Welcome

By Charley Adams

Dear ICA friends around the world,

Please, please mark July 2018 on your calendars! I just finished another video conference call of the planning committee for the 2018 World Congress, and I am extremely excited about this event. I urge you to begin planning now to attend this awesome convergence of people who stutter, people who clutter, researchers, teachers, therapists, family members and friends. In the months ahead, details will be rolling out, so please stay tuned to the ICA Facebook page for the latest updates.

I am also very excited about the role that the ICA will play in the development of FluencyBank, spearheaded by Nan Bernstein Ratner. There are very few good examples out there of cluttering, and now we are part of the development of a central database for samples of stuttering and cluttering. Please see the article on page 9 in this issue for more details.

Also in this issue (page 2), you will find a summary of our most recent meeting, held in November 2016, during the convention of the American Speech Language & Hearing Association, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (USA). This was actually the first time we were able to assemble the entire executive board of the ICA.

Finally, I hope that everyone had a pleasant holiday with friends and family, and I hope that 2017 is off to a great start for you.

Sincerely,

Charley Adams, Chair

January, 2017

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1. A joint world conference (ICA, ISA and IFA) will take place in Hiroshima, Japan, July 2018. Charley Adams, ICA chair, and Susanne Cook, ICA Chair-elect are serving on the planning committee. Charley and Susanne will assure that the topic of cluttering is well represented and that at least one keynote speaker will address the topic of cluttering. Details to follow – mark your calendars!

2. The Committee for International Representatives has grown much recently. Issues were discussed regarding (1) the need to verify regularly if all representatives are still available, and (2) to see if countries with multiple representatives can be posted more efficiently by considering only one of the representatives as the primary contact person. Isabella Reichel, Chair of the Committee, explained that she has shared a course syllabus for those members who may be teaching courses primarily devoted to cluttering.

3. The tax status of the ICA was discussed. The ICA, at least in the United States, is considered an LLC. Pros and Cons were discussed regarding a possible move to a 501c3 status (in the USA) and initiating a membership fee in the near future.

4. ICA Website and related issues. Results of a survey regarding cluttering were discussed (and were presented at a poster session during the ASHA convention). Survey indicates that there is a great need and desire for more information regarding cluttering. Opportunities for this would be new research on cluttering, communication and sharing of information regarding cluttering through the ICA website, and participation in the FLUENCYBANK by providing recordings of cluttered speech. Finally, a committee was formed (Florence Myers, Klaas Bakker, Susanne Cook, and Isabella Reichel) to continue working on a definition of cluttering such as promoted by the ICA.

5. The ICA was blessed with two new Newsletters during last year and a new newsletter in preparation to be shared with the membership sometime in early January. The newsletters have received overwhelmingly positive responses. This time chairs of all ICA committees were requested to provide input for the coming newsletter. As usual, the new newsletter will be shared directly with all ICA members (by email) and will be available also as a download from the ICA website.

6. Social Media. The group was reminded about the ICA Facebook site which is regularly updated. A possible presence on Twitter is being considered and researched.

7. Elections. As some elected officers are now in the second year of their term, an anticipated need for elections was discussed. A discrepancy in the interpretation of terms surfaced (Bylaws describe one-year terms; common understanding has been three-year terms). The terms issue will need to be resolved and elections planned as needed. The majority present indicated that one-year terms would be too short to be useful.
Dear International Representatives of the ICA,

I want to thank you for your amazing dedication and wonderful contributions in 2016. It is hard to believe that in a few short months, in May, 2017 we will celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the ICA. You all set an example of how giving, sharing, educating and learning together bring peace, light, and inspiration to people with cluttering and their families. Your collaborative and meaningful interactions in fulfilling a great cause have already made the world a better place. Imagine what we can do in the decades to come! Have a fantastic Holiday Season and a Happy New Year, full of joy and good cheer!

Argentina

Beatriz Biain sent us a picture of the Stuttering and Cluttering Seminar in 2016 which was sponsored by the Argentina Stuttering Association.

Canada

Carla Di Domenicantonio recently discussed one of her clients, with confusing symptoms, with Isabella Reichel, using Skype. Carla wrote that she was able to get ideas for further exploration which she is currently pursuing. Carla believes that when a diagnosis is not so straightforward this type of consultation with other ICA colleagues can be beneficial, and can be something to encourage and participate in more often.

Cyprus

Maria Paphiti created a Foundation for People Who Stutter and Friends in order to educate the public about both stuttering and cluttering. The Foundation has a logo. Interviews were given in newspapers, radio and TV stations. Maria started working on a PhD, focusing on fluency disorders, in Turku, Finland, last September. In spite of her busy schedule, working and studying, she indicated she will make time to help our ICA Committee of International Representatives as much as she can. On behalf of all of us, we would like to express our deep appreciation to Maria for her strong commitment to our cause.

