Introduction

Julie Marshall Marisue Pickering

Our interest in bringing together papers on international and cross-cultural issues began at the 1998 Amsterdam IALP Congress, when we discovered that papers on these related themes were scattered around the conference, often appearing in ‘miscellaneous’ sessions and thus potentially excluding the audience they deserved. Subsequently, for the 2001 Montreal IALP Congress, we organized a special half-day symposium entitled ‘International, Cross-Cultural Service Delivery Issues’. This edition of *Folia Phoniatrica et Logopedica* arose out of the success of that symposium. Our overall intent has been, and is, to bring together in one place discussions pertaining to both international and cross-cultural issues and thus to contribute to the ongoing understanding of the overlap between these two arenas of practice.

Several principles guided our thinking as we prepared this edition:

(1) The general theme would be international and cross-cultural issues and their relevance to the *broad* field of communication disorders.

(2) Papers could present research data, theoretical considerations, and/or first-hand experience.

(3) Authors should include implications for clinical practice, preservice education, or milieus beyond the setting of their original work.

(4) Cultural and linguistic issues, although overlapping and symbiotic, are not interchangeable.

In accordance with terminology frequently seen in United Nations documents, the following terms are used throughout the publication: *majority/minority world*. This usage is in preference to phrases such as, respectively, *developing/developed world*, *Third World/First World*, or the *South/North*. In contrast, authors have used professional terminology with which they are individually comfortable (e.g., speech and language therapist, speech-language pathologist). International and cross-cultural work is full of opportunities to cause offence, and we hope we have not done so through our choice of words or in any other way.

This themed edition is divided into two parts: the first presents conceptual and theoretical issues, whereas the second reports on international and cross-cultural endeavors. A concluding essay synthesizes key themes and identifies issues for future consideration. We have provided brief biographies on the contributors, who are located literally around the world and who represent a range of countries, cultures, languages and ages. All have experiences with cultures other than their own. In common with most professionals, they are endeavoring to go beyond their own 'comfort zone' to learn how to provide successful com-

munication therapy in our interrelated and complex world. We are grateful to them for sharing their ideas and experiences.

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