Welcome!

As Coordinator of the International Cluttering Association (ICA), I welcome you to our first newsletter. The name, TRADE, is an acronym, which reflects the mission and goals of the ICA: Treatment, Research, Awareness, Diagnosis, Education. We have come a long way since the unanimous vote at the First World Congress on Cluttering in May 2007 to establish the ICA. Our membership is currently at 86, and we continue to add representatives from countries around the world. You will read more about some of the new additions to the representatives in this newsletter. You will also read about the many fruitful projects our membership has been busy with, working to increase awareness about cluttering worldwide. These include additions to our website, as well as individual projects. I thank you for your interest and involvement in the ICA. As we start a new year, I ask you to think about new ways you can spread the word about cluttering this year, and ways you can contribute your time and talents to the ICA. There are announcements of opportunities to get involved with in this newsletter. Please read them and give careful thought to how you can help. Given how productive we’ve all been in the past seven months, it is clear that we have the skills and enthusiasm to keep the momentum going for great things to come in 2008. Wishing you all the best! Kathy

ICA Mission Statement

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

Read the rest of the mission statement at our website:

http://associations.missouristate.edu/ICA/

In this issue:

Welcome 1
International Highlights 2
International Representatives 3
Committee Reports 4
Logo Contest 5

ICA Committees:

- Clinical
- Research/Academic
- Consumer
- Website
- Organizational Development
- Membership
- International Representatives
International Highlight: NORWAY

Helene Kvenseth, one of our representatives from Norway, has been doing some important work. Hilda Sonsterrud, another representative from Norway, writes:

“In the last number of our periodical magazine for the speech and language therapists, we were covering a six-page report from the conference in Bulgaria. This magazine has an impression of 1500, a few are receiving it in Denmark and Sweden. Helene Kvenseth had her own two page article where she talked about her own experiences as a person with a kind of a fluency disorder. In her article she was also sharing many good ideas about how to deal with her ‘stumbling speech’. I have been receiving lots of positive comments from several SLPs about her important contribution. A colleague in the northern part of Norway has told me the same, that she has received very positive comments about Helene's contribution too. We are lucky that we have Helene Kvenseth to cooperate with us!”

International Highlight: GERMANY

Our congratulations to Mariam Hartinger, who had her paper about articulation in cluttering accepted to the journal, Folia Phoniatrica. We will look forward to reading this article in the future.

International Highlight: USA

In the USA, Isabella Reichel and Anjea Ehrle Ray have been working on an article telling about the ICA as well as Anjea's experiences with cluttering. This article will be published in Perspectives, the newsletter for the Special Interest Division on Fluency Disorders of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), in August 2008.

Ken St. Louis continues to spread the word about cluttering through technology. Ken reports, "I was interviewed by three stuttering hosts on a new venue for getting the word out about stuttering and cluttering called ‘StutterTalk.’ I am featured this week. Here is the link: http://www.stuttertalk.com/. Fortunately, to access it, all you need is a computer with a sound card."

International Highlight: AUSTRIA

Mona Fenichel reports: "I have sent an e-mail to all Austrian speech therapist organizations regarding the ICA, asking them whether they are interested in joining."
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Committee Reports

Clinical Committee

This committee has recently pulled together an informative document for the speech-language pathologist/logopedist who would like more information about evaluating cluttering. For more information about this, check out the "clinical issues" tab on our website (http://associations.missouristate.edu/ICA/Resources/cluttering_assessment.htm). Moving forward, this committee is currently hard at work developing a form for therapists who are interested in posting their contact information on the ICA website. This form will allow consumers to know more about the experience and background of each therapist who is posted on the website. It is not meant to be an endorsement of any particular therapist, but a way that consumers will know more about possible therapists they may wish to contact.

International Representatives Committee

In an effort to meet the goal of establishing the ICA as a truly international organization, Isabella Reichel, chair of the International Representatives committee, has been hard at work establishing representatives from around the world. We have had many new additions in the past few months. Please see page 3 for a listing of names of all representatives by country. In addition, Isabella is working on compiling the results of a survey to all the international representatives. This survey will help the ICA to understand what is currently being done and what the needs are for each particular country. Stay tuned for further results. Finally, Dr. Juris Draguns, who has extensive experience with international research, has agreed to serve as an advisor to the committee of International Representatives. We look forward to the great works to come from such a wonderful team!