Malta

Joseph Agius informed us that the 1st Malta National Seminar on Stuttering 2016, Hello I Stutter: Hello I Clutter, took place on the 22nd of October 2016. The Stuttering Association of Malta (SAM) organized a seminar on the occasion of the International Stuttering Awareness Day. During the seminar, seven committee members shared personal experiences. People who stutter and clutter delivered very interesting and emotional testimonials. The seminar was also addressed by Dr. Joseph Agius, European fluency specialist on the committee, and a mother of a person who clutters. The audience was very interested and interactive. The 14th Logopedics Conference, at Brno, Czech Republic, convened on the occasion of the International Stuttering Awareness Day on the 24th of October, 2016. Dr. Joseph Agius presented the keynote address, entitled Clinical Application of Creativity in Fluency Intervention. Dr. Agius discussed how to use creativity and humor in order for children and adults who stutter and clutter to experience the joy of communication.

Nigeria

Grace Ademola wrote that history is being made at the Speech Therapy Department, National Orthopedic Hospital, Igbobi, Lagos as they commence the first stuttering /cluttering support group in Nigeria. The goal of the group is to strengthen the dissemination of knowledge and encourage those who are reluctant to have therapy. Grace noted that the awareness of stuttering and cluttering in Nigeria is spreading fast compared to about four years ago. More parents are seeking therapy for their children and adults too.
Norway

Hilda Sonterud presented a workshop on cluttering in Denmark this fall. More than 60 SLPs attended. In addition, Hilda reported that Martin Wright and Jon-Oivind Finbråten, the leader and co-leader, respectively, of the Norwegian Stuttering and Cluttering Association, have been travelling this autumn, to several Norwegian universities and conducting lectures for new teachers about stuttering and cluttering in schools, focusing on assessment, evaluation and grading. This has been part of a bigger collaborative project encompassing consumers and SLPs, and includes a new 16-page brochure which will be sent to all 400 Norwegian high schools in the first round. With further funding, Martin and Jon-Oivind hope to send the brochure to the remaining 2,000 schools. The international representatives of the ICA in Norway find these initiatives to be very important, and are happy to share this information with others.

Poland

After the second edition of the International Conference on Logopedics Fluency Disorders: Theory and Practice (August 2016, University of Silesia) three documentary movies were prepared. In the movie entitled In the World of Fluency Disorders, Experts Have a Voice not only stuttering but also cluttering were discussed. This phenomenon was presented from different perspectives – by research/clinical experts – professors Florence Myers and Isabella Reichel and by the expert-consumer Rutger Wilhelm. All movies in Polish and English versions are available at the conference website (they can be found in the "Media & Materials" tab): www.konferencja-zpm.edu.pl

Puerto Rico

We welcome a new representative, Edna J. Carlo, to represent Puerto Rico. Dear Edna, we all are looking forward to working together on behalf of people with cluttering in your country!

Sri Lanka


Works in progress:

Argentina

Beatriz Biain is working on a book on stuttering and cluttering, in Spanish

Scotland

Robin Likely is finalizing his research on cluttering that he has been working on for more than two years.

International representatives interested in collaborating with other members of the ICA Committee

Canada

Carla Di Domenicantonio is interested in sharing ideas regarding the differential diagnosis of cluttering. She believes that identification is especially challenging when a client does not present all of the symptoms in a definitive or consistent way. Clinicians run the risk of over or under identifying cluttering. It would be interesting to put together case studies with case histories and speech transcripts for clinicians to refer to examples of behaviors which would qualify as cluttering, or not – maybe even videos.
India

Maya Sanghi is interested in working on early detection of individuals with cluttering - age range 6 to 9 years. She would like to develop a checklist specifically for this age group. She believes that early intervention may prevent the host of problems these children experience in their formative years.

Indonesia

Muhammad Ishom, is a person with cluttering who was the first person to translate materials on cluttering into Indonesian on the ICA web site. Ishom is interested in continuing to translate new information on cluttering into his language.

Japan

Shoko Miyamoto would like to join our ICA seminar, to collaborate on research projects. She knows some colleagues in Japan who can collaborate in research projects with other ICA representatives.

Tanzania

John Bosco Kambanga is now heading the SLT unit under the Otolaryngology Department at the Muhimbili National Hospital. John is interested in describing the work that he does. Hopefully, the above mentioned representatives will participate in the ICA Seminar of the Committee of International Representatives for the forthcoming IFA Congress in Japan. Of course we also count on the participation of other members of our Committee who continually express their support of our research and other projects. Please contact Isabella Reichel, if you are interested.

