

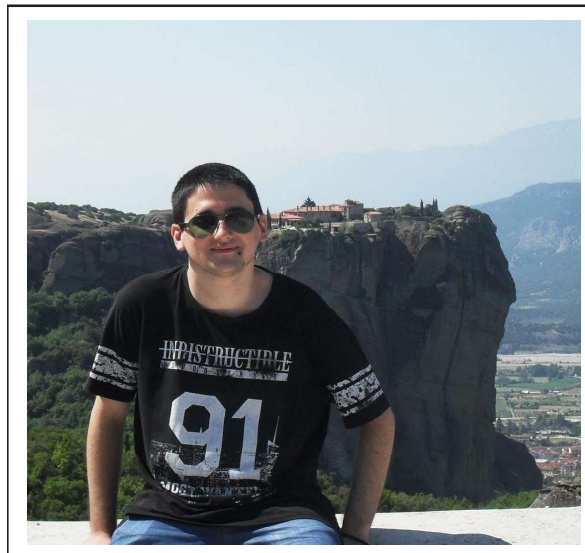


ONE Voice

INTERNATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION | ONE VOICE EDITION 40 | APRIL 2018

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Dedicated to
all of us with
great dreams
"- Miloš Rajković;
Serbia

'GREAT MILESTONE IN MY LIFE'

Most struggles in life have great heights and depths, and when we achieve something great our self-confidence automatically rises, because we are aware that we can achieve something that we always thought was impossible or unimaginable. and now we are ready to achieve even more greater challenges. My great milestone in life was doing a job interview because of my stammering.

Continued on page 2

‘GREAT MILESTONE IN MY LIFE’ from page 1

For a long time now, I have considered that stammering is for most part a problem with a bad self-identification than a problem of a bad use of speech techniques, because we can't create a perfect scheme of speech. I understood the power of my thoughts on time, and the power of subconscious mind. That we can't control consciously, except if we insert some positive thoughts into our minds consciously every day. So, it might sounds funny, but every morning I would get out of bed, stand in front of the mirror, and say a few positive words in front of the mirror to myself (e.g. you are worth of self-respect, you are a good man, you are hardworking etc.) and have a clear, strong accent on clear, focus in my mind what my next goal is. You will assume what it is, it was my first job interview. The days were coming closer and my excitement was rising and rising. So I prepared everything. My CV, theory that I thought was coming on test and interview, and my thoughts. I listened to a lot of music, trying to find some light in my dark mind. In just a few days there were great heights and depths, but I knew that every depth must pass away. Because I knew, that after every dark night must come a brighter day, it is only important to hold on

on the edge. Every insecurity was coming into my mind. From my childhood until now. That was one more proof that self-identification is the key of our problem. How we look at ourselves, are we capable of doing something or not. The day has come and I was ready. Luckily their office was close to me so I wasn't into rush. I came and introduce myself with ease and they said to me to wait for 15 minutes. Everything was rushing into my mind, but I was aware that I can control it. So I did, I imagined a clear road where there were a lot of road signs next to the road. The road that I needed to follow was straightforward to my goal, which was great interview, and negative thoughts was thoughts of stammering. So I ignored the negative signs next to the road and did a great, must say fantastic, first job interview, in my opinion. Verbally I was fluent on Serbian and English. Because my native language is Serbian, interviewer tried to see if I really knew English or not. So she said, "Let us now talk on English". On which I said with leisure, "Of course we can speak on English now." After three sentences she saw that I was speaking perfect English, even more better than she did.

I went home, and said to everyone that I did a great interview, my self-confidence was high and I tried to inspire people. Which I consider is a task, and maybe a duty, of all of us. To inspire each other. Each one, teach one!

I will leave you with a thought from a great boxing trainer Cus D'amato, "What is the difference between hero and coward? There is no difference. Inside they are both exactly alike, both scared of dying and getting hurt. It is what a hero does makes him a hero, and what other guy doesn't do makes him a coward."

Miloš Rajković is 23 years old and lives in Serbia, in a town called Subotica. He has finished "Faculty of sciences" in University of Novi Sad with Bachelor's degree in Informatics. His major was Information Technology.

Want to get involved

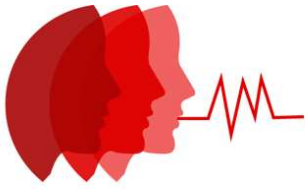
We are looking for someone to help us produce our newsletter One Voice.

