



International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders (IALP)

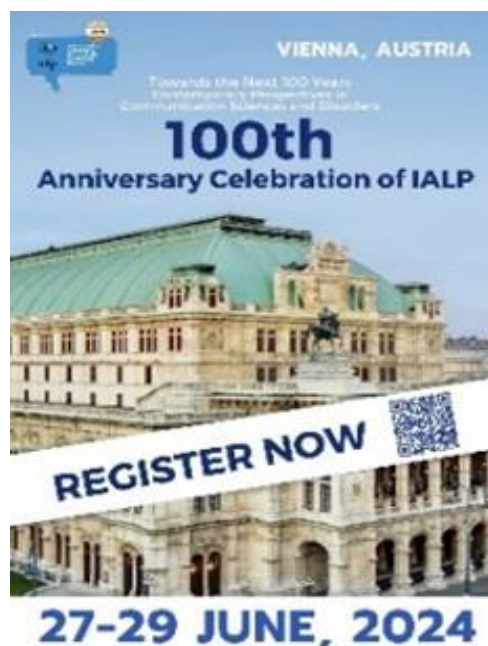
PRESIDENT'S LETTER April 2024

Dear IALP Individual Members, Colleagues of the Affiliated Societies and Friends of IALP—

I hope this communication finds you well!

The IALP Executive Committee (EC), Board, and many IALP members have been busy since my last communication. Below please find some of the major activities and initiatives undertaken since my last communication in December 2023.

IALP'S CENTENNIAL EVENT



Our Association will celebrate its 100th birthday in June 2024. To celebrate this important milestone for the organisation, IALP is organising a scientific event at the [Haus der Ingenieure](#) Vienna, Austria between the 27th and 29th June 2024. This event, entitled “Contemporary Perspectives in Communication Sciences and Disorders” will consist of a full scientific program on speech-language therapy, audiology, swallowing and voice disorders spread over two and a half days. [Early Bird Registration will remain open until 30th April 2024](#). Registration is limited to under 200 participants. Dr Antony Duttine, Technical Lead for Rehabilitation at the WHO has confirmed his attendance. A **Social event** is also being organised on 28th June 2024 at 19.00 at [Stiegl Ambulanz](#), a famous Viennese brewery. We hope to see many of you in Vienna to celebrate with us!

IALP VALUES STATEMENT WORKING GROUP

The IALP Values Statement Sub-Committee composed of Board members: Tamer Abou Elsaad (EG), Fernanda Dreux (BR), Mershen Pillay (ZA), Thomas Law (HK) and Debbie Phyland (AU) met in January 2024 to deliberate and formulate IALP’s values statement based on the survey/data collection effort provided by the IALP membership when they were surveyed in 2023.

The members of the sub-committee recommended to the Board the Values Statement below as part of the IALP Strategic Plan 2023-2028.

VALUES

1. We believe communication is a human right and collective responsibility.
2. We are an inclusive community, committed to collaboration across diverse contexts.
3. We value research, education, and practice grounded in evidence.
4. We are committed to advancing equity and access to services and resources globally.

These statements were approved by the IALP Board as IALP’s Values on 30th January 2024 and were added to the IALP Strategic Plan 2023-2028. I am attaching herewith another copy of the Plan.

MENTORING PROGRAMS

- [Transforming Faces \(TF\)](#). The third year (2023-2024) of the TF Mentoring Program began in October 2023. The program, which is being coordinated by the Cleft Palate Committee under the leadership of Valerie J. Pereira (HK), has 22 mentors and 22 mentees from India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Fiji, Bolivia and Mexico. IALP offered the mentees one full year of Individual Membership. Several members of the Cleft Palate Committee have assumed roles as mentors on the TF mentoring programme. A Webinar for TF-IALP Mentoring program is being planned to take place later this year.

- [Tavistock Trust for Aphasia \(TTA\)](#). The second year (2024-2025) of the TTA mentoring programme is underway. TTA is facilitated and coordinated by the IALP Aphasia Committee through its committee members Abena Asiedua Owusu Antwi (GH) and Roxele Ribeiro Lima (BR) under the leadership of the Committee Chair, Marian Brady (UK). The second cohort of the TTA program consists of 10 mentors and 10 mentees. An inaugural meeting for both mentors and mentees was held in March 2024.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

At its 154th Executive Session in January 2024, the Executive Board of the World Health Organisation (WHO) renewed IALP's status as a Non-State Actor in Official Relations with WHO would continue. Antony Duttine continues to serve as IALP's WHO Designated Technical Officer (DTO).

