



April 2021

Dear International Association Member,

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

Wherever we are around the world we are feeling the different impacts of the pandemic and endeavouring to continue to improve the lives of those with communication and swallowing disorders.

It would be easy to feel beaten but it is important that we maintain our energy and effort. Children and adults with communication and swallowing disorders are having a hard time, are likely to be getting less support and may feel even more marginalised than they do in more usual times.

Now that the Executive Committee, Board and Chairs of the Committees are meeting more regularly we have been able to initiate and contribute to more activities aimed at taking our mission forward. These increased meetings----do not have the purpose of just having another meeting!

So let's see what we have been doing!

Summary of activities

Mentoring Program

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. IALP has joined with Transforming Faces (TF), a Canadian-based charity, and global proponent of Comprehensive Cleft Care to develop a mentoring programme. We now have 15 individual members of IALP mentoring 21 mentees in low income countries. This program will be evaluated in December.

Extraordinary General Meeting

A virtual extraordinary general meeting was held on February 23rd 2021 as required in order to update our bylaws. We needed to do this for the purposes of changing our banking facilities so that subscriptions can be more easily paid and to enable online facilities. Additionally, we took the opportunity of making 2 substantive amendments to the bylaws:

1. Adding a student membership category (more information below)
2. Adding the requirement for a general assembly/ general meeting on an annual basis

The election indicated that the amended bylaws were overwhelmingly supported.

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

This Task Force which is chaired by Prof Sandra Levey includes members from each of our clinical committees who are working on writing a book. Chapter outlines have been received and work is progressing well. The book will provide information for governmental health departments in all countries, health practitioners and specialists to improve access to SLP, audiology and related services particularly considering underserved and unserved communities. Thank you, Sandra and task force members!

Reducing individual membership fee

The discussions are ongoing. Whilst there is agreement that reducing the individual membership fee is desirable it is important to ensure that the Association maintains its functions and sustainability. We will have more news in the next newsletter!

Clarification of the role of officers

As mentioned in our last newsletter work was ongoing with regard to clarifying the role of different officers within our Association to ensure that these are clear to those interested in taking up such positions. This work has now been completed and details are available on the website or on request.

Student membership

I am pleased to announce that a student membership category has been agreed with a fee of €15. Students will be able to join with us to assist us meet our vision and mission.

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.

Registered students (SLP/T, audiology, Phoniatics) will also receive all other member benefits. This new category will be open in January 2022.

World Health Organisation

IALP is recognised as a nonstate actor in official relations with WHO and at our request we have recently been transferred into the directorate related to disability and rehabilitation led by Dr Alarcos Cieza. Several members of our association have been able to contribute to WHO programmes of work related to development of a Competency Framework <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/338782> and rehabilitation interventions. I am pleased that we can actively engage with WHO and represent the needs of those with the disabilities of our primary concern and the professionals that serve them.

The audiology committee under the energetic guidance of their chair Prof Dr Rangasayee Rangunatharao arranged many activities to promote WHO's launch of the World Hearing Report on 3 March. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/world-report-on-hearing>. We applaud the energy and contribution of the audiology committee!

Voice Composium 2021 19th and 20th of March. Dr Deborah Phyland Chair of the IALP Voice committee along with her colleagues and in collaboration with the Australian Voice Association ran one of our most successful virtual composiums with more than 200 people attending the event 'virtually' and a significant number of others accessing the recording of the event later on. Thank you to Deborah and her energetic colleagues!

Stronger links with other International Organisations

I am pleased to report that we have recently signed memorandums of understanding with:

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

Working together benefits us all!

Audio logo project

This project which I have mentioned before is on a slow burn! However 2 major telecom companies have now agreed to work on the app. The hold-ups are related to the telecom standards and legal arrangements for making these universally available. This is not going to move quickly--- but at least it is progressing in the right direction!

Triannual conference

It has been necessary to defer our triannual conference which was to be in New Zealand from 2022 to 2023. Please see details at the end of this letter. Be sure to plan to be with us in New Zealand! It will be lovely to meet up with each other face-to-face!

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 Communication Sciences and Disorders (IALP)