Warm greetings to all!

Upon reading this edition of the ICA newsletter, it is so clear that the ICA is following its mission statement. It’s been quite a long time since the development of this initial document, so let’s refresh our memories about what we’ve set out to do and how we are progressing with accomplishing our goals.

**Key Objective #1:** To increase awareness of the communication disorder of cluttering worldwide among speech-language therapists/logopedists, healthcare professionals, people with cluttering, and the public.

This is ICA’s second time presenting about cluttering at the National Stuttering Association Conference, and its first at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association Schools Conference. Reaching the public and professionals worldwide was the first online conference solely dedicated to cluttering. Did you miss the conference? Read on for details, and how you can still access it.

**Key Objective #2:** To foster research partnerships between investigators, clinicians and consumers in the area of cluttering.

Great initiatives are being taken by the University Stuttering Research Center in Bulgaria. Exciting opportunities for research collaboration are currently being discussed among new and old members of the Academic and Research Committee. I encourage you to read more about the developments, and to join in the research collaboration.

**Key Objective #3:** To facilitate exchange of information between investigators, clinicians and consumers in the area of cluttering.

The online conference facilitated incredible information exchange. Since the last newsletter, ICA members presented information about stuttering research, assessment, and treatment to small and large audiences internationally. ICA brochures (in various languages) are making their way around the world.

**Key Objective #4:** To begin to contract moneys, sponsors, to serve purposes of the organization.

In June, all ICA members should have received an email from me asking for feedback about proposed changes to the ICA. The changes would be necessary for the ICA to continue to grow and to have the ability to accept sponsorships or donations. It would also allow for the ICA to become more organized in its policies and procedures. I thank you for those who have responded with feedback to these proposals. I will soon be compiling the results of that feedback, so that we may all discuss next steps as a group. Please remember that your feedback is welcomed and appreciated at any time. We can only know how you feel when you share those feelings with us.

As you read this newsletter, I think it will be quite apparent that ICA members worldwide are doing great work according to the ICA’s missions. THANK YOU to everyone for your contributions. The ICA is amazing because of its amazing people!

Warm regards,  Kathy
International Highlight: Bulgaria

The University Stuttering Research Center (USRC) in Bulgaria was established in 2000 within South West University in Blagoevgrad (www.swu.bg) by professor Dobrinka Georgieva, lecturer in Logopedics (Speech Language Pathology). Dr. Georgieva organized the first world conference on cluttering in 2007, held in Katarina, Bulgaria.

The main priorities of the USRC are:
1. To improve the efficacy and effectiveness of fluency therapy in the country
2. To develop new assessment procedures and contemporary instrumental diagnostics through Computerized Speech Laboratory (CSL) application
3. To develop professional contacts and collaboration with similar centers abroad
4. To offer high quality assessment and treatment for persons with fluency disorders.

Please check out the website: http://usrc.swu.bg

Thank you! Doby

Dobrinka Georgieva is an Associate Professor in Logopedics at South West University, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. Dr. Georgieva's teaching, research, and clinical interests are in the area of fluency and voice disorders, as well as history of Logopedics and General Logopedics. She is well-published and a frequent presenter on the topics of stuttering, cluttering, stuttering intervention and voice disorders. She is a member of IALP, IFA and the editor of the Bulgarian Journal of Communication Disorders.

Committee Reports

Website Committee

With the International Cluttering Association steadily growing a slight realignment of the committee structure occurred a few months ago. One of the affected committees was the website committee, which broadened its scope to also include other forms of communication than the website itself (e.g., the ICA Newsletter). The committee is now called “Website and Communications Committee”. Klaas Bakker continues to coordinate this group which has expanded with two new members: Charley Adams (Newsletter Editor) and Charlene Absalon. Judy Kuster and Mariam Hartinger continue to serve. On our slate are the addition of an interactive component to the website (e.g., blog or message board) and a revamping of the resources and links section.
It has been a busy time for the academic and research committee. Over the last few weeks we have welcomed new members Drs Paul Blanchet (SUNY Fredonia University), and Sue Block (LaTrobe University Australia). We are also delighted to have on board Drs Isabella Reichel, Klaas Bakker, and Charley Adams, all of whom will be familiar to readers for the fantastic work they already do for the ICA in their current roles as Chair of international representatives, webmaster supremo and newsletter editor extraordinaire, respectively. I am very pleased that Drs Yulia Filatova (Moscow) and Deb Rhein (New Mexico State University) will continue to serve on the committee.

We are aware that there is an ever increasing research presence in cluttering, but also that, at present we are also still a comparatively small research community. It seems there could be significant advantage in providing some means of putting those involved in research in touch with other interested parties: this could potentially help foster research links between different laboratories and individuals, and reduce the possibility of redundancy or reduplication in research efforts. More generally, it is useful to have some idea of what research initiatives are being conducted by colleagues around the world. We are therefore in the process of submitting a proposal to the ICA executive committee which, if successful, will offer a means for those conducting research to communicate with other interested parties around the world via the ICA website.

I am very fortunate to work with such a talented and committed group of people on the A&R committee. Over the next few months we will be working hard to progress a range of initiatives on an ongoing basis, but committee members will also welcome approaches from individuals with ideas that we might be able to help with. We are your committee, and we want to hear your views on the issues that matter to you.

