



December 2021

Dear Member,

Whilst it is too easy to overlook ---it is important to consider the many positive things that have happened in yet another extraordinary year! I appreciate that everyone has had many challenges professionally and personally and I sincerely hope 2022 will bring us all greater certainty, health and happiness!

Over the last year, the Executive Committee (EC) has taken forward the exciting plans initiated by the Board in the previous year. We have learnt how to work productively with these regular Board and EC meetings. The hybrid EC, Board and General Assembly in November were effective and ensured that we had good attendance. It is likely that we will continue having annual hybrid events to ensure that we can include as many members as we can. The virtual meetings with the Chairs of the Committees have been productive and allowed more connectivity and joint activities between our committees. We are finding that these virtual meetings help us to be more responsive, agile and better informed which is certainly needed if we are going to make a real difference to those with speech, language, hearing, communication and swallowing disorders, many of whom have had even greater challenges in the last year.

I attach a summary of the programme of work we have engaged in over the last year.

**Season's greetings to you all** and thank you for your active interest and support.

Wishing you all a productive, happy and healthy 2022!

Sincerely,  
Pam Enderby-President

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## Summary of activities 2021

***Black text was reported in the 2020 Christmas letter-- the text in red highlights progress in 2021***

### **Registration and Banking:**

IALP is presently registered in USA. To improve more flexible banking facilities and services we are seeking registration in Malta. This has been a long and tedious process requiring the input of lawyers and much work by Vanessa Borg our office manager. The outcome is hopeful! Thank you Vanessa for your work.

**Our Association is now registered in Malta** and is progressing with arranging banking facilities. This should help our members to pay subscriptions more easily.

### **Task Force on Underserved and Unserved**

This Task Force which is chaired by Prof Sandra Levey is comprised of a member of each of our 13 clinical committees who are working on an edited book (The Unserved: addressing the needs of those with communication disorders). This will provide information for governmental health departments, health practitioners and specialists to support access and development of services to underserved communities. Thank you, Sandra and task force members!

**This valuable book comprising of 14 chapters written by members of our committees and edited by Sandra Levey has been delivered to the publisher and will be available mid-2022. Additionally, it will be available online which will allow it to be updated.**

**Thank you to our authors and committees.**

### **Reducing individual membership fee**

Detailed consideration and options are being discussed and will be presented to the Board at its meeting in January.

**The Board established a subcommittee which has met 5 times and will be presenting an options appraisal to the Board in early January 2022. The options have been informed by a membership survey of affiliated societies and individual members. A decision will be made and communicated to the membership in the early part of 2022.**

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### Clarification of the role of officers

It is important that the role of the different officers within our Association understand their commitments and that this is made clear to those interested in taking up such positions. Work began on this at the last Board meeting and a paper informed by that discussion will be referred to the next meeting.

This work has been completed and a document detailing the roles of the officers is now available.

### Establishing officers' nomination committee

To improve the diversity of the officers serving our Association it is proposed that their roles should be more clearly stated (as above) and invitations to stand made available to all members. The EC prepared a recommendation for the nominations committee which will be presented for Board consideration at its next meeting.

The Board agreed to establishing a Nominations Committee and this committee will steer the call for the next recruitment of officers which will be in January 2022

### Triennial conference

It has been necessary to defer our triannual conference in Auckland, New Zealand from 2022 to 20-24 August 2023 – *Together Towards Tomorrow*.

Thanks to Vice President Philippa Friary representing the Congress Planning Committee who are taking this forward in these challenging times! She has kept the Board informed. Please find more details for the 32<sup>nd</sup> IALP Congress. <http://ialpauckland2023.org/> where you can sign up to get regular newsletters and information. Twitter-@IALPAKL2023 Facebook I A L P Auckland-2023.

The Main Reports are as follows:

#### Technological Advances in Assessment and Intervention

Dr Georgia Malandraki, Greece

#### Quality Service Delivery

Prof De Wet Swanepoel, South Africa

#### Intervention with Multilingual Children

Prof Gail Gillon, New Zealand

*Together Towards Tomorrow* – 32<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of the IALP  
Auckland, New Zealand | 20 – 24 August 2023  
Signup to receive the Congress News [www.ialpauckland2023.org](http://www.ialpauckland2023.org)



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## **Karger**

Our relationship with the publishing company has become closer over the last 12 months with the position of the Editor In Chief being clarified. Additionally, productive discussions have taken place relating to the impact on them of us reducing our membership fees as well as initiating a student membership category.

