Warm greetings to all!

As I have just begun a new position as an Assistant Professor of speech pathology, I am realizing each day just how much our students have to learn. I am also realizing how quickly the time slips by. There never seems to be enough time to cover all that is needed to prepare for the career as a speech-language clinician. Yet even though it is difficult to find time, I urge you to be sure you teach students as much as you can about cluttering. If you read the submissions from Jon Wong, Peter Kissagizlis, and Gudrun Ostergard in this issue, you’ll see that we are still struggling with cluttering awareness, and that it is critical to educate future therapists.

On the subject of spreading awareness, a wonderful symposium on cluttering was featured at the International Fluency Association conference in Brazil this past August. If you were unable to attend, you will want to find out the important issues discussed. If you were there, you will enjoy reading about it. Whether you were there or not, this issue contains photos of the event you won’t want to miss! I am so proud of all the wonderful presenters, and am sorry I was unable to attend in person. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our Chair of International Representatives, Isabella Reichel, the conference also brought new friends and representatives from new countries. Read on to find out about them.

As we continue to grow and progress on individual and group projects in the name of cluttering, I want to express my thanks to you for your commitment to cluttering and the ICA. Please keep us informed of your good works—we want to hear all about them! Hope to see many of you at the ASHA meeting (read on for details!)

Warm regards, Kathy
By August 1st, my employment as a logopedist at THI Kompetence Center was closed down. The entire children’s department is now gone, and the children and youth are supposed to have their treatment in the local municipality. Cluttering children will be served by local logopedists, whose level of experience can vary greatly. In many places, the amount of treatment will be very restricted. It is sad and frustrating that these decisions are made based on politics and finances, without consulting health professionals. I engaged with three other specialized logopedists in a private stuttering/cluttering firm (www.stammeteam.dk) to try to maintain our experience and make use of our qualifications – but in fact we would rather like this to be a public responsibility… On the positive side in August I had an article in the Danish periodical 'Specialpaedagogik' nr. 4, 2009 called 'Cluttering – A Dynamic Perspective', where I try to explain my ideas regarding group treatment to cluttering youth. Gudrun Østergaard

The issues of speech therapy for people who stutter are analyzed quite widely, but the cases of cluttering have not been discussed properly. The content of the project is oriented not only to the diagnostic differences between stuttering and cluttering, but also to the different treatment strategies and approaches. The main aims and topics of quantitative action research are the following:
1. To identify content peculiarities of Lithuanian speech language pathologists’ preparation for the work with people with fluency disorders (stuttering and cluttering);
2. To identify the cases of cluttering among people who stutter, creating a cluttering identification and assessment methodology;
3. To identify the factors of active participation in the speech therapy process of people with fluency disorders, their families members and educators;
4. To evaluate efficacy of speech therapy for children with fluency disorders;
5. To assess the possibilities of applying the model based on child centered educational principles to comprehensive schools. Vilma Makauskiene, PhD

Despite my condition I continue to promote Cluttering in every way and at every venue, meeting, and occasion, however, there has been little response or interest from the media in our region of the UK to cluttering. I have even used local stuttering press reports to generate some interest amongst media publishers. I will follow this lead as long as I can and hope that we can generate some interest in the fact that Cluttering does exist and that the ICA is here to help people to understand the condition, but mainly to bring together so many people that surely the fact remains that it is a justifiable disorder that deserves media interest to enable it to be fully recognisable, especially over in the UK, and that a full background training and teaching situation could exist to educate people in the speech and language sections in all countries to deliver suitable response. Peter Kissagizlis

The ICA continues to keep Peter and his family in our thoughts as he fights for his health.

International Highlight: UNITED KINGDOM

International Highlight: LITHUANIA

International Highlight: DENMARK
There are some changes in the make on the ICA website. Daly’s Predictive Cluttering Inventory is now available also in Bulgarian and Norwegian (they are located in the “Resources and Links” tab of the ICA website). Also, thanks to Dr. Per Alm (Sweden) a searchable version of the cluttering text “CLUTTERING: A Clinical Perspective (Myers and St.Louis, 1996)” is now available. This version will allow users to search for particular topics in the document, while the book may also be searched from external locations on the Internet (Browsers). This improvement will greatly facilitate use of this unique textbook.

An ongoing process is translation of essential pages of the site into other languages. A Spanish translation is in its final stages and nearly available. This work, associated with a study by a graduate student at Missouri State University (USA) brought up a unique problem for cluttering internationally. That is, there is no native term for cluttering in Spanish! A lack of a native word for cluttering was observed earlier when the Arabic translations were prepared by Dr. Maisa Haj-Tas of the University of Jordan. Other than making it more difficult to write about cluttering in Spanish and Arabic, one might wonder if the lack of a native word limits awareness of this condition as a result! Moreover, when a term would be created for it, one might wonder if the effects would be positive (e.g. facilitate communication about the problem, and including it in scientific and popular literature), or possibly negative (e.g. creating new stigmas that weren’t there before). I have recommended to the coordinator of the ICA to look into this issue and see whether or not the ICA should facilitate forming native words for cluttering in other languages. Of course, there is always the option in these cases to import a foreign term, such as for example the English term “cluttering”, or an equivalent for the medically oriented term “tachyphemia”. But, even the English term cluttering is not always helpful as it has more than one meaning and therefore could lead to confusion.