David Ward
Chair, academic and research committee
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE ICA

ICA INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
A complete listing of representatives is available on the ICA website

Argentina: Beatriz Bian de Touzet
Australia: Susan Block
Bulgaria: Miglena Simonska
Belgium: John Van Borsel
Canada: Carla Di Domenicantonio
China: Steve An Xue
Denmark: Gudrun Østergaard
Faroe Is.: Olavur Hojgaard
France: Véronique Aumont Boucand
Germany: Ulrike Sick
Iceland: Johanna Einarsdottir
India: Maya Sanghi
Indonesia: Muhammad Ishom
Ireland: Margaret Leahy
Israel: Ruth Ezrati-Vinacour
Japan: Shoko Miyamoto
Jordan: Maisa Haj-Tas
Lithuania: Vilma Makauskiene
Netherlands: Manon Abbink-Spruit
Nigeria: Grace A.A.Ademola-Sokola
Norway: Helene Kvenseth
Poland: Zbigniew Tarkowski
Russia: Yulia Filatova
Sudan: Sami Awad Yasin
Sweden: Cecilia Lundstrom
Thailand: Sumalee Dechongkit
United Kingdom: David Ward
USA: Isabella Reichel
The first online conference, "It's About Time To Recognize Cluttering" was coordinated by Judith Kuster, (emeritus professor from Minnesota State University, Mankato). The conference was designed for people who clutter, their families, friends, teachers, and employers, the professionals who work with them, researchers, students in training and their instructors. The presentations reflected professional and consumer interests about cluttering and were presented by individuals representing eight different countries: Bulgaria, Canada, England, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, and the United States.

The conference was live from April 14-May 5 with threaded discussions attached to each presentation for interaction between the presenters and participants. The conference papers and discussions are still available for anyone to read at

http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/ica1/icacon1.html

The tracker attached to the conference indicates the following:

Through August 4 there have been 5800 unique visitors to the opening page of the conference (not a bad attendance for a conference on cluttering;-) and 14,391 visits including "reloads" - people that came to the front page more than once.

People came to the conference from 68 different countries around the world (if you count Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England as separate countries and not just the UK). The last 20 visitors to the site were from Scotland, England, Netherlands, Malaysia, Australia, Lithuania, Korea, and several states in the US. There were 7 people who took the conference for 1.5 (15 hours) CEUs, 4 that took it for one undergraduate credit and 3 that took it for one graduate credit. People are still welcome to take the conference for CEUs or credit by contacting Carol Myhre (carol.myhre@mnsu.edu).
In early July, 2010, three ICA members delivered a presentation on cluttering at the 27th Annual Conference of the National Stuttering Association. The title of their presentation was **What is Cluttering? A Look at the OTHER Fluency Disorder.** Despite several other popular sessions being offered at the same time, a good crowd attended; mostly speech-language pathologists, people who stutter, a few researchers and even a few other ICA members (see photo on facing page). Charley spoke first, and discussed the assessment of cluttering, and similarities and differences between cluttering and stuttering. Nina next tackled the ominous topic of treatment for cluttering. Finally, Isabell spoke to the audience about the incidence and prevalence of cluttering, and about the establishment and growth of the International Cluttering Association. We could have used a lot more time, as was apparent by the number of folks who stayed afterward to ask questions and discuss cluttering. Hopefully, the ICA will have an ongoing presence at future NSA conferences!
Several ICA members were in attendance at the National Stuttering Association Conference in Cleveland, Ohio in July 2010. Pictured from left are Ken St. Louis (West Virginia), Charley Adams (South Carolina), Isabella Reichel (New York), Nina Reardon-Reeves (Texas), Judy Kuster (Minnesota), and Robin Lickley (Scotland).

This past May, I gave my first two-hour CEU workshop on cluttering. It was at Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center, in Buffalo, NY. About 50 or so SLPs attended, and were VERY interested to learn more about cluttering. Although none of them indicated that they had a person who clutters on their caseload, a few came up afterwards and mentioned that some of their clients actually might clutter (after hearing the workshop). It was the first cluttering workshop in western NY in recent years, and I hope to do more in the area (maybe expanding it to a half-day or even a full-day workshop).

Paul G. Blanchet, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Assistant Professor, Dept of Communication Disorders & Sciences
SUNY Fredonia

Cluttering Workshop Held in Upstate New York

Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center, Buffalo, New York
This is the summary of a poster presented by Judit Bona, PhD, at the 13th Meeting of the International Clinical Phonetics and Linguistics Association in Oslo, Norway, June 23–26, 2010. The title is:

**Speech Planning and Speech Production in Cluttering Across Different Speaking Styles**

It is well known that speech tempo and speaking fluency of people who clutter vary depending on the different speaking styles, but relatively less acoustic-phonetic data are available on the issue. People who clutter speak more fluently under stress or when they are forced to pay much attention to their own speech.

In my study I investigated the cluttered speech of three Hungarian-speaking people who clutter (ages of 20 and 22 years; two males and one female) in four speaking styles (spontaneous speech, story-telling, forced speech tempo slowing down and giving a talk).

The aim of the study was to show the effects of the different speaking styles on the acoustic-phonetic patterns of cluttered speech. The duration and number of silent pauses and hesitations were measured in order to define both the speech and articulation tempos.

The disfluencies, the self-monitoring and the phonological variability of the words were also analyzed in the four speaking styles. The results supported the hypothesis that speaking style affects the temporal and phonological characteristics of cluttering.

I found both phonological and temporal differences across speaking styles. It was in my subjects' spontaneous speech that I found the most numerous symptoms of cluttering; the most fluent production was found in the rhetorical tasks.

Judit Bona PhD
ELTE University
Budapest, Hungary
On Friday, July 16, Nina Reardon-Reeves delivered her presentation entitled Cluttering: What We Now Know at the Schools conference of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Las Vegas, Nevada. This session was one of the most popular at the entire conference (around 350 in attendance!), and very well received. She distributed brochures for the ICA, too —

Great job, Nina!

Please let us know the good works you and others are doing in your country—email reports to: Charley Adams, ICA Newsletter Editor at charley@sc.edu