SLP students' work on cluttering

Canada

Francis Patrick Duldulao is attending a Master's program in speech pathology. Cluttering evaluation will be the final project for his diagnostics class this semester. He will be distributing brochures to promote the ICA to his cohort.

Scotland

Robin Lickley has two Master's students working on related studies, looking at the effect on listener comprehension of rapid speech, disfluent speech, and rapid + disfluent speech.

Sweden

Cecilia Lundström reported that two of her students are doing their Master's theses on cluttering. They are in the process of translating the SPA.
A while ago I was at a conference for my work. After having followed a very interesting workshop, I met a young lady and started a conversation with her about the latest developments in our field. We were both in Communications.

It struck me immediately that Mandy, so appeared to be her name, spoke very fast, too. Even for me, it was quite difficult to follow her. Some words came out so rapidly and unarticulated that I really needed to ask her to repeat what she just said. For example, the term Google analytics proved to be heavily over-coarticulated. Instead, she said something like googlytics.

She apologized for that. I told her I had the same issue, at times. This way, we came to talk about cluttering. To my amazement, Mandy had been diagnosed with cluttering, too. It was the first time in my life that I met another person who cluttered... just ‘in the wild’.

Mandy told me her cluttering was quite a burden for her, both in private life and at work. It could especially become problematic for her when she is on the phone with customers. For herself, it didn’t come as a surprise that her cluttering has been pointed out as the most important area for improvement during every performance review. Therefore, one of her immediate colleagues every now and then tries to help her out by practicing the finger tapping-technique together. “We then really sit next to each other, both tapping along with each syllable carefully, while speaking out loud. That goes like: ‘goo - gle - a - na - ly -tics’, for example. It really helps me to slow down. I’m glad to have such colleagues.”

By hearing her story, I got a lot of respect for the way she dealt with her cluttering. It made me think how I myself, too, could involve other people to improve the fluency and intelligibility of my speech. Immediately after I got back home, I asked my girlfriend if she, from that moment on, could let me know when I was going too fast. Now, when we’re at a birthday party, for example, she sometimes gives me clues - that are unnoticed by others - so that I know better when I need to reduce my pace. That really works for me. I would recommend every person who clutters to do so.

Updates from ICA Committees

The Chair of the Clinical Issues Committee – Yvonne van Zaal is about to finish a qualitative study on cognitive, social and emotional aspects of cluttering in adults. Secondly she is working with Swedish students on the Swedish version of the Screening Phonological Accuracy test that will be part of the Swedish Fluency Assessment Battery. The English version was published in Van Zaal and Reichel’s book entitled: Cluttering. Current Views on Its Nature, Diagnosis, and Treatment (2015). In October Dr. Van Zaal gave two short courses on cluttering - one in New York and one in Charlottesville - as part of the research award trip that she got in 2016. What is more, the article she co-authored on prevalence of cluttering was accepted and will be published very soon.
NEW COMMITTEE WAS CREATED
By Florence Myers

Charley Adams, Coordinator of the International Cluttering Association, asked Florence Myers during the meeting at ASHA to chair a subcommittee toward a definition of cluttering. Other members of the committee include: Klaas Bakker (co-chair), Susanne Cook, Isabella Reichel, Kenneth O. St. Louis and Yvonne Van Zaalen. ICA members are invited to email Dr. Myers (fmyers@adelphi.edu) by February 1st if they have input for committee consideration.

CLUTTERING IS NO MORE AN ORPHAN. NEWS FROM NORWAY
By Hilda Sønsterud, SLP in Statped, department of speech and language disorders

The Norwegian Stuttering Association celebrated its 40th anniversary in October 2016. For several years now, the association has embraced both people with stuttering and people with cluttering. Inspired by the first Cluttering Conference in Bulgaria in 2007, there has been a genuine interest in making cluttering clearly visible in Norway, including within the Norwegian Stuttering Association. For this reason, the association formally included cluttering in their bylaws in March 2008. This amendment had a positive outcome as membership of the association, including among those who clutter, has increased since that time.

