAC to Publish CSWN Newsletter

After eight successful years of publication by the [Central Coast Children's Foundation](#) (CCCF), the **CSWN Newsletter** will now be published by ISAAC under the leadership of co-editors Dorothy Fraser and Nadia Browning.

The changeover from CCCF to ISAAC is one suggested by CCCF, and mutually agreed upon by both ISAAC and CCCF. ISAAC will be working to ensure the smooth integration of CSWN as another important aspect of our ongoing communication and engagement with all our stakeholders.

Under its original name, *Augmentative Communication World Network (ACWN) Newsletter*, the *CSWN (Communication Support World Network) Newsletter* was founded by associates Sarah Blackstone and Harvey Pressman, with the late Anne Warrick as its first editor and then Dorothy Fraser, beginning in 2012. We acknowledge with thanks the efforts of these individuals over the years to ensure the ongoing publication of the *CSWN Newsletter*.

To view past issues please visit the [ISAAC website](#). The same archives also reside for the time being on the CCCF [website](#).

**INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR
AUGMENTATIVE
AND
ALTERNATIVE
COMMUNICATION**

312 Dolomite Drive
Suite 216
Toronto, ON
M3J 2N2
Canada

Tel: 905-850-6848
Fax: 905-850-6852
Email:
info@isaac-online.org

Visit us at
www.isaac-online.org

ISAAC Chapters and members worldwide are invited to submit items of interest from your country or region. News, AAC practice tips, research, or 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](#).

ISAAC E-News is published four times each year. Comments on this issue are welcome. Please contact [Heather Stonehouse](#).



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 and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Executive Board 2016-2018

Gregor Renner
President, GERMANY

Meredith Allan
President-Elect, AUSTRALIA

Aldona Mysakowska-Adamczyk
Chair of the Council, POLAND

Nadia Browning
Chair-Elect of the Council,
BRAZIL

Sally Clendon
V-P for Conferences,
NEW ZEALAND

Lateef McLeod
V-P for LEAD, USA

Tracy Shepherd
V-P without Portfolio, CANADA

Sarah Yong
V-P for BUILD, SINGAPORE

Staff

Franklin Smith, Executive Director

Teraiz El-Deir, Membership Coordinator

Heather Stonehouse, Manager of Communications

Nola Millin, Editor, ISAAC Website

Judy Shapiro, Conference 2018 Sponsorship Specialist

Tony Needer, Conference 2018 Exhibitor Sales Specialist

Martine Smith, PhD, and Bronwyn Hemsley, PhD
Editors, *AAC Journal*

Jackie Brown
Editorial Assistant, *AAC Journal*