



6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Members,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well and getting used to, or at least tolerating, the challenges that we are living through. We are all having to be innovative and resilient at this time. The Executive Committee (EC) has continued to meet virtually on a regular basis and, as I mentioned in my previous letter, this is turning out to be an advantage as in previous years the EC has met annually. We are moving our agenda forward with more speed and efficiency. -- One of the positive aspects of the pandemic!

I have summarised some of the key issues that we are addressing to keep you informed.

**World Health Organisation (WHO).** It has been a busy period for IALP working with WHO. We continue to participate in:

- Representing IALP at several of the WHO special events-- supported as appropriate by committee members with specialist skills.
- Providing input to the Rehabilitation 2030 work programmes on rehabilitation competences, interventions and curriculum guidance.
- WHO surveys--- continuing to distribute through our committees to ensure that issues related to speech, language, communication and swallowing are represented in responses to these surveys.
- Bureaucracy--- in order to maintain our formal relationship with the WHO we need to review and comply with certain important governance procedures and regulations. These are being kept up-to-date and our relationship is active.

**Update on Task Force for Underserved and Unserved Populations.** The representatives from our committees who perform this task force have agreed to write a book with three sections on each of their specialty areas. Each chapter will provide information suitable a) for lobbying local and national politicians; b) information for carers, health, social and educational workers not familiar with the condition and c) information and resources for professionals working with this client group. Detailed outlines of the chapters will be completed by November 30th and completion of the project is projected to be August 31, 2021.

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**Update on Committee Activity. Composia:** 3 committees have had their proposals for Composia, supported by IALP, accepted. These are:

- One Voice – Australia- March 2021;
- Disability Certification of Persons with Hearing Impairment – India – August 2021;
- Child Language Disorders: Activities, Participation, Collaboration- September 2021.

**Webinars:** 2 Committees organised webinars which will be uploaded on the IALP website. These are:

- Whats The Buzz – Voice Committee –September 2020;
- Social Distancing and Interactions: Challenges for Adults with Age Related Hearing Loss in the Era of Covid-19 –Audiology Committee - October 2020.

**Fast Facts:** These booklets provide crucial summary information for healthcare workers with the aim of ensuring that essential basics are known by all healthcare workers. Karger has agreed the following proposals suggested by our committees to develop Fast Facts: Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, Dysphagia, AAC and Dementia. We would not be able to function as an organisation without the active engagement of our committees and their Chairs.

**Audio Logo Project. *Overcoming communication barriers by phone.*** When last I wrote to you, I provided a brief update on a project that is close to my heart; an idea that I have been hoping to bring to fruition for over 20 years – the audio logo. In the previous newsletter, I was pleased to share that the IALP had received funding from a philanthropic organisation to publicise this cause and make the Audio Logo a reality, and I now want to take the opportunity to provide a more detailed overview.

The challenges of pandemic restrictions have been particularly pronounced for people living with communication difficulties who have had no alternative but to use the telephone in the course of their daily lives. Often, the receiver is unaware of the caller’s speech and/or language difficulties and may dismiss them as a result. This is where the Audio Logo will make a difference.

With the assistance of an external PR agency in the UK, we are embarking upon a campaign which will see us identify and promote a new sound which will become synonymous with communication difficulties. This short soundbite, no more than a few seconds long, will be relayed via a mobile application and will indicate to someone answering a call that the person on the end of the line has difficulties communicating verbally. It is our intention to engage with a number of patient advocacy groups to solicit their input and support, prior to launching with a high-profile media campaign in early 2021. Following this, it is hoped we can discuss how the initiative may work on a global basis at our planned annual conference in New Zealand in 2022.

**IALP Triennial Conference in New Zealand 2022.** Philippa Friary (the conference convenor) is Vice President for this term and is, therefore, a member of the EC and able to keep us informed with regard to conference planning and together, we are continuing to review contingencies and opportunities in light of the pandemic and implications for the budget.

**Reduction in Individual Membership Fee.** In my last letter I reported on the ambition to substantially reduce the individual IALP membership fee. The EC agreed that this is an important

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ambition but such reduction should not place the organisation's sustainability and financial stability in jeopardy. Discussions are still ongoing.

**Registration in Malta/IALP Banking Practices.** Currently, our bank (Switzerland) have asked us to move our account elsewhere as they are unable to support online fee payment which would be easier for our members. A bank in Malta (the home of our administrative office) has been approached with the view of transferring our business. However, we will need to register as a voluntary organisation in that country beforehand. A lawyer has been instructed to assist. Contact with other banks and registration offices has been frustrating as the response tend to underline a general concern relating to authorisation of **international** organisations which give concern related to money-laundering.

**Karger** is rolling out its new portal facilitating the access by members of our Affiliated Societies to their materials.

The numbers of papers being submitted to *Folia Phoniatrica et Logopaedica* continues to increase.

Keep Safe!!

Best wishes, Pam Enderby

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