Dear friends,

What a year! I could not be more excited about the increasing awareness of cluttering in general, and about the elevated visibility of the ICA in particular. 2018 was our most prolific year yet, and I expect this trajectory to continue. At the world congress in Hiroshima, it was so exciting to see cluttering well-represented, and on an equal platform with stuttering. We had a phenomenal ICA meeting, with a terrific turnout. Florence Myers led a fabulous keynote on cluttering, highlighting the work of the ICA committee she led which brought us the Three Pronged Approach to the Conceptualization of Cluttering (TPA-CC). But I would have to say that MY favorite highlight was being on stage with Kathy Scaler Scott when she received the Deso Weiss Award, presented by the Stuttering Foundation, for her ongoing career work in the field of cluttering research and treatment!

The success of the joint world congress resulted in a unanimous decision to do it again. I am pleased to announce that the 2021 Joint World Congress on Fluency Disorders will be held in Montreal, Canada! Can 2019 top 2018 for the ICA? I’m not sure, but I wouldn’t bet against it.

Regards,

Charley Adams, Chair
Professor Claudia Furquim de Andrade and her colleagues Dr. Sassi and Dr. Juste are working on a research project on the assessment of speech rate. This project will be presented at the Brazilian NIH. Dr. de Andrade described this project as follows: “Our idea is to develop an app to analyze all parameters in speech rate, not only counting words and syllables per minute but rather having a full view of all the variables that may have an influence when determining the rate of speech. We will gather all this information to build an app. We would like to have international partners working with us.” Dr. de Andrade continued that the partners will be asked to describe how they analyze the speech rate. Do they count words and syllables in a specific speech sample? Do they use a special software? If so, what does this software take into account? Do they have an acoustic program to eliminate abnormal pauses? Anyone who is interested in becoming a partner in this project is asked to please contact Dr. Claudia de Andrade at claud@usp.br with a brief resumé.

During the third International Conference on Logopedics, Fluency Disorders: Theory and Practice, University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland (August 31 - September 1, 2018) the topic of cluttering was given prominent attention. Manon Spruit from the Netherlands/Germany delivered a lecture entitled, Is this really cluttering? Differentiation between cluttering, stuttering and other disorders. A poster focusing on a case study of a young adult who clutters and stutters was presented by Danuta Kusz-Marondel and Katarzyna Ploch.

Jaqueline Carmona and Rita Santos wrote a chapter in a book about neurodevelopmental disorders for teachers and parents. The chapter includes material on language disorders, stuttering and cluttering (see page 11). The Conference on Fluency Disorders: Stuttering and Cluttering (Jornadas sobre Gaguez & Taquifémia) took place at the University of Porto on June 23, 2018.
Seminar: International Cluttering Association Forum: Outcomes of 10 years of successful collaboration

When the International Cluttering Association (ICA) was founded in 2007, the disorder of cluttering was familiar to only some SLPs in developed countries and only a few SLPs had a good grasp of this disorder. In the 10 years since the ICA was created, the association keeps growing in membership, in the breadth of its initiatives, and in the variety of scientific discoveries made by its members in the area of cluttering. A microcosm of international collaboration of the ICA is represented by its Committee of the International Representatives. Each collaborative initiative among members of the committee, such as international surveys, collaborative presentations at international conferences and co-authoring articles illustrates the commitment which brings together like-minded colleagues in their quest for understanding of the intriguing disorder of cluttering. Upon the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the ICA’s creation, a group of the committee members presented a seminar entitled “International Cluttering Association Forum: Outcomes of 10 years of successful collaboration,” at the Inaugural Joint World Congress of the International Cluttering Association (ICA), International Fluency Association (IFA) & International Stuttering Association (ISA), in Hiroshima, Japan. Twenty prominent experts and experienced clinicians from 18 countries spanning Africa, Asia, Europe (East and West), the Middle East, North America, and South America explored different themes related to cluttering, such as research, clinical issues, education, public awareness, and self-help groups. This seminar opened with a paper summarizing the history of the main events that took place during the initial decade of the ICA’s existence, reflecting the mutual interests of members of the organization in sharing research, dissemination of knowledge, clinical experiences and innovative ideas. The seminar has continued to spur exchanges within the international community on what has been accomplished, what remains to be pursued, and what the new trends should be in the collaborative journey of very passionate and dedicated professionals.

