



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

November 2022

Dear Colleagues—

I hope this communication finds you and yours well. As I embark on my term as President of our worldwide organization, I wanted to take this opportunity initially to congratulate the recently elected new officers/Executive Committee members:

Michael Robb (New Zealand), President Elect
Arlene Pietranton (USA), Vice President for Finance
Wiebke Scharff Rethfeldt (Germany), Vice President for Communication

Below are some updates on a number of activities and strategies carried over from now Past President Pamela Enderby's (UK) very productive 3-year term as President as well as a few new initiatives undertaken since I assumed the Presidency. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to Pam for her steadfast and impressive leadership in leading IALP over the last 3 years.

32nd World Congress of IALP

We are on the countdown to IALP 2023 Auckland, New Zealand, Together Towards Tomorrow. The Call for Abstracts is open. Please visit <http://ialpauckland2023.org/> to submit your great work. This is an excellent opportunity to share your research and clinical projects with a global audience. Registrations will open in mid-November. Make sure you don't miss out on other important dates or information by signing up to receive regular e-newsletters from the Congress Planning Committee here <http://ialpauckland2023.org/>.

Phoniatricians and Phoniatrics Initiative

Since its inception, phoniatrics as a professional discipline is an integral part of our organization. To date, the number of members of IALP who ascribe to phoniatrics as their profession has decreased over time. One of my goals as President is to make a deliberative effort to re-engage our phoniatrics

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colleagues into IALP. Two strategies have already been planned and one has already been executed. On September 14th and with the vision of Tamer Aboud-Elsaad (Egypt), a webinar was organized entitled *Phoniatics: To Communicate or Not!* I served as the moderator along with presenters Ahmed Geneid, President of the Union of the European Phoniaticians (UEP) and Tadeus Nawka, President of the European Academy of Phoniatics (EAP). The webinar was attended by over 50 colleagues from around the globe.

A second event to advance IALP mission and vision with our phoniatics colleagues will take place in January when IALP will participate at the 2023 World Congress of the International Federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies (IFOS) Congress. IALP will be an exhibitor at this international meeting where 7,000 attendees are expected. In addition to providing information about IALP, providing sample issues of *Folia*, promoting the IALP Congress in August, IALP will be offering a discounted one-year Individual Membership rate to IFOS attendees who join IALP at this Congress.

Communication with Affiliated Societies

In order to effectuate communication with the affiliated societies, three separate virtual meetings were recently held with representatives from the small, medium, and large affiliated societies to address a number of topics including, but not limited to, the mission and vision of IALP and updates on IALP activities. Following some introductory comments from me, Past President Enderby facilitated robust conversations with the affiliated society representatives. There was excellent attendance at each of the three sessions in which a number of topics were raised including how IALP could assist affiliated societies in advocating for their profession(s) in their respective countries, providing additional continuing education opportunities for members of affiliated societies, among other topics. These meetings were all very productive. I might also mention that the Board representatives for the small (Ms. Cristina Gh. Politi - Greece), medium (Dr Mami Kaneko - Japan), and large (Ms. Kamini Gadhok - UK) were also in attendance. A follow-up meeting with these Board colleagues will be held to calibrate on a way forward. As you are all aware, our 50+ affiliated societies represent the largest body of IALP so communication from/to them are critical to the sustainability of our organization. Additional meetings with these affiliated societies will be scheduled in the months ahead in order to maintain direct communication with them.

IALP Website Redesign

The result of a survey on IALP's current website showed that members and visitors of the website would like to see a revision. Currently, the CEO and Vice President for Communication are working on the re-design and are holding talks with providers in this regard. It is also planned that a group consisting of individual members and representatives of the Affiliated Societies will participate in the design of the new website planned for 2023. Also, please note that we have become more active on Twitter in the meantime and follow our handle @IALP_global for more and updated information. We look forward to the exchange!

IALP's Centennial Celebration—Save the Date!

Our association will have its 100th birthday in June 2024. Plans are currently underway to launch the celebration at the August 2023 New Zealand Congress followed by a Composium in Vienna on June 27-28, 2024, with a final celebration at the 2025 Congress in Tel Aviv. You should also note that IALP

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has already begun commemorating its Centennial by use of the revised association logo at the top of this communication as well as with virtual meeting backgrounds, and with our journal.

Folia Phoniatica et Logopaedica

The journal continues to receive a steady stream of submissions from around the world. There will be some anticipated changes to the Editorial Board. Prof Greg O'Beirne (New Zealand) is completing a 3-year term as Associate Editor, Audiology so that post will need to be filled. Additionally, a new Associate Editor position to cover Augmentative/Alternative Communication will begin their term on the Editorial Board in January 2023.

