IALP Executive Committee Visits Karger Publishing

The IALP Executive Committee met in Basel, Switzerland, December 16 and 17, 2013. The committee held its business meeting on December 16. The meeting facilitated transitions among the outgoing officers and the new officers. The Treasurer’s, Secretary’s and Committee reports were shared and approved. On December 17, the committee was invited to meet with representatives of Karger Publishing House at their headquarters in Basel. Karger, the publishing house that publishes IALP’s journal Folia Phoniatrica et Logopedica, has had a long and very productive relationship with IALP. Special Topics issues, the administration of individual member invoices, promotional events, and the IALP News sections were discussed. The meeting was an important one in which the positive working relationship between IALP and Karger was acknowledged and strengthened. On behalf of IALP we were pleased to be able to personally extend our gratitude to Thomas Karger for his steadfast support and commitment to Folia Phoniatrica et Logopedica (fig. 1).

International Communication Project

IALP joined the International Communication Project (ICP) by a vote of the General Assembly at the World Congress in Turin, Italy, in August. The goal of ICP is to increase awareness of communication disorders as a global health issue. IALP will work with six national organizations to raise international awareness of communication disorders, their treatment and the barriers to communication. ICP is encouraging individuals, professionals and organizations to gather and exchanging information.

The public is encouraged to sign the Universal Declaration of Communication Rights by accessing the website www.Communication2014.com.

World Health Organization News

The World Health Organization (WHO) has underscored the importance of having disability data that can inform disability policy. Ideally that data would be valid, reliable and standardized across countries. Standardization would allow for international comparisons, which in turn would facilitate the monitoring of progress on disability policies, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

WHO acknowledged that disability is a ‘complex and multidimensional experience and poses several challenges for measurement.’ March 4–7 the Statistical Commission will meet to discuss how the commission can provide guidance for data collection.

News from IALP Affiliated Societies

CASLPA Changes Its Name

The Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA) unveiled a new name, a new logo and a new tagline as part of an extensive rebranding initiative. CASLPA is now Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC).

SAC is the premier national association representing communication health professionals – speech-language pathologists, audiologists and supportive personnel. 2014 is a historic year for the association, not only because of this rebranding project but because this year marks SAC’s 50th anniversary. ‘Although this year represents a time of change for the association, SAC remains true to many of the same values it established when it was founded in 1964’, says Judy Meintzer, SAC President. ‘We continue to be a member-driven organization that supports and promotes the professions we represent. Our rebranding project is about staying true to our association’s roots while also looking toward the future; it’s about being proactive.’
Meintzer explains, ‘It’s vital that we are in the best position possible to respond to new issues, new challenges and new opportunities in our ever-changing world. SAC’s new brand strengthens our role as the leading resource for communication health in Canada as well as our position as passionate and effective advocates for communication health professionals.’

The new brand platform – everything from the new name and logo to the tagline, ‘Communicating care’ – reflects SAC’s dedication to its members and to championing communication health. It also highlights the wide range of sectors in which SAC members work, including healthcare, education, research and government.

‘Our goal is to ensure that the Canadian public not only understands what speech-language pathologists, audiologists and supportive personnel do, but also the value of the services they provide’, says Meintzer. ‘The positive impact that our members have on people’s lives must not be underestimated.’ [CNW Newswire, February 5, 2014. http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1300831/complete-rebrand-for-a-major-canadian-association-caslpa-is-now-speech-language-and-audiology-canada-sac] Visit www.sac-oac.ca to learn more.

Please note: SAC will be holding its Annual Conference in Ottawa, Ont., Canada, May 7–10, and will be celebrating their 50th anniversary. You can learn more about it by accessing the website http://www.sac-conference.ca/.

**American Speech-Language- Hearing Association Holds Convention**

The 2014 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention will be held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla., November 20–22, 2014. The ASHA Convention is the premier annual event for speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists. Bringing together more than 12,000 attendees, the Annual Convention provides an opportunity to learn about the latest research, polish clinical skills, improve techniques, and gain new tools and resources to advance professional development.

The 2014 ASHA Convention theme is ‘Science. Learning. Practice. Generations of Discovery.’ The speech and hearing professions are built on science, which has provided a strong foundation of learning and practice for generations of speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech, language, and hearing scientists. Generations of professionals have contributed to the knowledge base, delivered services, and taught future generations of professionals, who in turn have delivered services to individuals and their families or become the next generation of researchers and educators. Orlando, a destination for many families, provides the perfect setting for both professional and biological families to gather in November to celebrate the generations of discovery in science, learning, and practice. More information is available at the ASHA website: www.asha.org.’

*Tanya M. Gallagher*
IALP Past President

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*Fig. 1.* Left to right: Michael Robb, Robbin King, Tadeus Nawka, Vanessa Borg, Lilly Cheng, Helen Grech, Tanya Gallagher, Thomas Karger, Gary Weismer, Aoife McGuire, and Sandra Braun.