



July 2021

Dear Member,

Another letter to--- to keep you up-to-date with what your Association has been up to!

The pandemic is restricting different countries in different ways. Some are being hit more actively by the virus whereas others have greater protection with the rollout of vaccines. But all of those who usually benefit from our services are continuing to feel the effects --- some because they have not been identified and referred, others because they have been unable to receive the intensity or type of intervention for their condition whilst some will have had additional speech, language and swallowing disorders associated with Covid itself.

The pandemic has had a positive effect on how IALP is functioning. Our committees, executive and Board our meeting more regularly. Whilst this has the limitations of virtual meetings it has meant that we have been able to take forward many issues which would have taken us much longer if we had continued to rely on face-to-face meetings.

So this is what we have been up to in the last 4 months!

Summary of activities

Mentoring Programs

- **Cleft Palate**

The Speech therapy, Phoniatrics and Audiology professions are not recognized in many parts of the world. Some have only recently become recognized professions in, for example, Ethiopia, Vietnam and Ghana where the first cohort of graduates have recently begun professional practice. New SLPs in these low income countries often lack access to resources, training, networking and clinical support. In the last letter I mentioned that IALP had joined with Transforming Faces (TF), a proponent of Comprehensive Cleft Care to develop a mentoring programme, linking experienced professionals with mentees in low income countries. This program is progressing well despite some technological challenges! We have 15 experienced IALP members supporting 20 mentees.

- **Aphasia**

We have been successful in being awarded a grant by the Tavistock Aphasia Trust to roll a similar program of mentors to be linked with speech and language therapy mentees from low income countries who are working with patients who have aphasia following stroke. I am grateful that this is being coordinated by members of IALP aphasia committee led by Bronwyn Davidson and Abena Asiedua Owusu Antwi. 12 IALP mentors specialising in aphasia management from a range of countries have been recruited and expressions of interest from potential mentees from six African countries and Vietnam have been received.

Student membership category

Following the support at the extraordinary general meeting to have a student membership category a piece of work to inform engagement of students is underway. A survey of SLP/T and audiology students is to be carried out to elicit their views and needs. We are hopeful that student membership will be available from January 2022 and that these members will receive all member benefits.

Task Force- Improving Care for Marginalised and Underserved Populations with Communication Disorders

This Task Force which is chaired by Sandra Levey includes members from each of our clinical committees who are working on producing a book which will provide information essential for governmental health departments, health practitioners and specialists to improve access to SLP, Audiology, Phoniatrics and related services particularly considering the needs of low and middle income countries.

Reducing individual membership fee

A subcommittee of the Board chaired by Angela Morgan has been established and charged to explore the Individual membership fee within a broader scope of other potential IALP membership categories which could drive additional revenues to IALP thereby substantiating a possible reduction of the Individual membership fee. The subcommittee will report on its work and provide recommendations to the Board at its December 2021 meeting.

Improving our website

Another subcommittee of the Board chaired by Wiebke Scharff Rethfeldt is reviewing our website which needs updating and made more accessible to the increased numbers of individuals who are using it.

Thank you to the Chairs and members of these 2 Board subcommittees.

World Health Organisation

IALP is recognised as a nonstate actor in official relations with WHO and I reported in the last newsletter that at our request we have been transferred into the directorate related to Disability and Rehabilitation led by Dr Alarcos Cieza. Committee and Board members are actively contributing to the continuing WHO programmes of work they are leading related to development of a Competency Framework, Rehabilitation Interventions and more recently on Assistive Technologies. Furthermore, some of our members have been selected to review resources related to rehabilitation training. I am pleased that we are becoming more actively engaged with the nitty-gritty work of WHO and represent the needs of those with the disabilities of our primary concern and the professionals that serve them. Our association was represented at the World Health Assembly Executive Committee.

A recent meeting was called by Dr Cieza between The World Federation of Occupational Therapy, World Physiotherapy, International Council of Nursing, World Medical Association and ourselves to discuss an issue related to rehabilitation-- being involved in such an activity is important for the recognition and promotion of the conditions and professions that we represent.

Stronger links with other International Organisations

We have Memorandums of Understanding with:

- World Federation of Neurological Rehabilitation-WFNR
- Communication Therapy International-CTI
- European Speech and Language Association (formerly CPLOL)

We are now sharing more resources aligned to our agenda and, by working together, increase our impact. I would like to draw particular attention to the generous invitation by WFNR extended to our members to access their webinar series for early researchers for free. Furthermore, the recordings of meetings and discussions led by CTI regarding cultural sensitivity when working in different countries has been of great value to many in our Association. I am pleased that we have been able to reciprocate by making some of our resources available to their members.

Working together benefits us all!

Triannual conference

Our important triannual conference is to be held in New Zealand in 2023. The conference committee chaired by Vice President Philippa Friary are addressing all the opportunities and challenges of organising an international hybrid conference. We are hoping that as many of us can be together physically in New Zealand to get the full experience scientifically and socially!

Be sure to plan to be with us in New Zealand! When it will be to be lovely to meet up with each other personally!

Best wishes, Pam

Together Towards Tomorrow – 32nd World Congress of the IALP
Auckland, New Zealand | 20 – 24 August 2023

Signup to receive the Congress News www.ialpauckland2023.org



Best wishes to you all,

Pam Enderby OBE, President-International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Vision

IALP has a global vision to facilitate better understanding, knowledge and care of all those with communication and swallowing disorders.

Mission

The mission of IALP is to improve the quality of life of individuals with disorders of communication, speech, language, voice, hearing and swallowing.