In February 2024, IALP was represented at the Rehabilitation Workforce Evaluation: Training Workshop in Hong Kong. Dr. Min Ney Wong (HK) attended the first training workshop on the [Guide for Rehabilitation Workforce Evaluation \(GROWE\)](#) held between 27 and 28 February 2024 in Hong Kong.

GROWE is one of the technical products that have been developed as part of the Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative. It is a comprehensive set of resources that employs a labour market and competency analysis approach to help stakeholders capture the current state of the rehabilitation workforce, understanding the challenges and opportunities faced by the system and its workers. By undertaking a rehabilitation workforce evaluation using GROWE, stakeholders can access valuable information that supports the planning and advocacy of rehabilitation services at national and subnational levels.

The workshop brought together 20 instructors and trainees from around the world to provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the GROWE tool effectively. Amongst the instructors and trainees were speech therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, rehabilitation workers and technical advisors representing various organisations including rehabilitation related societies and associations, World Health Organization (WHO) and United States Agency for International Development. Representatives from countries that have used or are using GROWE also attended the workshop.

During the two-day workshop, participants were guided through both theoretical and practical aspects of GROWE implementation. They gained valuable insights into evaluating the health labour market, competency profiles, population needs, and labour market failures specific to rehabilitation. The training equipped participants with the confidence and expertise required to carry out rehabilitation workforce evaluations in their respective countries.

The WHO plans to conduct similar training workshops around the world in the coming years as an effort aiming to strengthen the global rehabilitation workforce and improve access to quality rehabilitation services for all.

The workshop is featured on the WHO website here:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/growe-ing-the-rehabilitation-workforce>

Information on GROWE may be found at WHO website or via the link below:

<https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/guide-for-rehabilitation-workforce-evaluation>

World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA)

As reported in my previous President's Letter, many IALP members currently serve on the established workstreams of the World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA). Additionally, I serve as an appointed member of the WRA's External Relations Workstream whose mission is to (a) oversee the other workstreams' roles in advocacy initiatives, (b) develop an overarching Communications Plan, and (c) implement the Plan for philanthropic purposes with key stakeholders worldwide.

IALP COMMITTEES

Our 14 committees continue to be very active.

Below are highlights from just a few of our committees.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Committee – Chair, Janice Murray (UK):

3 key activities which resonate with IALP's strategic plan and objectives:

- develop an international roadmap for understanding skills/knowledge competencies/peer reviewed publication in AAC;
- support WHO in their development and dissemination of TAP screening and learning modules in AT (AAC) - Communication (this activity also involves Pam Enderby and Julie Marshall);
- develop a website section that guides and raises awareness of AAC.

Autism Spectrum Disorders Committee (ASD) – Chair, Kikia Petinou (CY)

Committee members were involved in the following publications:

- *Focus on issues and solutions in Autism* (Kikia Petinou (CY), Yvette Hus (CA), Osnat Segal (IL)): Dove Press, *Neuropsychiatric Disease & Treatment*, Vol. 2022:18 Pages 2273 – 2277.

- *Autism, the disorder without borders and geopolitical variations*; Dove Press, Neuropsychiatric Disease & Treatment, Nov 2023-Feb 28, 2024: In Press

Audiology Committee – Chair, Mridula Sharma (AU)

- Recent newsletter of the Audiology Committee - [Hear It, February 2024](#);
- Webinar to celebrate World Hearing Day on 3rd March 2024.
Appreciation goes to Mridula Sharma (AU) and Katrin Neumann (DE) who took the lead in organising a virtual event to celebrate World Hearing Day on 3rd March 2024. This webinar, entitled *Changing Mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all*, was a collaboration between the IALP Audiology Committee and UEP Hearing & Language Committee and focused on giving students from Australia, New Zealand and India and professionals from countries on different continents where hearing and audiology care is not yet as established as in high-income countries an opportunity to participate in this event. All webinar recordings are available at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX51qxN9Bu0oNti3qo5IT1g>.

Phoniatrics Committee – Chair, Matthias Leonhard (AU)

The Phoniatrics committee is working on establishing modern, video-based information on phoniatric topics and activities on the IALP sub homepage in order to improve awareness and collaboration between phoniatricians and other professions caring for communication and voice disorders, swallowing and hearing disorders. To this end, within the next 3 months committee members will develop 2-3 episodes of the new video format for online publication. It is desired that the promotion of collaboration through a network of phoniatric professionals builds an online repository of video expert knowledge for the IALP Phoniatric Committee. The Phoniatrics Committee also plans to translate non-English webinar content into multi-language content to improve international access.

