

December 2020

Dear Member,

It is important not to overlook the many positive things that have happened in the last extraordinary year! I appreciate that everyone has had many challenges professionally and personally and I sincerely hope 2021 will bring us all greater certainty, health and happiness!

Over the last year, the Executive Committee has been able to meet virtually on a more regular basis (rather than the physical annual meeting). This has given us the opportunity of taking forward the exciting plans initiated by the Board at its last meeting. In the coming year, we will continue with these regular EC meetings and additionally have regular virtual Board meetings. I am hopeful that it will be possible to meet physically at some time in 2021 but there is still a lot of uncertainty so we will watch and wait! We have already started virtual meetings with the Chairs of the Committees in order that they can report, share their plans and support each other.

These virtual meetings will 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, many of whom have had even greater challenges in the last year.

I attach a summary of the programme of work we have engaged in over the last year.

May next year be productive, happy, healthy and more predictable!

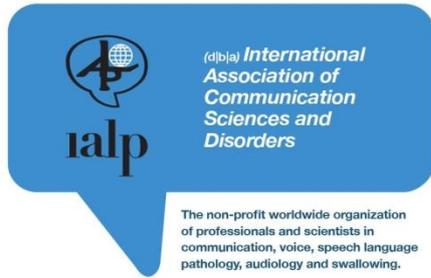
Season's greetings to you all and thank you for your active interest and support.

Sincerely,
Pam Enderby-President

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Summary of activities 2020

Registration and Banking:

IALP is presently registered in USA in order to improve more flexible banking facilities and services attempts were made to register the organisation in the UK-- this failed due to changes in registration processes and the UK being unwilling to register an international organisation at this time.

We then applied for registration in Malta-this has been long and tedious process requiring the input of lawyers and much work by Vanessa Borg our office manager. The outcome is hopeful! Thank you Vanessa for your work.

Task Force on Underserved and Unserved

This Task Force which is chaired by Prof Sandra Levey is comprised of a member of each of our 14 clinical committees who are working on an edited book (Improving Care for Marginalised and Underserved Populations With Communication Disorders) which will provide information for governmental health departments, health practitioners and specialists to support access and development of services to underserved and unserved communities. Thank you Sandra and task force members!

Reducing individual membership fee

Detailed consideration and options have been discussed and will be presented to the Board at its meeting in January. Ongoing!

Clarification of the role of officers

It is important that the role of the different officers within our Association understand their commitments and that this is made clear to those interested in taking up such positions.

Work began on this at the last Board meeting and a paper informed by that discussion will be referred back to the next meeting.

Establishing officers nomination committee

In order to improve the diversity of the officers serving our Association it is proposed that officers roles should be more clearly stated and invitations to stand made available to all members. The EC have prepared the recommendation for and role of a nominations committee which will be presented for Board consideration at its next meeting.

Triannual conference

It has been necessary to defer our triannual conference which was to be in New Zealand from 2022 to 2023. The impact and ramifications of this are being considered in detail.

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Karger

Our relationships with the publishing company has become closer over the last 12 months with the position of the Editor In Chief being clarified. Additionally, productive discussions have taken place relating to the impact on them of us reducing our membership fees as well as initiating a student membership category. We thank them for their support and assistance.

Fast Facts

Karger have agreed for 3 committees to work on these special publications which will be of great benefit to the professions and the clients they serve and will provide an additional income stream.

Sponsorship

It has not been the best year to seek sponsorship to support our work --- but work is ongoing!

Transforming Faces

Links with the charity 'Transforming Faces' is leading to sponsorship of up to 10 SLT/SLPs from low income countries (mostly Ethiopia) to become members of IALP and for them to receive mentorship and support from named members of the Board for one year. The membership fee for this specific group has been reduced.

Audio Logo

This Project which aims to introduce a sound app for the telephone to indicate an individual has a speech, language, hearing or communication disorder and is sponsored by a philanthropic trust is ongoing. The pilot will run in the UK and it is hoped that a national telecoms company will assist rollout.

Website

The website has grown rapidly and is being accessed increasingly. It has been agreed to review the structure and functionality of the website and work on this will start next year.

Communication with Other Organisations

We are in discussions with **CPLOL** to improve communication and activate the memorandum of understanding which was agreed a couple of years ago.

We have opened discussions with the **World Federation of Neurological Rehabilitation** to see how we can best support each other in our International endeavours. It is important for them to know of our organisation and its activities and for us to know about theirs in order that we can work collegiately. **Communication Therapy International (CTI)**-contact has been made to explore ways of working together et cetera.

World Health Organisation

We have had active engagement with many of the work programmes being led by WHO in the rehabilitation arena. Members of our committees have kindly volunteered to work in different technical groups to ensure that the needs of those with communication and swallowing disorders are represented in the work related to WHO rehabilitation competency frameworks and guidelines.

Whilst a lot has been achieved over the last year--- there is a lot to be done in 2021!

Thank you to all our members!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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