Sent twice a year, we are open to creative ideas. Interested please email

Annie Bradberry

anniebny@gmail.com

WORLD CONGRESS JAPAN 2018



ONE WORLD, MANY VOICES:
SCIENCE AND COMMUNITY
13th - 16th July 2018, Hiroshima

One World, Many Voices: Science and Community is the Inaugural Joint World Congress of the International Cluttering Association (ICA), International Fluency Association (IFA) and International Stuttering Association (ISA), with local host organizations the Japan Society of Stuttering and Other Fluency Disorders and the Japanese Stuttering Genyukai Organization.

CONGRESS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

This exciting new collaboration between the three international organizations, and their Japanese hosts, aims to create an event that will allow everyone – people who stutter and clutter, their families and friends, clinicians, and researchers - to feel welcome, included and valued.

The Inaugural Joint World Congress will be a ground-breaking initiative where historically diverse groups are cooperating effectively to explore experiences of, feelings about, and attitudes towards stuttering and cluttering. We want people who stutter or clutter to feel safe and surrounded by friends. We want those who work clinically to have opportunities to share and update their skills. We want to give researchers an opportunity to present high-quality research in a stimulating environment, while simultaneously giving those who explore innovative and new approaches to living with stuttering and cluttering a chance to share their experiences and ideas.

Held at the International Conference Center in Hiroshima (ICCH), the ICCH opened in 1989 and lies within Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. This central venue is easily accessible by bus, streetcar, taxi or just walk there if you're staying nearby! For more information about the ICCH, you can view their website at www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/icch/english.html.

Visit <https://www.theifa.org/conference-details/venue> for all conference information including accommodations, program, presentations, tours, and more!

Join us for the ISA Membership Meeting!

*We have scheduled the ISA Membership Meeting for Monday, July 16th 12:15 – 13:15.
Lunch is from 11:45 - 13:30, so grab your lunchbox and join us!*

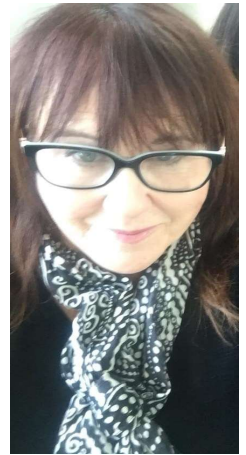


Crossing Waters and Bridges

"Limited resources but not limited visions."

Message from the CHAIR

Annie Bradberry, California USA



Over the past two years, I have had the pleasure of watching member organizations truly raise the bar for ourselves and for the stuttering community.

While the external environment for international nonprofit organizations remains a very challenging one, I have seen our communities come together and show resilience, determination and a shared sense of purpose, working effectively as a unified voice for awareness and change.

Issues of One Voice show people and organizations making a difference, working hard while the obstacles have been many – from a persistently tough fundraising climate to discouraging public misperceptions about stuttering. What remains strong and has shone through is all of our unwavering commitment to helping each other, while working to reach those who have not yet found the stuttering community, and continuing to believe together we can thrive and make a difference.

As an organization we too have faced challenges. Not uncommon for a volunteer organization, we have not met our goals as we hoped. ***More important, we have not given up.***

We have had to take a step back and revisit the expectations we have set and be honest and open as to what we can achieve during our term as your board. What will they be? We're still working on this. Will we continue to strive for success? ***100% YES!***

With summer approaching our thoughts are on the upcoming World Congress: One World, Many Voices: Science and Community, the Inaugural Joint World Congress of the International Cluttering Association (ICA), International Fluency Association (IFA) and International Stuttering Association (ISA), with local host organizations the Japan Society of Stuttering and Other Fluency Disorders and the Japanese Stuttering Genyukai Organization. This event will be held in Hiroshima, Japan, from the 13th to the 16th of July, 2018. See page 2 for congress information.

I am thrilled to report as of April 9, 2018 our delegates represent 25 countries, and delegate numbers are increasing daily! This inaugural event promises to create new dialogs between clinicians, researchers, stutterers, and those who clutter too! This joint congress is a first for us and we go in with open hearts and minds and I can't wait to share stories and pictures with all of you. Our success is our community's success. With the ongoing support from all of you, we are ready for the challenges and achievements ahead... Sincerely, Annie B

"I think it will take a village and then some to help the world better understand the experience of stuttering. If we have allies who support us, help us advocate and help us teach about stuttering, I think we'll go a long way toward reaching the goal of a world that understands stuttering."

