

28.2.2022

**European Speech and Language Therapy Association (ESLA) celebrates the European Day of Speech and Language Therapy on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2022, as this is the anniversary date of the founding of this Europe-wide organisation.**

The aim of **ESLA's** annual campaign is to raise awareness of communication and swallowing disorders, and the role of speech and language therapists (SLTs). The theme for 2022 is **Speech and Language Therapy across the Lifespan**. On this date each year, speech and language therapists across Europe join together to organise workshops, training sessions, media coverage and conferences.

Norma Camilleri, President of ESLA, said that through this theme we want to highlight that Speech and Language Therapy can be effective throughout the lifespan. *“Communication and swallowing difficulties have no age barrier. Likewise, our profession cannot have an age barrier. We want anyone with a communication or swallowing disorder to be aware that they can seek help from a Speech-Language Therapist at any age. This theme will also be emphasised at our upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> Congress to be held in Salzburg, Austria 26 – 28 May. This congress will showcase new frontiers in Speech and Language Therapy from all aspects of practice, research and education. On this year’s celebration of the European Day of SLT we want to stress the role that an SLT can play in an individual’s quality of life, at any point in time.”*

Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) is a relatively young profession, that has grown rapidly in size, scope and reputation over the past century. Speech and Language Therapy practitioners work with individuals of all ages who have communication and/or swallowing difficulties from a range of causes and conditions. As a scientific discipline, it is essential that we can demonstrate that all aspects of SLT professional practice are underpinned by robust evidence of effectiveness, delivered within services that have been developed to meet the respective population needs and contexts.

This year the **European Speech and Language Therapy Association (ESLA)** will be celebrating European Day of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) by holding a **FREE** online webinar event that will be broadcast on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022**.

The webinar will be presented by Dr Hazel Roddam from UK, who has established a reputation as an international influencer for building research capacity and promoting strategies to embed evidence-based practice across all Allied Health disciplines. Hazel is currently working for Health Education England to lead the implementation of their national strategy for research and innovation across 14 Allied Health professions. In addition, Hazel has been deeply committed to supporting the work of ESLA (formerly CPLOL) since 2008.

ESLA, the European Speech and Language Therapy Association, is the leading organization representing the speech and language therapy profession in Europe. As the authoritative voice of the profession in Europe, ESLA supports the common

interests of thirty-one associations with a total of over 40,000 members across twenty-eight countries. Through its actions, ESLA aims to increase the visibility and awareness of Speech Language Therapy, by actively promoting the profession, and safeguarding professional and educational standards.

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