Fast Facts Publications

The first *Fast Facts* has been published: [Dementia and Alternative Communication](#), by Janice Murray (UK), Shakila Dada (South Africa), and Adele May (South Africa). It provides insights into the impact of dementia on an individual's communication interactions and how augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) strategies could enhance these interactions. In addition, there is a [Podcast](#) on this topic with Janice Murray and Adele May.

The next two *Fast Facts* titles will be out by the end of November.

- *Neurogenic Dysphagia* by Aliaa Sabry (Canada), Kyriaki Kyriakou (Cyprus), and Mieke Moerman (Belgium)
- *Early Hearing Detection and Intervention*, edited by Christine Yoshinaga-Itano (USA)

To Be Published!

A new IALP publication entitled *The Underserved: Addressing the Needs of Those with Communication Disorders* edited by IALP members Sandra Levey (USA) and Pamela Enderby (UK) will be published in print format in August 2023 to coincide with the launch of the 100th anniversary of the founding of IALP. However, chapters are now available as free downloads to IALP Individual Members via the IALP website.

World Health Organization (WHO) Collaboration Continues

IALP continues to participate in a number of initiatives sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO). Of particular note, IALP member Sharynne McLeod (AU) represented IALP at the 73rd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific (24-28 Oct 2022). Her active participation resulted in her submitting an Intervention for an agenda item entitled *Reaching the Unreached*. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the statement, please reach out to Vanessa Borg, IALP CEO at ceo@ialp.info.

World Rehabilitation Alliance

IALP has applied for and has been recently accepted as a member of the World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA). As stated on their website: "The World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA) is a WHO global network of stakeholders whose mission is to support the implementation of the [Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative](#) through advocacy activities. It focuses on promoting rehabilitation as an essential health service that is integral to Universal Health Coverage and to the realization of Sustainable Development

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Goal 3 *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*. Additional information about the WRA may be found at <https://www.who.int/initiatives/world-rehabilitation-alliance>.

IALP shall be participating in the following 4 workstreams as a member of the WRA:

- Workforce,
- Primary Care,
- Research, and
- Emergencies.

Any Individual Member interested in serving as IALP's representative to the WRA on any of these workstreams, should send an email to Vanessa Borg, IALP CEO, at ceo@ialp.info expressing their interest ***no later than December 1st***.

Collaboration with the Ukraine

Past President Enderby continues to be our representative to a collaboration with colleagues in the Ukraine. IALP has been working together with the European Speech and Language Therapy Association (ESLA) and Communication Therapy International (CTI) in reaching out to the Ukraine Speech and Language Therapy Association. This collaboration started in March 2022 and led to several online meetings to identify resources requested by our colleagues in the Ukraine and to respond to the World Health Organization's (WHO) special task force. IALP has provided links to specialists as requested. Our Ukrainian colleagues have been encouraged to contact us and set up further meetings as required, and we have made it clear that we wish to support their profession and those whom they serve in these difficult times. The Ukraine association's IALP membership has been covered by an anonymous sponsor.

Tavistock Trust for Aphasia

The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia is generously supporting the mentorship program for Speech and Language Therapists working in low/middle income countries who work with persons with aphasia. We are grateful to Bronwyn Davidson and Abena Asieda Owusu Antwi for leading on this program. There have been 10 mentees and 10 IALP member mentors engaged in this process in the current year. The mentees come from: Ghana, Nigeria, Vietnam and Kenya. During the year informal positive feedback has been received from both mentors and mentees. Reports of mentors helping mentees achieve their goals, mentors and mentees learning from each other, including rich cultural learning. A more formal evaluation will be conducted later in the year.

Transforming Faces Project

Facilitated by IALP member, Ilias Papathanasiou (Greece), the mission of Transforming Faces (TF) <https://transformingfaces.org/> is to 'partner locally and innovate globally to that children and families in under-resourced communities access comprehensive cleft care.' I would like to thank Ilias for his leadership in this endeavour and also to thank the many IALP members who have contributed to this important collaboration.

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Closing Comments

As you can see, IALP is involved in a number of exciting initiatives and activities. There are great things ahead for our association. In my next communication with you, I hope to share details on all of the activities and initiatives each of our 14 committees is engaged in.

Don't forget to submit your proposals for our World Congress in August no later than December 16 and also be sure to register early!

My personal best wishes are extended to each and every one of you. Since communication is what we are all about, I look forward to continuing to communicate with you. In turn, I look forward to hearing from you as we work together to advance our mission:

To improve the quality of life of individuals with disorders of communication, speech, language, voice, hearing, and swallowing.

All the best and stay well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian B. Shulman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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