5 Ways The World Can Better Understand Stuttering

In this year 2018, the world doesn't really understand stuttering. This is evidenced by children who stutter still getting picked on and teased by peers on the playground and at school. There is also evidence that adults still get mimicked, made fun of and laughed at by fellow adults. And there still appears to be workplace discrimination going on by employers who don't understand stuttering, and who don't hire or promote perfectly capable individuals just because they stutter. I believe the world still adheres to old myths that people who stutter are less intelligent than people who don't stutter, or are nervous, shy, insecure, lack confidence or are emotionally unstable.

I talk to people who stutter regularly through my podcast "Women Who Stutter: Our Stories" (www.stutterrockstar.com) and my role as host/facilitator for Stutter Social (www.stuttersocial.com.) People share with me that they often feel ignored and excluded when in conversation with people who don't stutter. They have shared with me that they get interrupted, that people finish their sentences for them or have people get impatient and roll their eyes at them as they are talking and stuttering.

Young people who are finishing school talk to me about having to go out and face job interviews, one of the most stressful speaking situations for people who stutter. They ask for advice as to how to handle the matter of stuttering if they are lucky enough to get an interview. They obsess over phone and Skype interviews, where time is pressured and the person who stutters feels they won't be given the time to express themselves. They worry about whether they should disclose the stuttering at all during an interview, and if it should be at the beginning of the interview, as a disclaimer, or somewhere in the middle when it's become pretty obvious that the person stutters.

Job seekers also worry about mentioning stuttering on their resumes or in their cover letters. They think if they do they might automatically be discounted. And they worry about not disclosing and coming off as dishonest for not having mentioned it.

Young adults who stutter have shared with me that don't know how to make small talk, how to socialize or how to join in a conversation. They haven't had practice with those skills that many people take for granted because the person who stutters may have spent years trying to hide their stuttering and therefore never practiced the art of small talk or joining in. They have also shared with me that they are not good listeners because they are always rehearsing what they are going to say next instead of truly listening to the other person talking.

It can seem pretty hopeless to "move forward" as a person who stutters in a world that doesn't fully understand stuttering. So what can be done? How can we create a world that better understands stuttering?

I think the following 5 ways can help the world better understanding stuttering and also create an easier, gentler world for people who stutter to live in.



Pamela with Charley F. Adams, Ph.D.,
Chair International Cluttering Association.

Continued....

5 Ways The World Can Better Understand Stuttering continued...

1. Schools need to include stuttering in the awareness activities that they do for diversity and inclusion. Teachers often plan lessons around different physical disabilities, the “easy” ones that we can see. Once children understand about a difference, they generally move forward and treat it as a “non-issue.” Similar training needs to be provided for unseen differences, including stuttering. When stuttering is well explained, most youngsters and older kids can grasp that it’s not something to be made fun of. I have gone into middle schools and done presentations on bullying prevention, with an emphasis on differences and stuttering. I’ve given kids a chance to “try on” stuttering, to experiment with it and feel how it feels to get stuck on a word. (I’ve used Chinese finger traps to illustrate what it’s like to get stuck.) Schools would be very open to having a guest speaker come in who could explain stuttering to their students. It would be a win-win situation: the non-stuttering children would gain an understanding of stuttering and the child who stutters will feel less anxious and perhaps not prone to hide his stuttering.

2. Employers need to be trained on stuttering so that we can have more inclusive workplaces for people who stutter. These days, people who stutter are still discriminated in the workplace. As noted above, job seekers who stutter often can’t get past the hiring stage because hiring managers and Human Resources staff believe the negative stereotypes about stuttering. Advocacy associations need to step in and provide awareness training and myth busting to employers so that people who stutter can get a fair shake in the job search process. Also, people who stutter themselves can be hugely instrumental in helping employers see that people who stutter can be effective communicators. People who stutter who are employed should try to be open about their stuttering to supervisors and co-workers and show how they can effectively contribute to the company’s bottom line. People who stutter need to be brave enough to “come out” at work and show colleagues that stuttering is just another way of talking. Perhaps increased training and awareness in workplaces will allow for people who stutter to feel comfortable enough to do just that – “come out” at work.