Some representatives were present in person, and some, who could not attend in person, contributed papers that were read aloud by colleagues at the Congress. The widespread interest in international communication motivates our committee members to share their findings, experiences and ideas which will carry forward in an inspiring trajectory for future more refined international research, better evidence-based practices and better quality services for people with cluttering in countries around the world.

I want to express my deep gratitude to all the amazing co-presenters (who are now working on the article to be submitted in ASHA Perspectives).

The list of the seminar’s presenters, with their affiliations, appears below in alphabetical order:

- Isabella Reichel, Touro College, New York, USA
- Grace Ademola-Sakoya, National Orthopaedic Hospital, Lagos, Nigeria
- Véronique Aumont Boucand, University of Paris, France
- Judit Bona, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary
- Jaqueline Carmona, Escola Superior de Saúde do Alcoitão, Portugal
- Marjan Cosyns, Scientific Institute of Public Health, Belgium
- Yulia Filatova, Moscow Pedagogical State University, Moscow, Russia
- Maisa Haj-Tas, University of Jordan, Jordan
- Pallavi Kelkra, Ruby Hall Clinic, India
- Shoko Mayomoto, University of Tsukuba, Japan
- Sertan Ozdemir, Istanbul Medipol University, Turkey
- Reina Remman Rmeih, Private clinic, Lebanon
- Maya Sanghi, Private Practice, India
- Alexandra Schnell, Aachen University Bochum, Germany
- Yayoi Shimizu, Miyuki Elementary School, Japan
- Hilda Sonsterud, University of Oslo, Norway
- Beatriz Touzet, Buenos Aires University, Argentina
- David Ward, The University of Reading, UK
- Shu-Lan Yang, National Pingtung University, Taiwan
- Yvonne van Zaalen, Fontys University, Netherlands
The annual ASHA convention took place in Boston, MA from November 14 to 17, 2018. Cluttering was represented in several poster sessions.

Perceptions of cluttering among communication sciences and disorders and non-communication sciences and disorders students


The aim of this study was to compare perceptions of cluttering among undergraduate Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) majors with perceptions among non-majors. A total of 79 undergraduate students served as participants; 37 students were CSD majors enrolled in an introductory-level course. The other 42 students were recruited from nutrition courses in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS). All students were provided with a written definition of cluttering and also viewed a short segment of an educational video. Students then rated a person who clutters on a variety of speech skills and personality scales.

Results revealed that the CSD students rated a person who clutters as exhibiting a significantly more inappropriate speech rate than did the FCS majors. However, results revealed no significant group differences in ratings of any personality traits. Findings do not support the presence of relatively positive perceptions of cluttering among CSD, at least not prior to coursework or clinical training. However, further research is needed to assess attitudes of these students before and after coursework and/or clinical training in fluency disorders.
Discourse Analysis in Adults with Cluttering: Implications for Language vs Executive Functioning

The discourse during monologues in six adults with cluttering and six controls was analyzed via discourse analysis. Results revealed more discourse building features and fewer discourse impairments in the transcripts of controls vs. those who clutter. Research implications will be discussed. This poster won meritorious poster.

In attached picture left to right: Jenna Reed, Lisa Giuffre, Katrina Giacumbo, Kathleen Scaler Scott, Bailey Hartung, Taylor Header

Cluttering or Stuttering? An In-Depth Examination of Moments of Tension during Disfluency

This study utilized autonomic nervous system analysis to explore the physiological symptoms accompanying disfluencies with audible tension in an adult who clutters, an adult who stutters, and an adult control. Results of physiologic symptoms were compared to participant perception of disfluencies and analysis of transcripts leading up to disfluent moments.

In attached picture from left to right: Jenna Reed, Lisa Giuffre, Kathleen Scaler Scott, Katrina Giacumbo, Bailey Hartung, Taylor Header
Quantifying Rapid Rate of Speech in Individuals Who Clutter

The purpose of this study was to examine the use of standard deviation (SD) as an alternative measurement of syllabic and articulatory rate of speech. It is hypothesized that SD will help to quantify rapid/irregular rate of speech and overall rate variability in individuals who clutter. Clinical implications in regards to cluttering diagnostics will be discussed.

Perceptions and attitudes toward individuals who clutter

Sixty adults rated the speech of a speaker with a cluttering disorder and a speaker with no known speech and/or language disorders, based on 2 pre-recorded speech samples. Participants completed a questionnaire, rating their perceptions of the speakers’ social, cognitive, professional, and communication skills. The listeners’ perceptions and attitudes towards the speech of both speakers were compared and discussed.