Interest in the journal remains high with a steady flow of submissions from around the world. The impact factor of the journal has risen over the past year, reflecting the importance and quality of research accepted for publication. Steps are underway to develop a new Associate Editor role to manage submissions in the area of Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

The mentees (see below) involved in the Transforming Faces program made particular reference to the value they place on receiving Folia Phoniatica as one of the member benefits.

## **Fast Facts**

Karger has agreed for 3 committees to work on these special publications which will be of great benefit to the professions and the clients they serve and will provide an additional income stream.

- Dysphagia
- Universal Newborn Hearing Screening
- Dementia and AAC

Dysphagia and Universal Newborn Hearing Screening have been edited and are being finalized by the author teams. Release is planned for Q1/early Q2 2022.

Dementia and AAC is in the review and revision. A Q1 2022 is planned for release for this title.

## **Sponsorship**

It has not been the best year to seek sponsorship to support our work --- but work is ongoing!

A paper related to acceptance and ethical considerations related to sponsorship and donations has been accepted by the Board. Regular contact with possible sponsors is ongoing.

## **Mentoring**

Work with the charity 'Transforming Faces' led to the planned sponsorship of 20 SLT/SLPs and audiologists from low-income countries to become members of IALP and for them to receive mentorship and support from named members of IALP for one year. The membership fee for this specific group has been reduced.

The mentoring program started in January 2021 and has been an overwhelming success. A recent survey of both mentors and mentees indicated a positive experience for both groups and the wish to continue. Most mentors and mentees have been meeting monthly to discuss clinical, professional, and career issues. Resources have been shared. We appreciate the support and assistance of Valerie Pereira and Triona Sweeney from the Cleft Palate and Craniofacial IALP committee in taking this important piece of work forward.

**The Tavistock Aphasia Trust** have agreed to sponsor 10 SLP/SLTs, working with clients with aphasia in low-income countries to be paired with an IALP Mentor. The program started in the last quarter of 2021. Thanks to Bronwyn Davidson from the IALP Aphasia Committee for supporting this work.

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## **Audio Logo**

This Project which aims to introduce a sound app for the telephone to indicate an individual has a speech, language, hearing or communication disorder and is sponsored by a philanthropic trust is ongoing. The pilot will run in the UK and it is hoped that a national telecoms company will assist rollout.

This work attracted a great deal of interest but has hit the buffers recently and there is little to report.

## **Website**

The website has grown rapidly and is being accessed increasingly. It has been agreed to review the structure and functionality of the website and work on this will start next year.

A subcommittee of the Board determined a specification for the updated website which has been sent to 6 companies inviting bids with a closing date of 17<sup>th</sup> of December. The committee will review the tenders received and make its recommendations to the Board in January 2022.

## **Communication with Other Organisations**

We are in discussions with **CPLOL** to improve communication and activate the Memorandum of Understanding which was agreed a couple of years ago.

2 meetings have been held with these 3 organisations. CPLOL has undergone a name change-European Speech and Language Association (ESLA).

We have opened discussions with the **World Federation of Neurological Rehabilitation (WFNR)** to see how we can best support each other in our international endeavours. It is important for them to know of our organisation and its activities and for us to know about theirs in order that we can work collegiately. **Communication Therapy International (CTI)**-contact has been made to explore ways of working together et cetera.

We would particularly like to thank WFNR and CTI for their generosity in sharing information and materials.

## **World Health Organisation**

We have had active engagement with many of the work programmes being led by WHO in the rehabilitation arena. Members of our committees have kindly volunteered to work in different technical groups to ensure that the needs of those with communication and swallowing disorders are represented in the WHO rehabilitation competency frameworks and guidelines.

Our engagement with the WHO has gone from strength to strength, and we are actively representing SLT/P, Audiology and Phoniatics in several Work Streams. We were invited to make a statement at the World Health Assembly associated with rehabilitation in primary-care. Several IALP members have been invited to participate in the development of guidance and /or act as peer-reviewers.

Janice Murray (AAC Committee chair) represented IALP at the WHO/UNICEF collaboration in the preparation of the Global Report on Assistive Technology (GRaT) which is to be presented at the

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75<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly early next year. Thank you to Rangasayee Raghunatha Rao (Audiology Committee chair) for contributing to the GReAT survey and for stimulating activity associated with the WHO initiative on prevention of hearing loss.

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## Season's Greetings

Thank you to all our members. We could not achieve what we have if it had not been for the active participation of all our Board Members. I am extremely grateful to Brian Shulman, President-elect and Vanessa Borg-office manager for their support and hard work in ensuring that we drive forward.

You will have noticed if you have read this far that we have achieved a lot this year--- but there is still a lot to be done in 2022

**Pam Enderby-President International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders (IALP)**

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