3. The media needs to consult with actual people who stutter when considering portraying stuttering on stage or the small or large screens. I know that some media production companies have indeed done that when making such films as “Rocket Science” and “The King’s Speech.” Those portrayals turned out to be more accurate than past portrayals, where stuttering was seen only in a negative or comedic light. Including people who stutter in media projects will ensure authentic portrayals. Even more so would be the actual casting of people who stutter into acting roles on stage or screen. That would go a long way towards increasing understanding of stuttering, as many parts of the world now have easy access to media. This could also include having people who stutter openly be highlighted in the news, on the radio or interviewed for print journalism. In 2017, we do not have enough positive role models in the media who actually openly stutter. We have a lot of celebrities who “used to stutter,” but they don’t necessarily inspire confidence in people who deal with stuttering every day.

Other differences are making headway in the media – a major US network TV station has a program called “Speechless” in which an actor who really has cerebral palsy plays a like character. I think people are drawn to the show because of its authenticity. And Netflix debuted a new program called “Atypical” that deals with an autistic character. To ensure an accurate depiction of autism, Netflix show creators worked with a professor of special education at California State University Channel Islands.

4. More people who stutter need to be willing to speak to future Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) while they are in school and learning about stuttering. Many colleges and universities that offer communications science disorder programs only require that students take one, that’s just ONE, course in fluency. That is hardly enough to learn about the complexities of stuttering, which is more than just a physical disorder. Future SLPs need to learn about stuttering from people who live the experience every day. Good professors will bring people in from the community that they know who stutter. If there isn’t a known community of people who stutter in the local area, good professors will reach out and ask people who stutter to speak to a class remotely via Skype or Zoom or some other platform. I’ve done that with several classes for a number of years. It’s very satisfying to share my story and know that people who will touch the future are actually learning from it. And I can always tell that the students enjoy the experience from the good questions they ask and the feedback they offer. It can’t always be the same people talking to students, though. More people who stutter need to take the risk and do this, as it has a measurable impact on the future success of these young SLP students who will be working with children who stutter, who may grow up to become adults who stutter.

Continued...

5 Ways The World Can Better Understand Stuttering continued...

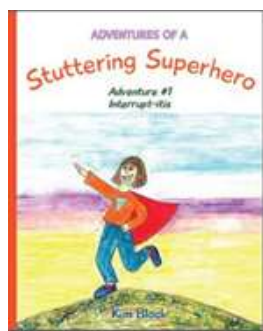
"More people who stutter need to take the risk and do this, as it has a measurable impact on the future success of these young SLP students who will be working with children who stutter, who may grow up to become adults who stutter."

5. People who stutter need allies who don't stutter to help the stuttering community teach the world about stuttering. Yes, that's right – we need fluent allies who understand what stuttering is, know how to interact and listen to someone who is struggling to speak. Allies can be spouses, significant others, parents, siblings, other family members, friends, supervisors and co-workers. The more people in our circles who understand stuttering will help to exponentially increase the numbers beyond our circles that understand stuttering. People who stutter can't do it alone, as we've seen in today's world. We've all heard that saying "it takes a village." Well, I think it will take a village and then some to help the world better understand the experience of stuttering. If we have allies who support us, help us advocate and help us teach about stuttering, I think we'll go a long way toward reaching the goal of a world that understands stuttering. It starts with me and you and the people we know. And it starts with talking about stuttering. We can't hide it from the world if we want the world to understand us.

Pamela Mertz is a person who stutters who is quite active in the stuttering community. She is a 4-year Stutter Social host, writes the blog "Make Room For the Stuttering" and hosts the podcast "Women Who Stutter: Our Stories". Pam is on the Board of Directors of the National Stuttering Association in the USA, serving as Special Projects Co-Chair and also serves as Secretary for the International Stuttering Association Board of Directors.



Pam sharing her story by SKYPE with SLP graduate class at the University of Mississippi.



I Made the Goal of Everyday Doing One Thing to Help...Kim Block, British Columbia, Canada

I was on my way to do a radio interview when I received a call from our local news channel. They also wanted to interview me about the book series that I had started. My first thought was not concern about stuttering on TV or excitement about spreading awareness in such a public forum. My first thought was...Oh my goodness I am not dressed to be on TV! Then came the excitement of what an incredible opportunity this was going to be. I have never been on the news before. The radio interview was my second one in a few weeks. I was hoping this one would go better than the first. I had written a book called Adventures of a Stuttering Superhero: Adventure #1 Interrupt-it is, and it was the first story in a series with the lead character being a person who stutters. I was getting these amazing opportunities to talk about the importance of the book and spread some important information about stuttering. Above all, stuttering was being talked about and it wasn't connected to speech therapy. I, like the character, was on my own adventure. The ups and downs of the publishing world, advocating publicly, and the emotional roller coaster of it all were surprising to me. Try selling a book on a topic no one wants to talk about? Good luck!