The Spanish translation in progress brought up an additional practical problem and that is that Spanish is spoken in many different countries, which may have cultures that view cluttering differently. We were partially aware of this problem when working on the Arabic translations but then we worked with individuals in only one country: Jordan. Ultimately for the Arabic translations a new word was chosen that found best acceptance of all involved in Jordan. The term translated back into English would mean something like “scrambled speech”. Hopefully, this will also be an effective term for other countries with Arabic as the primary language.
NorCalCluttering Group

http://www.meetup.com/NorCal-Cluttering-Group/

The primary focus of this group is to start a social group for people who clutter (PWC) and for their friends/family, who can just hang out in a safe, fun, comfortable environment once a month for an hour or so. It will be a friendly, casual and informal get together to meet and network with other PWC.

Activities and discussions can include anything and everything, or nothing at all. By the nature of this group, support would naturally occur. We'll try to have the meetings at places where we can have a few snacks or lunch and then you can leave spending the rest of the day checking out the local area.

I envision this group growing into fun events for families and friends of PWC. We can find local spots for lunches, dinners, bbq’s, bike riding, a day in the snow, video games, local event gatherings, etc. Hopefully we can create some life long relationships.

Anyone can join us. All we ask is that you be kind and compassionate towards one another.

Although the meetup locations are in the Northern California - San Francisco area, please sign up. In the near future, we will have online meet-ups. Please visit our website for more details.

Jonathan Wong, Chair, Family Issues, ICA

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE

The International Representatives Committee is pleased to welcome the first 4 new international representatives recruited at the IFA World Congress in Rio:

Zbigniew Tarkowski & Jolanta Goral Polrola from Poland,
Véronique Aumont Boucand from France, and
Claudia Diaz from Argentina
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
Argentina: Ruth Ezrati-Vinacour
Australia: Shoko Miyamoto
Bulgaria: Maisa Haj-Tas
Belgium: Vilma Makauskiene
Canada: Manon Abbink-Spruit
China: Grace A.A. Ademola-Sokola
Denmark: Helene Kvenseth
Faroe Is.: Zbigniew Tarkowski
France: Yulia Filatova
Germany: Sami Awad Yasin
Iceland: Cecilia Lundstrom
India: Sumalee Dechongkit
Indonesia: David Ward
Ireland: Isabella Reichel
ICA Seminar on Cluttering Featured at the 6th World Congress of the IFA

The glamorous city of Rio de Janeiro was the scene of a seminar on “Global Perspectives on Cluttering: Research, Assessment, and Treatment,” which was featured during the 6th World Congress of the IFA in August, 2009. The seminar exuded passion, excitement, energy, and electricity for the full three hours. The auditorium was almost full. The audience was involved and actively participated during the question and answer period following the presentations. Although the ICA coordinator Kathy Scaler Scott was unable to be physically present at the seminar, her passionate and personal address to participants via a DVD, reflected the appreciation to the IFA for including the ICA seminar at such a significant global forum.

The panelists shared ideas and experiences, and discussed diagnostic and intervention approaches in a multinational cross-cultural context while considering local variations in different parts of the world. In searching for ways to arrive at a universally accepted definition and best practices for diagnosis and evidence-based treatment, the seminar focused on the following topics: global connections in transferring knowledge about cluttering, differential diagnosis of cluttering, considering common goals of IFA and ICA, assessment and treatment of cluttering in Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, and the United States of America, awareness and research on cluttering around the world, historically influential Western European views on the treatment of cluttering, and Eastern European contributions to the diagnosis and treatment of cluttering.

Based on the material presented, substantial progress has been made, especially over the last 30 years in many countries of Europe and North America in terms of research, awareness and management of cluttering. Unfortunately, an understanding of cluttering is growing unevenly worldwide. Limited awareness of cluttering, lack of professional preparation, and frequent misdiagnoses of cluttering were reported to take place even in some of the developed countries, and cluttering is almost never addressed in developing countries.

In developing countries, speech therapy and special education are not a priority within the health care system, with a dearth of speech therapists, lack of resources, technology, and finances. Such challenges lead to limited global connections, people with cluttering being overlooked, and professionals being ill prepared to identify, diagnose, and treat cluttering. To describe such experiences, Ademola Grace from Nigeria prepared a paper entitled, “Cluttering: Nigerian experience -- The past, the present, and the future.”
In the chronological order in which they appeared on the program, the presenters representing the ICA were: Isabella K. Reichel, USA; Kathleen Scaler Scott, USA; John Van Borsel, Belgium; Margaret Leahy, Ireland; Hilda Sonsterud, Norway; Charley Adams, USA; Kenneth O. St. Louis, USA; Yvonne van Zaalen, the Netherlands; and Ademola Grace, Nigeria. Overall, based on the feedback of some of the audience, the ICA seminar profoundly influenced how professionals around the world will think, feel, and act when persons with cluttering will cross their paths.

Isabella K. Reichel

ICA 6th World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

ICA Presenters
The International Cluttering Association will hold a meeting during the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention on November 19, 2009 in New Orleans, Louisiana (USA). The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM. All ICA members are welcome, as well as anyone else interested in joining. Feel free to contact ICA Coordinator Kathleen Scaler Scott if you have any questions:

scalerscott1@earthlink.net

Meeting Title: International Cluttering Association
Meeting Date: 11/19/09
Meeting Time: 7:30 PM-9:00 PM
Location/Room Assignment: Morial Convention Center, 269

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