



April 2022

Dear Member,

It appears that the world has lurched from one crisis (Covid) to another (Ukraine) over the last 4 months but even our relatively small Association is proud to be able to make a positive contribution to both whilst also progressing on its schedule of improving the lives of those with communication and swallowing disorders.

Our response to the Ukraine crisis. It is important to remember that our Association is not political. We are working with colleagues from the European Speech-Language Association (ESLA) and those in the Communication Therapy International (CTI) and have been fully engaged with the WHO's- Rehabilitation in Emergencies programme.

We have been in touch with the Ukrainian SLT Association to identify needs for resources, training and equipment and have given them IALP Affiliated status.

We are contributing to:

- Coordination of education and training (communication/dysphagia/use of AAC/safe methods) and resources for use in emergency response within Ukraine and to support displaced persons/refugees.
- Working with other international organisations to support their activities.
- Identifying resources and equipment to assist those with disabilities (particularly those with communication and swallowing disorders-- both pre-existing and recently acquired).
- Developing guidance for healthcare workers who wish to travel to Ukraine or impacted areas to assist. Please note healthcare workers must only travel to assist as part of a formal team. Further information available.
- Thanks to the IALP AAC committee who provided Ukrainian-Polish communication boards which have been printed and laminated by WHO and included in their emergency kits for trauma wards.
- **Our contribution to Covid** was realised in our work with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in their programme for Long Covid where we were able to ensure that the symptoms of brain fog, dysphonia and dysphagia were included in the guidance.

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Our growing familiarity and use of virtual meeting platforms is improving engagement and responsivity which will assist us in growing the impact of our Association.

Please note that we are planning another hybrid General Assembly this year which will be on August 4th. The one held last year was very successful and ensured that we had good attendance and participation. It is likely that we will continue having annual hybrid events to ensure that we can include more members in the activities of the Association.

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 more regular 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.

I attach a summary of the programme of work we have engaged in during the first quarter of 2022.

Sincerely,
Pam Enderby-President



Summary of activities January - April 2022

Mentoring Program: Thanks to **Transforming Faces** and the **Tavistock Aphasia Trust** for sponsoring the IALP mentoring programme which pairs an IALP member with a SLT/P or audiologist with a similar clinician working in a low or medium resourced country. Thank you to Ilias Papathanasiou who is leading on the TF programme with the support of Valerie Pereira, Triona Sweeney from the Cleft Palate and Craniofacial IALP committee. We also appreciate the work of Bronwyn Davidson and Abena Owusu Antwi from the IALP Aphasia Committee for leading the work supported by The Tavistock Aphasia Trust. We now have 25 mentees from 11 low resourced countries being supported by 20 mentors.

These programs are really putting **our mission into action** and have been evaluated positively by both the mentors and mentees.

Communication with Other Organisations: The European Speech and Language Association (ESLA) along with Communication Therapy International (CTI). Have been working with us on our emergency response to the Ukraine crisis (mentioned at the beginning of this letter).

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We are now in communication with World Federation of Occupational Therapy and World Physiotherapy to ensure that we work collaboratively in responses and contributions to the World Health Organisation.

We appreciate our on-going good relations with the World Federation of Neurological Rehabilitation (WFNR) with whom we share resources and information.

Task Force on Underserved and Unserved: *The Unserved: Addressing the Needs of Those With Communication Disorders* edited by Sandra Levey & Pam Enderby will provide information for governmental health, health practitioners and specialists in all countries to support access and development of services to those in underserved communities with communication and swallowing disorders. It has chapters written by members of each of our committees. The book will be available June 2022. Additionally, it will be available online which will allow it to be kept up to date.

Thank you, Sandra and Task Force Members!

Reviewing membership fees: The subcommittee chaired by Angela Morgan (thank you Angela!) have met 5 times. Their discussions were informed by the membership and student surveys. The recommendations were discussed at the Board meeting in January 2022.

It was agreed:

- that the individual membership category should be maintained at this time as it is an essential source of revenue for the organisation; this category also provided equity and accessibility to those individuals from parts of the world which are not represented in IALP through their Affiliated Society;
- an additional category of student membership should be introduced;
- adopting a sliding scale membership fee structure on a trial basis to reduce the financial barriers to participation.
- a marketing committee should be established to support a membership drive;
- a robust model of corporate sponsorship should be explored, independent from the sponsorship that IALP receives for the congress.

Other points need further discussion and the detailed proposal will come to the General Assembly in August.

A Nominations Committee has now been established with the purpose of refining the existing nominations process, independently from the IALP Executive Committee (EC) making it also more accessible to the entire membership and more transparent. The committee, composed of 5 people (3 Board Members and 2 members at large), is chaired by Arlene Pietranton (thank you Arlene for taking this on) and shall be preparing a call for nominations for the vacant posts of the next President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. The President Elect, Brian Shulman, has outlined a new structure for the Executive Committee which will be presented at the August General Assembly. The roles and duties of the officers have been clarified and the nominations committee will oversee the call for applicants. The call for nominees will open on Monday 18th April 2022.

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

Sponsorship: 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. Please help us make contacts with sponsors!

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Website: The structure and functionality of the website needs to be improved. The website subcommittee (chaired by Wiebke Scharff-Rethfeldt-- thank you) developed a specification to update and manage our website. Unfortunately, the first call to companies was not successful. A further call has been made.

World Health Organisation: please see details of our work with the WHO's- Rehabilitation in Emergencies initiative in response to the Ukraine crisis detailed in the accompanying letter. Additionally, our engagement with the WHO continues to be active with IALP members contributing to many WHO Work Streams including development of guidance, competency frameworks and serving as peer-reviewers. Thanks go to Janice Murray (AAC Committee chair) representing IALP in the WHO/UNICEF collaboration related to Assistive Technology (GREAT) which is to be presented at the 75th World Health Assembly early next year. Again, we acknowledge the significant contribution of Rangasayee Raghunatha Rao (Audiology Committee chair) for stimulating activity associated with the WHO initiative on prevention of hearing loss and activities related to World Hearing Day.

Work of the 14 IALP Committees: All of the committees, under the able leadership of each of their respective chairs, continue to engage in a number of activities relating to direct participation with the WHO, publications, continuing education for colleagues around the globe among others, with the common aim to advance IALP's mission.

Triannual conference: our deferred triannual conference is to be held in Auckland, New Zealand from 2022 to 20-24 August 2023 – *Together Towards Tomorrow*.

Thanks to Vice President Philippa Friary representing the Congress Organising Committee who are taking this forward in these challenging times! She has kept the Board informed. Please find more details for the 32nd 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 – 32nd World Congress of the IALP
Auckland, New Zealand | 20 – 24 August 2023
Signup to receive the Congress News www.ialpauckland2023.org



Sincerely, Pam Enderby

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