My first book Adventures of a Stuttering Superhero: Adventure #1 Interrupt-it is, is a story about a girl in grade 2 who is in a very lively class. One boy in her class who keeps interrupting her and finishing her sentences. She is convinced he has interrupt-it is and goes on a journey trying to cure him of his disease. By the end of the story she figures out how to stop him from interrupting her. The book was dedicated to the little girl who stutters in the school I work at, who the story was originally written for.

Continued... 7

"Ms. Block when is book number two coming out?" Poppy asked. "Very very soon." I reply. Poppy jumps up and down screaming "Yes! Yes!" while pumping her fists in the air. And that is why I write my stories. And that is why I am missing out on sleep, why I work so hard, and why I am not giving up."

I Made the Goal of Everyday Doing One Thing to Help, Kim Block, British Columbia, Canada

It was literacy week and public figures were coming from outside of the school to read to each class. It happened that their class didn't have a volunteer, so I volunteered. How cool would it be to have someone who stutters read about stuttering! I went into the library and asked the librarian if she had any story that had a character who stuttered. She said she had none and never heard of one. I read the book *It's Okay to be Different*, by Todd Parr. It was the closest story I could find that had the message I wanted to be sharing. I was really disappointed that there was not one book in the school library that didn't have a character who stuttered, and I mean a strong character. Not one the media often decides to create. That night as I walked my dog the first story came to mind and I started writing that night after my kids went to bed.



The book was created through a Canadian self-publishing company on Vancouver Island. After months of hard work, the book was released. I was pumped! I was ready! Everyone who read the book loved it. All I had to do was let them know that the book is available! Right? Wrong. People didn't get why other kids would want to read a book about stuttering or how it would help them. Not all of the SLP's wanted this book, many said that they don't work with kids who stutter. School SLP's told me they don't really service kids who stutter. Do families who don't want to talk about stuttering want a book about stuttering? Don't think so. So, who is working with kids who stutter or talking to them about stuttering? Apparently five people in BC Canada. There are a handful of SLP's who, I am so thankful for, got behind the book idea and started promoting it and spreading the word. More people in the US who stutter also helped to spread the word and let people know about it. Librarian's aren't enthusiastic to purchase books from self-published authors. They get a lot of requests and it's not already in their system so it is more work for them to process a self-published author's book. The road blocks just kept popping up.

I started thinking the route I took was the wrong one. Maybe I should try to get a publishing company to produce the book. So I started contacting them. Some told me they loved the book but the topic was not mainstream enough. Some told me they were too small to make a book series. It was the goldilocks predicament. I hadn't found yet a company that was just right. So I just kept on going. More and more people were requesting interviews, and I made the goal of everyday doing one thing to help spread the book. But it was exhausting. Emotionally exhausting. I still had a full-time job, a family with two busy kids, baseball schedules, gymnastic schedules, homework and a dog to walk. Some days I wondered what was I thinking and if I made a mistake. Other days I am so grateful for the experiences I have had, the people I have met, the support from so many people around me, and the incredible opportunities I have experienced. From a variety of exciting interviews, presentations and keynote speaker at the CSA conference this past.

"Ms. Block when is book number two coming out?" Poppy asked. "Very very soon." I reply. Poppy jumps up and down screaming "Yes! Yes!" while pumping her fists in the air. And that is why I write my stories. And that is why I am missing out on sleep, why I work so hard, and why I am not giving up.

I am excited to announce my second book in the series Adventures of a Stuttering Superhero: Adventure #2 Melissa Meets her Stamily. I have also written Why do I Stutter: A Drawing Storybook. I still have more story ideas inside me and a little girl who stutters, in a school in BC Canada, eagerly awaiting adventure #3. Who knows what adventures await Melissa and I.

For more information on Kim Block, her books please visit www.stutteringadventures.com
You can also like her Facebook page to keep to date on all the adventures.



For much of his life, Peter Dhu chose to be silent. It could take him one minute to say one word.

Peter Dhu did everything he could to avoid the humiliation of speaking in public — until his father died.