Membership Committee

The membership committee has developed a new form for all current and new members to complete with their contact information. If you have not yet completed your form, please do. With this information we are building a database of all members in order to be able to keep the members posted about the latest happenings in the ICA. The form was emailed to current members and is also available on the "Membership and Contact" tab of our website (http://associations.missouristate.edu/ICA/contact.htm).

Welcome to our newest members of the ICA (note: We apologize if we have missed anyone in this list):

- David Daly, USA
- Sumalee Dechongkit, Thailand
- Juris Draguns, USA
- Dobrinka Georgieva, Bulgaria
- Hristo Frengov, Bulgaria
- Tom Green, Norway
- Vilma Maukauskiene, Lithuania
- Dimitar Miliev, Bulgaria
- Kay Monkhouse, USA
- Bourkou I Osmane, Bulgaria
- Beatriz Touzet, Argentina
- John Van Borsel, Belgium
- Diane Whittington, USA
- Sami Awad Yasin, Sudan

Research/Academic Committee

This committee is helping to oversee a project for an upcoming online conference. Judy Kuster has also agreed to help oversee this event, given her extensive experience with online conferences. The conference will feature an online forum about definitional issues in cluttering, and make recommendations for future research. The paper will be posted for everyone to read and comment on in an interactive forum. The ultimate goal of this online conference is to form partnerships among researchers, therapists, and consumers for much needed research projects in cluttering, and to get started with those projects! The projects will not necessarily be ICA projects, but the ICA hopes to serve as a springboard to inspire the networking among individuals to begin these projects to further advance cluttering research. This conference is in the very early planning stages, so stay tuned for more details.

Website Committee

Thanks to Klaas Bakker and the website committee, our website is becoming filled with helpful information. Please check back to the website often, as new additions and changes are frequent! For example, we have recently added a document "What is Cluttering?" (http://associations.missouristate.edu/ICA/Resources/what_is_cluttering.htm), which should be helpful to many as a starting point in reading our site! Thanks also to the efforts of our representative to Indonesia, Muhammad Ishom, certain aspects of the website have been translated into Indonesian to reach more in that country. We will look forward to other translations in the future.

http://associations.missouristate.edu/ICA/
ICA LOGO CONTEST UPDATE…

After meetings with the Executive Board, we have decided to revise the original idea of the logo contest a bit. We decided that what might ultimately make the most sense is to develop an idea for a logo, a concept, and then have a professional graphic artist take that idea and help us revise it into a logo form we'd like to have for a long time to come. We will likely have to work on donations to pay for such an artist (unless we find a volunteer who wants to donate their expertise), and that will take some time, but it seems the best approach. Following are the contest updates:

1. If you would like to submit an idea for a logo, and you are a member of the ICA or the cluttering yahoo group, you still are welcome. We are going to take ongoing entries until we have several to vote on.

2. The logo should still follow the concepts originally outlined when we announced the conference (please refer to the "News" section of our website for guidelines: http://associations.missouristate.edu/ICA/from_the_press_room.htm), but you do not have to send it in graphics. It can just be your ideas in writing, if you wish/prefer.

NOTE:

If you are interested in participating in any of the projects mentioned above, or have comments, please address them to Kathy Scaler Scott at:

scalerscott1@earthlink.net

Consumer Committee

Consumers are talking! Joseph Dewey has reported that the yahoo cluttering listserv, which is open for online discussion among those with cluttering and those who are interested in cluttering and its diagnosis and treatment (such as family members and friends of those who clutter as well as therapists) had its largest number of postings ever for the month of January. If you are not a member of this group and would like to find out more about it, check out the "Self Help" tab of the ICA website. Kathy Scaler Scott surveyed consumers regarding their opinions about the terminology used to refer to those with cluttering. Please refer to a compilation of these results under the "Resources and links" section of our website (http://associations.missouristate.edu/ICA/resources_and_links_page.htm).
Inaugural Issue

This is the very first issue of the ICA Newsletter; as such, it’s been off to a bumpy start. Apologies to those who have waited patiently for me to generate this issue (specifically Kathy, Judy, and Klaas).

I would like to think of the piecemeal method by which I have compiled this information and thrown it into this issue as an ‘homage’ to cluttering itself…

Please send me anything you would like to see included in future issues. I would very much like to have photographs of members, especially our international representatives!

Cheers,
Charley Adams
ICA Newsletter Editor
charley@sc.edu