Nevertheless, knowledge of cluttering still remains limited among the general population, and several initiatives have been introduced to address this in Norway. One important contribution was fulfilled during the 40th anniversary in Trondheim. An extraordinary general meeting was held, and one (and only) item on the agenda was related very specifically to the organization/association name, to include cluttering in the formal name. The motion was carried out by the board-members Martin Aasen Wright, Jon-Olívind Finbráten, Tommy Olsen, Erik Chrisander Gustavsen and Monica Jüliebø. The majority of the assembly voted 'yes' to the proposal, but not without a rather intense discussion. A decision was subsequently made, and from October 2016 cluttering and stuttering are equally established in the name and the news, and have several times been mentioned in the Norwegian Broadcasting Channels. For example in a segment on Ekko featured board leader Martin Wright and SLP Hilda Sønsterud and their efforts to include both cluttering and stuttering in discussions regarding fluency disorders. Ekko is one of Norway's most popular radio-shows, and has a high number of listeners. By including cluttering in the formal name, the word 'cluttering' is now mentioned more often and is included nearly as often as 'stuttering'. Thus, the general population as well as journalists will receive greater exposure to cluttering.

By including cluttering in the name of the association (Norwegian Stuttering and Cluttering Association), we believe that cluttering will be even more visible in Norway. The Norwegian population is only about 5 millions, so to build a national association exclusive to cluttering was not realistic.

The Norwegian Stuttering and Cluttering Association has become a larger and stronger organization. The SLPs and the association is collaborating very well, and the message about stuttering and cluttering has its spreading. The association will then gain access to more people, more grants, and thus more influence. We believe that cluttering has become redefined as beloved “cluttering sister” to the “brother stuttering,” and is not an “orphan” any more – at least not in Norway.
Five posters on cluttering were presented at the annual ASHA convention in Philadelphia PA in November 2016. Two of the posters concentrated on the listener perception of cluttering, one on public attitudes towards cluttering, one study measured oral and silent reading fluency, and one poster measured the perceived knowledge of speech-language pathologists about cluttering.

The poster entitled "Listener Perception of a moment of disfluency: Implications for Cluttering" by Scaler Scott, Kisenwether, Bossler, Croasdale, Irr, Veneziale, Sutkowski, Tokach, Cimino, and Rosenthal compared the tension ratings of speech-language pathologists and speech-language pathology students in a moment of disfluency presented either via audio only, video only, or video plus audio. Results indicated significantly higher tension ratings in the audio only group.

The study "The Effects of Video Exposure on Undergraduate Students' Perceptions of a Person who Clutters" by Farrell, Blanchet, and Tillery evaluated the perception of undergraduate students about cluttering. Students were either given a definition of cluttering, or a definition of cluttering and a video clip. Viewing of the video clip did not influence ratings towards a more positive perception, but also did not influence ratings to be significantly more negative.

The poster "Attitudes towards Cluttering Among Polish & English SLT students" by Wesierska and St. Louis compared the attitudes of English and Polish speech-language therapy students towards cluttering measured with the Public Opinion Survey of Human Attributes–Cluttering (POSHA–Cl). Results indicated that attitudes towards cluttering were more positive among English students.

The purpose of the study "Measures of Oral & Silent Reading Fluency in Fluency Disorders: A Case Study" by Scaler Scott, Bossler, Croasdale, Irr, Veneyiale, Sutkowski, Cimino, and Rosenthal was to compare the oral reading fluency scores obtained on standardized testing before and after accounting for moments of stuttering and cluttering. Results indicate a lack of reliability in test findings due to moments of disfluency. It was considered to use silent reading as a measure for reading fluency for students with a fluency disorder, but further testing is necessary to determine whether this would provide detailed enough information about reading miscues.
The study "Cluttering: Training, Knowledge & Confidence of Speech-Language Pathologists" was conducted by Cook and Adams for the International Cluttering Association. The study was designed to get a better understanding of SLP’s general knowledge about, and confidence working with cluttering. The survey was anonymously administered to SLPs across a variety of settings, and probed for general information about cluttering, including evaluation and treatment. Results indicated that more education and training on cluttering is needed. The majority of SLPs was not satisfied with the knowledge about cluttering learned during their education. SLPs would be interested in attending CEU events or in reading journal articles about cluttering. Other options to educate about cluttering include increasing the awareness about tools already available, such as resources on the Website of the International Cluttering Association (ICA). Additionally, the ICA is working with Fluency Bank to help develop a database of cluttering videos accessible to therapists and researchers. The ICA collaborates with the IFA and ISA on the 2018 World Congress on Fluency Disorders to be held in Hiroshima, Japan and will insure that Cluttering is well-represented.

In Summer 2016, the American National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation provided funding to Brian MacWhinney (Carnegie Mellon University) and Nan Bernstein Ratner (University of Maryland) to establish and curate a project within TalkBank (www.talkbank.org) that specifically focuses on fluency development and fluency disorders across the world’s language communities. The initiative is called FluencyBank (http://fluency.talkbank.org/).