The pivotal moment in the Perth man's life proves a son's love for his father can break down the strongest barriers. Mr Dhu went through his teens and early 20s as an elective mute, afraid to speak because of a chronic block stutter. His stutter was so bad he would bite his tongue and draw blood as he tried to form a word.



Famed actor James Earl Jones, known for his resonating voice, was an elective mute when he was young because of a stutter. At high school and university, Mr Dhu communicated by writing questions and answers. The boy nicknamed “Dumb Peter” at high school went on to work as a medical scientist with minimal client interaction. Speech therapy yielded some improvements but even at the age of 41, he would not go out of his way to speak in public.

Then he lost his father.

“I said to Mum, ‘I want to do Dad’s eulogy’,” Mr Dhu said. “I’m the eldest of three boys and I owed it to him. There were no second thoughts.

“My dad was a great leader who achieved a lot in his lifetime. “He stuttered really badly as well. He left school when he was 12 and never had speech therapy.”

It was standing room only at his father’s funeral.

Mr Dhu’s emotions were quick to surface as he recalled how much his father had helped him, even in death. “Dad gave me one of the biggest gifts of all as we were laying him to rest,” Mr Dhu said. “That parting gift of self-belief made me realize I was playing a smaller game based on self-limiting beliefs.

“After that I was on the rooftops shouting, ‘Hey everyone, I stutter’.”

The experience turned his life around. Rather than avoiding conversations at all costs, he sought them out. “I joined Toastmasters, I started appearing on TV during Stuttering Awareness Week, I started speaking at conferences,” Mr Dhu said. “In 2004, I was the chair of the World Congress for People Who Stutter. I just said yes to everything.”

Mr Dhu left the Health Department in 2009 to focus on motivational speaking in Australia and abroad. He wants to help people unlock the confidence to speak well in public.

The father of three has been featured in the latest episode of the online documentary series Stories Out Loud. “The sooner you reach the point of self-acceptance, it makes things so much easier to move on,” Mr Dhu said.



After Peter's story went live several other media outlets picked up his inspirational story including local news!

GHANA STUTTERING ASSOCIATION

STAMMERING AWARENESS IN GHANA

By Elias Apreko

Through the efforts of the Ghana Stammering Association(GSA) since its launch in 2014, Ghanaians are gradually becoming aware of the impact stammering has on an individual and the need to provide support. However, there is more work to be done to educate every Ghanaian about stammering to make our environment conducive for PWS. We believe one of the major strides we have made in the stammering community here is to provide suggestions to the amendment of Ghana's Disability Act to specifically cover stammering.

One of the major challenges faced by PWS in Ghana is lack of awareness of speech therapy options; even if they were aware, accessibility to it is a barrier as there is only one speech and language therapist currently specialized in stammering.

Our hope however is to get some student speech & language therapists (currently undergoing training) to major in stammering.

Some of our plans this year to increase awareness and support PWS include:

- Embark on a school tour to educate students, teachers and parents on how to communicate effectively with PWS
- Increase our network to reach more people in other regions of the country
- Partner TV stations to air our documentary frequently as an awareness campaign

It is our desire also not to miss out on the opportunity of partaking in the Joint World Conference. We are hoping to at least get 2 representatives to attend on our behalf.



Elias Apreko, President of the Ghana Stammering Association.



ONE WORLD, MANY VOICES:
SCIENCE AND COMMUNITY
13th - 16th July 2018, Hiroshima

Organizations at Work

At the World Congress in Atlanta a few individuals had issues obtaining their Visa.

One person was denied their Visa due to severely stuttering during the interview days before their departure.

The 2018 World Congress committee discussed this with great concern.
Result: Online information including 'letter of invitation' was created.

2018 Joint World Congress - Helpful Information

Do I need a visa to attend the congress?

Depending on your country of origin, you may need a visa for entry into Japan. There are 68 countries where Nationals and Citizens do not require a visa to visit Japan for a short stay. For more information about visa requirements and applications, please see the following links: click to open new page with information on countries where visas are not required: mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

click to open a new page with information on countries where visas are required: mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html

Once you have registered for the World Congress, you will be

sent a confirmation email which it should be possible to use as a 'letter of invitation' to support your visa application. If you need additional information from the Organizing Team, please contact us via registration@jointworldcongress.org but we hope that the confirmation email will contain the information needed for most visa applications.

