

October 2021

Dear Member,

Different countries are coming out of the pandemic lockdowns in different ways but I hope we can all see light at the end of this tunnel!. All of those who usually benefit from our services are continuing to feel the effects --- some because they have not been identified and referred, others because they have been unable to receive the intensity or type of intervention for their condition. All professions have had to become more agile in their response in order to continue to support the clients they serve.

The committees of IALP, your Executive Committee and Board continue to meet virtually but look forward to meeting face-to-face in the not-too-distant future. Virtual meetings have their limitations, but I do feel we have benefited in that it has meant that we have been able to take forward many issues which would have taken us much longer if we had continued to rely solely on face-to-face meetings.

Summary of recent activities

Mentoring Programs

- **Cleft Palate**

Transforming Faces (TF), a proponent of Comprehensive Cleft Care is partnering with IALP to provide a mentoring programme, linking experienced professionals with mentees in low-income countries. The 6-month evaluation indicated great benefits and satisfaction with this pilot scheme. 15 experienced SLPs are supporting 20 mentees working in low-income countries e.g.-Ethiopia, Ghana Vietnam. The mentees have formed a WhatsApp group which is helping them to communicate and support each other. There have been virtual meetings with groups of mentees and mentors to ensure that we are meeting the needs of both groups.

- **Aphasia**

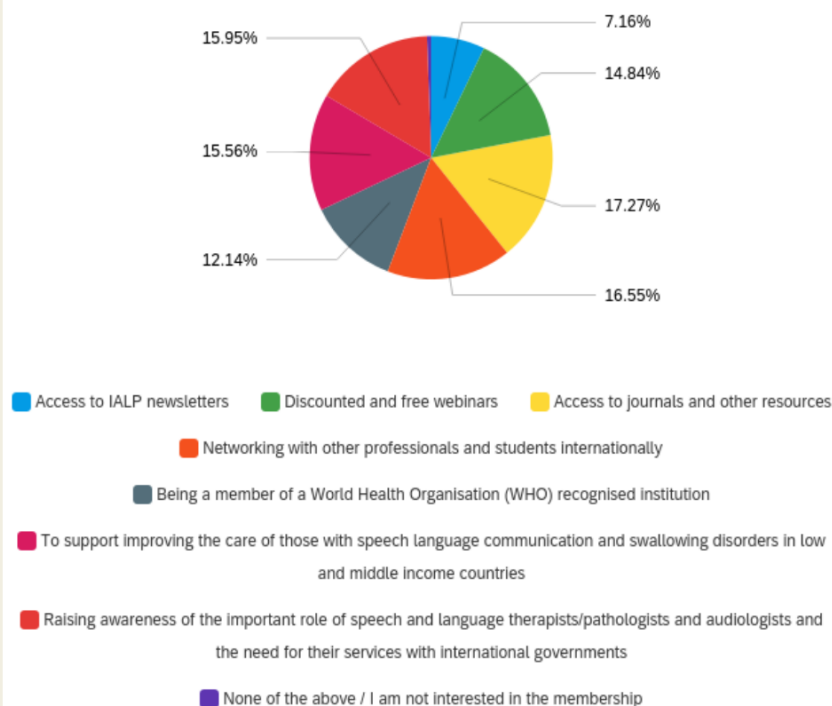
The Tavistock Aphasia Trust has collaborated with IALP to undertake a similar mentoring approach to that detailed in the previous paragraph. 10 mentees have been partnered with 10 experienced IALP member mentors. They will begin working together this month. My thanks go to IALP aphasia committee members led by Bronwyn Davidson and Abena Asiedua Owusu Antwi.

Our relationship with **Communication Therapy International** and the use of their resources has been of great benefit in developing these mentoring programs.

Student membership category

We had a magnificent 1200 responses from 14 countries to the survey sent to SLP students enquiring whether they would be interested in joining our Association and why they would want to do this. Few students had heard of the Association, but the majority would be interested in joining for the following reasons:

What would you find to be most beneficial from a membership (to IALP)?



I was delighted that so many felt that raising awareness and improving care were important reasons that would motivate them to join us.

We are developing some information materials to support the marketing of student membership.

Task Force- Improving Care for Marginalised and Underserved Populations with Communication Disorders

The book with contributions from members of each of our clinical committees (13), edited by Sandra Levey, focusing on how to improve care for unserved and underserved populations is in the editing stage and we hope that it will be published early in 2022

Improving our website

The subcommittee of the Board chaired by Wiebke Scharff-Rethfeldt surveyed our members to explore their views of our website and the features that need to be considered in the redesign. This has informed the development of a tendering/bidding document which is to be sent to web design providers.

World Health Organisation

IALP is recognised as a nonstate actor in official relations with WHO and the United Nations. Committee and Board members are actively contributing to the continuing WHO programmes of work related to development of a Competency Framework, Rehabilitation Interventions, Assistive Technologies and more recently the development of guidance related to hearing impairment and rehabilitation for Long Covid. Furthermore, some of our members have been asked to peer review resources related to different aspects of rehabilitation. I am pleased that we are being approached by WHO to assist them in their different programs work and to represent the needs of those with speech, language, voice, communication and swallowing difficulties.

International Organisations

We offer our congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the World Federation of Neurological Rehabilitation and look forward to continuing our productive relationship with this organisation.

We are now sharing more resources aligned to our agenda and, by working together, increase our impact. I would like to draw particular attention to the generous invitation by WFNR extended to our members to access their webinar series for early researchers for free.

Preparing for the Centenary

IALP was founded in 1924 before there were any professional societies concerned with speech, language, and communication. We will begin celebrating our centenary in 2023 up to and including the delayed Congress and are discussing many proposals regarding how we can mark this auspicious occasion in the history of our association

Triannual conference

Our important triannual conference is to be held in New Zealand in 2023. The conference committee, chaired by Vice President Philippa Friary, is addressing all the opportunities and challenges of organising an international hybrid conference. We are hoping that as many of us can be together physically in New Zealand to benefit from the full experience scientifically and socially!

Be sure to plan to be with us in New Zealand! It will be lovely to meet up with each other personally!

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



Best wishes to you all,

Pam Enderby OBE, President
International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Vision

IALP has a global vision to facilitate better understanding, knowledge and care of all those with communication and swallowing disorders.

Mission

The mission of IALP is to improve the quality of life of individuals with disorders of communication, speech, language, voice, hearing and swallowing.