Cluttering Decluttered

Recent surveys with SLPs revealed the need for more information regarding the diagnosis and therapy of cluttering. In response, an Ad-hoc committee formed by the International Cluttering Association developed the conceptualization of cluttering. The evaluation of cluttering, including the differential diagnosis to other disorders, will be explored. Finally, ideas for therapy planning and useful therapeutic exercises will be shared. This poster is available for download on Researchgate:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329070220_Cluttering_Decluttered

During the convention the annual International Cluttering Association meeting was run by Dr. Charley Adams and Dr. Susanne Cook.

The minutes from the meeting are available on the ICA website (https://associations.missouristate.edu/ICA/).
An fNIRS pilot study on speech production in youths who clutter
Alexandra Schnell & Gregor Kohls (RWTH Aachen University, Germany)

Background:
The neural mechanisms of cluttering are still poorly understood. There is, however, a surprising
dearth of investigation into the neurobiology of this disorder using state-of-the-art brain imaging
techniques. Ward et al. (2015) were the first to report abnormal cortical (e.g., premotor cortex) and
subcortical (e.g., basal ganglia) brain activation in adults who clutter compared to fluent speakers
during speech production using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). Whether these
findings also hold for youths who clutter remain unknown. Thus, we examined the cortical
activation of children with cluttering during a speech task (i.e., narrative production) using functional
near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) as a relatively cheaper, more naturalistic and child-friendly brain
imaging technique.

Method:
Altogether, 17 participants (between 11 and 15 years of age) were recruited, consisting of 3 children
who clutter (1 female, 2 male) and 14 fluent control speakers (6 female, 8 male). Because cluttering
typically occurs more severely in challenging language settings, we used a narrative production task
that included 6 picture stories (30-sec. blocks), separated by 30-sec. resting baseline periods. While
the participants narrated a coherent story the brain activity was measured using fNIRS. FNIRS
measures the relative local changes in blood oxygenation. We analyzed the fNIRS signal during the
speech task compared to the silent resting baseline for each group and between the two groups.

Results:
We found significant group differences for deoxygenated blood in the supplementary motor area
(SMA = right BA8), premotor cortex (PMC = left BA6) and anterior prefrontal cortex
(PFC = left BA10) with less activation in the cluttering group compared to the control speakers, but
more activation in anterior prefrontal cortex (PFC = right BA10) and middle temporal gyrus
(MTG = left BA21).

Conclusions:
The results of this pilot study are partially in line with the fMRI findings in adults by Ward et al.
(2015). We found first evidence of abnormal cortical function in PFC, SMA, PMC and MTG in
youths who clutter. These areas are either involved in the control of motor movements or language
processing, particularly semantic and syntactic processing. Because cluttering is a disorder with
interrupted speech patterns and a lack of self-monitoring, abnormal activation in such areas are in
good agreement with theoretical assumptions. In sum, our pilot study adds new insights into the
neural correlates of cluttering.
The Inaugural Joint World Congress of the International Stuttering Association, International Fluency Association and International Cluttering Association was held in July 2018 in Hiroshima, Japan. The congress was a spectacular combination of scientific, clinical and social events. There were four full days of congress (13th - 16th July), followed by a day of post-congress workshops on 17th July. One of the workshops was dedicated to cluttering, run by Dr. Yvonne Van Zaalen (the Netherlands) and Dr. Isabella Reichel (USA). The cluttering workshop was delivered with consecutive translation into Japanese which allowed more local participants to attend. During the congress cluttering was well represented. One of the keynote panels, led by Dr. Florence Myers (USA), was dedicated to the conceptualization of cluttering. The panel introduced the Three-Pronged Approach to the Conceptualization of Cluttering (TPA-CC). Dr. Myers had an integral role in the development of the TPA-CC with members of the Ad-Hoc Committee charged by the ICA Executive Board.

The three prongs to conceptualize cluttering comprise the use of words to describe the multidimensionality of its symptoms, the use of archived audio clips to capture its perceptual nature, and the need to listen to insights consumers share toward a fuller understanding of cluttering and how it might differ from stuttering. Dr. Charley Adams and Dr. Susanne Cook were also featured on the panel, reporting on results of a survey indicating that SLPs express the need for greater guidance about the nature of cluttering, thus prompting the development of the TPA-CC. The TPA-CC is now available on the ICA website (https://associations.missouristate.edu/ICA/).
Oral presentations addressed cluttering were as follows:

- Development and validation of Impact Scale for Assessment of Cluttering and Stuttering (ISACS): Preliminary data by Pallavi Kelkar, Maya Sanghi, Sneha Chaudhari;
- Cluttering in fragile X syndrome vs. nonsyndromic autism spectrum disorder by Kathleen Scaler Scott, Jessica Klusek, Jessica S. Kisenwether, Charley Adams, Angela John Thurman, Leonard Abbeduto;
- A qualitative study on the cognitive and affective aspects of cluttering by Yvonne van Zaalen, Isabella Reichel;
- Efficacy of auditory-visual feedback training for people who clutter by Yvonne van Zaalen, Isabella Reichel;
- International Cluttering Association forum: 10 years of successful collaboration by Isabella Reichel, Grace Ademola-Sakoya, Véronique Aumont Boucan, Judit Bona, Jaqueline Carmona, Marjan Cosyns, Yulia Filatova, Maisa Haj-Tas, Pallavi Kelkar; Shoko Mayomoto, Sertan Ozdemir, Reina Remman Rmeih, Maya Sanghi, Alexandra Schnell, Yayoi Shimizu, Hilda Sonsterud, Beatrix Touzet, David Ward, Shu-Lan Yang, Yvonne van Zaalen (see page 3);
- Cluttering: a treatment guide using “ROAD MAPS” by Lesley Wolk;
- Quandaries in cluttering: current issues and potential solutions by Kathleen Scaler Scott.

Poster presentations related to cluttering were as follows:

- Treatment of cluttering based on rhythmic synchronization by Shoko Miyamoto, Shinako Yamasaki, Setsuko Imatomi;
- Perceptual attributes of exceptionally rapid rate: implications for cluttering by Florence L. Myers, Klaas Bakker, Lawrence J. Raphael;
- An alternative rate of speech measure for individuals who clutter by Jessica Kisenwether, Kathleen Scaler-Scott, Shea Williams, Rachel Moon, Shayne Postiglione, Denis Anson;
- Stuttering and cluttering attitudes of beginning SLP students, education students, and the public in Russia by Yulia O. Filatova, Olga Antipova, Kenneth O. St. Louis;
- Attitudes toward stuttering and cluttering of the Chinese public by Yulia O. Filipova, An-Ning Song, Kenneth O. St. Louis;
- A perceptual study of communication effectiveness in cluttering by Emily Gurtizen, Katrina Giacumbo, Kathleen Scaler Scott, Jessica Kisenwether;
- How does cluttering affect quality of life and school experiences? A qualitative study by Solveig Klokk, Malin Celine Ødegaård, Ane Hestmann Melle, Karoline Hoff;
- Topic maintenance strategies used by adolescents who clutter and typical peers by Maisa A. Haj-Tas, Sana M. Kamal.
• During the congress the annual International Cluttering Association meeting was also organized and 22 ICA members participated in it (abbreviated version of the minutes is available on the ICA website).

• Delegates to the World Congress in Hiroshima were offered a rare opportunity to sign up for a small-group talk at a local cafe by Mr. Junji Maki, an 87-year-old Hiroshima survivor.

Mr. Maki gave a poignant personal account of his experience August 6, 1945 when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Hiroshima was declared City of Peace by the Japanese Parliament in 1949. Mr. Maki has spent the past 15 years of his life, since retiring at the age of 72, to promote international peace. To commemorate the United Nation's International Day of Peace (September 21, 2018), Dr. Myers invited Mr. Maki to speak to groups of individuals in the United States, via teleconferencing. Mr. Maki again gave a moving talk, first portraying the sufferings and casualties of war, then promoting international peace. His talk September 24th was broadcasted live by a peace group from Fairbanks, Alaska. Participants of the talk commented on the powerful presence Mr. Maki had through his gentle dignity to appeal for world peace. An MP-3 of the talk is available (fmyers@adelphi.edu). Dr. Myers wishes to thank Dr. Nori Kawai for arranging the wi-fi classroom at Hiroshima University for Mr. Maki and his interpreter Tamami Masujima to transmit the message from Hiroshima to the United States. The talk was a most befitting coda to a memorable world congress of ICA, IFA, and ISA, held at the City of Peace.

Jaqueline Carmona and Rita Santos from Portugal wrote a chapter about neurodevelopmental language disorders for teachers and parents - including also information about stuttering and cluttering. Carmona, J., & Santos, R. (2018). *Perturbações da Comunicação, Linguagem e Fala* [Communication, language and speech disorders]. In: N. Lobo Antunes (ed.), *Sentidos* [Senses]. Lisbon: Lua de Papel.

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