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

The presence of ISA & IFA has without missing words helped to open the doors of stuttering to the outside world, Africa in particular. As earlier long been interpreted as a witchcraft in developing countries, stuttering is now an open topic in Uganda, People have started to see it scientifically as hereditary in nature, thanks to ISA stuttering campaign.

The sharing of stuttering research findings among world associations has had practical impact in stuttering awareness through congresses etc.

I am happy and bravely admit that ISA scholarship program has had an effective impact on developing countries attendees and as a result have attended ISA congress in Atlanta and I was honored and nominated as an ISA board member representing not only Uganda and East Africa but also Africa in General.

World congresses unite and effectively make information sharing result-oriented where professionals get first hand questions from stutterers and vice versa.



Joseph Nsubuga is an International Stuttering Association board member and Easy Speak Association, Founder and Coordinator. Reach out to Joseph at: P.O Box 11508, Kampala, Uganda - Email: nsubugaj2003@gmail.com



Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

2018 Joint World Congress - Helpful Information

Who can attend the congress?

This congress is primarily for people who stutter and/or clutter, researchers, and therapists, although anyone is welcome to attend, including family members.



The ISA

Our Vision: A world that understands stuttering.

Our Mission: The ISA seeks to improve the conditions of all those whose lives are affected by stuttering in all countries...

The stuttering in Mali

The Overcoming Stuttering Association is the first and only Association that works with people who stutter in Mali. Considering that stuttering affects 1% of the population, the number of people reached by stuttering in Mali is estimated at 140,000 people. This phenomenon seems to be neglected by the population, very little discussed in the media and in public places. In addition, this situation is aggravated by a lack of therapist and specialized structure in the management of stuttering.

Thus OSA was created in 2005 thanks to the commitment and leadership of Diallo Oumou Sidibé to reduce the suffering of people who stutter in Mali. Its members work as volunteers and contribute to cover small expenses. The Association faces a difficulty in funding awareness-raising activities, support for the speech therapist and a lack of headquarters to carry out its activities.



I am Zan Camara, a stutter and former president of the association overcoming the stuttering of Mali. I am also founder of a stuttering support group on Facebook (Supporting Stuttering in Africa)



International Stuttering Awareness Day Online Conference 20th Anniversary

Bruce Imhoff
Vice Chair, ISA

Last year marked the 20th anniversary of the online conference. The conference was first held in 1998 by Judy Kuster (working with Michael Sugarman) from 1998 to 2012, and later a team ran the conferences from 2013, made up (at various different times) by Bruce Imhoff, Anita Blom, Keith Boss, Hanan Hurwitz, Dan Hudock, McKenzie Jemmett and Scott Palasik.

The theme set each year forms not only the theme for the online conference, but also the theme for the International Stuttering Awareness Day, with participants writing according to the theme. Participants submit works that are written submissions, videos, art works, audio or other mediums. We also receive mixed submissions (combinations of different types of content).

The submissions are from a range of people from a range of perspectives, both people who stutter (PWS), speech and language pathologists and anyone who had something to contribute. Last year we have 43 different submissions on a range of topics and it is always interesting viewing.

Each year we provide a space for people to ask questions of the professionals in the area of stuttering, and for people from around the world to tell us what they are doing for International Stuttering Awareness Day in their country, not only to share, but also to help give others some good ideas about what they might be able to do, or how they might be able to participate individually, to help people understand stuttering, if not this year, then in future years.

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INTERNATIONAL STUTTERING AWARENESS DAY ONLINE CONFERENCE

The day is intended to raise public awareness of the millions of people – one percent of the world's population – who have the speech disorder of stuttering, also known as stammering.

While the online conference runs from October 1 to 22 each year, all previous conferences remain online, with the intent that they can and will act as resources for others in future. A submission made to the online conference 15 years ago can still be relevant and helpful for someone today, so take a few minutes out of your day and browse through the online conference materials at

isad.isastutter.org and go to 'Previous ISADs' menu item

or

stutteringhomepage.com and go to 'ISAD online conference archive'

I get inspired a little bit every day through the conference reading the content and comments people have made. It's a pleasure to work with a great group of people to deliver great content from people who want to share their stories and from professionals who are so dedicated to making a difference in the lives of people who stutter.



The team gathered together in Atlanta 2016.

With Bruce is Anita Blom, Sweden, Dan Hudock, USA, and Hanan Hurwitz, Israel



We want to hear from you.

Send in your stories

We want to see you

Send in your photos