Motor Speech Committee – Chair, Dora Knezevic (CR)

The current projects of the Motor Speech Committee include:

- Collecting data on various standardized and non-standardized tests, tasks, and questionnaires that SLPs use in different languages for motor speech disorders.
- Developing clinical practice guidelines for evaluating motor speech disorders that can be used in multiple languages (i.e., regardless of language) and cultures.
- Creating educational resources (e.g., what are motor speech disorders? how to improve comprehensibility? what can others do to help these patients?) in multiple languages.

Multilingual and Multicultural Affairs Committee (MMAC) – Chair, Lemmietta McNeilly (US)

The MMAC is working on:

- developing a list of vetted AI tools – practical, guidance for clinicians across the globe re: culturally responsive clinical application e.g., translation.
- Creating guidance for using generative AI in research and practice with multilingual individuals with communication needs.
- Sharing generative AI resources for multilingual populations.
- Conducting a 2-part webinar regarding Artificial Intelligence for Multilingual and Multicultural Speech-language pathologists with invited speakers. (Two 90-minute zoom webinars).
- Increasing access to resources that speech-language pathologists can use with multilingual and multicultural children and adults with communication needs.
Writing an article regarding artificial intelligence applications and guidance with multilingual populations with communication needs.

The next President's letter will include the work of some of the other IALP Committees.

IALP Membership Renewals

Ms Kamini Gadhok, MBE, Vice President of Membership and Partnerships has worked closely with IALP CEO, Vanessa Ebejer to take forward some key strands of the IALP Strategic Plan specifically related to membership and partnerships:

New membership benefits information for the different IALP membership categories have been developed.

To date, we have the following active members:

59 Affiliated Societies
269 Individual members
32 Mentees from Low and Middle- Resourced Countries
16 Student members

WORKING WITH AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Meetings have been held with Dr Sean Pert (UK), Board representative for Large-size affiliated societies, Mami Kaneko (JA), representative for Medium-size affiliated societies and Cristina Politi (GR) representative for the Small-size affiliated societies.

The focus of these meetings has been to discuss and make progress on a framework to support our affiliated societies with the development of clinical guidelines. An update and discussion of this project and other areas of work led by IALP was presented at a meeting for all affiliated societies on 13 March 2024.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUs)

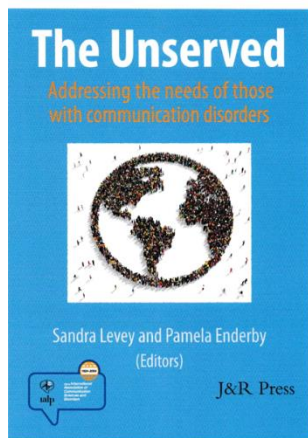
We have recently signed MOUs with the following organisations:

- [International Society for Audiology \(ISA\)](#)
- [Cochrane Rehabilitation](#)
- [International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative \(IDDSI\)](#)

Other Potential International Partnerships

In line with IALP's Strategic Plan 2023-2028, we will continue to build our strategic alliances with a range of related professional organisations and corporate entities which align with IALP's mission, vision, and core values. A number of these organisations have been contacted to set up meetings and discuss potential joint working.

IALP PUBLICATION – THE UNSERVED – ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THOSE WITH COMMUNICATION DISORDERS



This publication, authored by members of the 14 Committees of the IALP, and edited by Sandra Levey and Pamela Enderby presents ideas to assist all those who work with children and adults who have difficulty in communicating or swallowing in order to improve services for unserved and underserved communities. It offers strategies to address disorders and conditions that affect many areas of everyday life, and which are exacerbated by lack of adequate health, education and social services. A [print copy of the book](#) is available for sale through the IALP Office (office@ialp-org.com).

IALP 2025 WORLD CONGRESS

Preparations for the 33rd World Congress of IALP are underway. We invite you to **Save the NEW DATE** and **VENUE** of the IALP Malta 2025 Congress. Please stay tuned for more information through the Congress website which will be launched soon.



33RD
WORLD
CONGRESS
OF THE IALP

Innovation and Inspiration
in Communication
Sciences and Disorders

AUGUST 24-28
MALTA 2025

IALP
The International
Association of
Communication
Disorders and
Disorders

ISHLA
The International
Speech-Hearing
& Language Association

As you can see, IALP continues to thrive on a number of levels. This is due to the active involvement of the Executive Committee, the Board, and the many Individual Members and Affiliated Societies who continue to take active roles in advancing our mission, vision, and core values.

I look forward to welcoming you to our Centennial event, June 27-29, in Vienna.



Brian B. Shulman, PhD, CCC-SLP, ASHA Fellow, FASAHP, FNAP
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