One of the first initiatives that is already running up at the FluencyBank is a teaching resource called Voices of People who Stutter, in which adult volunteers have provided interview and assessment samples to be used by University instructors to provide learning experiences for clinicians-in-training. The Voices Project is also committed to gathering and curating samples from individuals who clutter as part of this project. If you are a member of a local group that would like to coordinate donation of samples for use on this site, we welcome you to email us using Nan’s email address (nratner@umd.edu). Non-English-speaking groups are also encouraged to contact us; TalkBank is an international organization and many of its data are in languages other than English. We can provide you with our current protocol and consent forms and instructions for working with us to create learning materials for the FluencyBank that can improve clinical preparation to work with people who clutter.

In addition, we are soliciting guidance on appropriate protocols to use in gathering samples for this project from PWC. If you are interested in serving as part of an advisory group for FluencyBank, please let us know.

Finally, if you are a researcher who has existing research data in the area of cluttering or is currently conducting research on cluttering, we encourage you to contact us regarding possible donation of old materials to the site, or suggested adjustments to consent materials to facilitate potential future donation of participant samples to FluencyBank.

We are excited to collaborate with the ICA, as we are especially interested in building a database of cluttering samples for clinicians and researchers.

Please address inquiries either to Brian MacWhinney (macw@cmu.edu) or Nan Ratner (nratner@umd.edu).
The ECSF consortium (www.ecsf.eu) has been running one-year post qualification fluency specialization courses for SLTs since 2008. Currently, more than 150 SLTs from 25 EU and non-EU countries have graduated from the program.

This European group has now developed an additional stepwise procedure to become a European Fluency Specialist. The EFS mission is 'to promote the highest standards of care, education, and research in the area of fluency disorders among SLTs in order to improve the quality of life for individuals who stutter and clutter.'

This registration is open to ECSF graduates as well as eligible clinicians and academics with special interest in fluency disorders. The process involves documentation re. clinical and/or academic activities, continued professional development activities, and informal discussion groups. Once approved, the certification process is complete and the person can use the title of European Fluency Specialist. To maintain certification, candidates must provide proof of accomplishments of the required activities annually; every three years the EFS Board will review the documented required activities for candidates to maintain certification.

The advantages of certification are: a) membership of the group of the most highly qualified fluency specialists in Europe; b) international recognition as a specialist, which can be used to inform national professional bodies and user organizations; and c) opportunities to acquire and maintain the highest standard of education and support through access to activities, such as webinars, online intervision activities and discussion groups.

More information is available on: www.europeanfluencyspecialists.eu
INVITATION FOR THE 11TH OXFORD DYSFLUENCY CONFERENCE (ODC)

By Sharon Millard

The 11th Oxford Dysfluency Conference (ODC) is to be held at St Catherine's College Oxford from 20-23 September, 2017. ODC has a reputation as one of the leading international scientific conferences in the field of dysfluency. The conference brings together researchers and clinicians, providing a showcase and forum for discussion and collegial debate about the most current and innovative research and clinical practices. Throughout the history of ODC, the primary aim has been to bridge the gap between research and clinical practice. In addition to its scientific merits, the conference is renowned for its friendly atmosphere and good food!

In 2017, the goal is to encourage discussion and debate that will challenge and enhance our perspectives and understanding of research; the nature of stuttering and / or cluttering; and management across the ages. We would like to encourage submissions on the topic of cluttering, in order to advance knowledge and encourage research into this disorder of fluency.

- Abstracts are now invited on the following topics:
  - New perspectives on assessment and therapy in children
  - New perspectives on assessment and therapy in adolescents
  - New perspectives on assessment and therapy in adults
  - Issues, variables, and controversies in assessment and outcome
  - Supporting the next generation of clinicians and researchers
  - Evidence in practice
  - Neurological foundations

Abstract Submission Deadline: 31 March 2017
They should be submitted using the online abstract submission system.
More information could be found here: [http://www.dysfluencyconference.com/](http://www.dysfluencyconference.com/)

NEW PUBLICATION ON CLUTTERING

DVD: Cluttering: another look

This 76-minute video was produced by the Stuttering Foundation with appearance of Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D., Kathleen Scaler Scott, Ph.D., of Misericordia University helps to clarify prior myths and explain recent research findings about cluttering. She presents the current lowest common denominator definition of cluttering and demonstrates how to apply this definition to assessment, differential diagnosis, and treatment… (from the cover).

Please let us know the good works you and others are doing in your country – emails reports to: Katarzyna Węsińska, the ICA Secretary and newsletter Editor at: katarzyna.wesierska@us.edu.pl