



International Stuttering Association

A World that Understands Stuttering

eNewsflash April 2012

To: International Stuttering Community

From: Michael Sugarman, Chair

Regarding: International Stuttering Association April 2012 eNewsflash

World Congress 2013

In slightly more than a year, the World Congress for People Who Stutter will come to the Netherlands! In June 2013 the Netherlands Stuttering Association Demosthenes will organize a congress everyone will remember for years to come. We were chosen in May of 2011 in Buenos Aires by the members of ISA to host this special event. We

are proud of this chance to show our country and hopefully the rest of the world, that PWS can do so much if they support each other. The cause of stuttering is still unknown. This means that the perfect treatment is also still unknown. Is there one single cause? Or should it be seen as a syndrome? Maybe there is a genetic glitch in our DNA, but what does that mean? Are we scarred for life, can we ever overcome our stutter? And if we do have faulty DNA, can this DNA be fixed? Can it be changed at a young age? Trained to unglitch? Or do we have to accept the fact that we will always have a predisposition for this struggle to speak?



I can think of so many subjects to talk about and we as stuttering people shouldn't be afraid to talk about these things. While stuttering, or with a technique, or fluent. I've seen many fluent speakers at congresses, I won't be one of them. And yes, I'm already a tiny bit worried about what I will say next year in front of a large crowd, but that doesn't stop me from chairing this

congress. We as PWS need to talk about what's important for us, what we're looking for in a treatment, what we want to learn about this mysterious problem, how we can help ourselves after therapy, what we can do for others, for young people who have this problem, how we can motivate them to achieve their goals, to do what they've been dreaming about, to help others in countries that don't have the resources some do have, to talk about... I can go on and on.

One of our goals is to make this congress accessible for PWS, family of PWS, friends of PWS and also many enthusiastic therapists. There are three conferences this year for the professionals. Three. One was in Antwerp, Belgium, the other two will be in Rome, Italy and Tours, France. If they need three in one year, we definitely have to make a success of our one congress in three years. I've been to Antwerp and it was very interesting, but I don't think a lot of PWS would have found it useful for themselves. Science can figure out a lot, but we also need to address the problems we have as PWS, in our daily lives. So that's what this congress is about! To mix science and people, to discuss cause and effect, to see both sides, to bridge the gap, to work together, etc. I might be slightly idealistic, but that's what I think this congress shall, can and will achieve.

Hope to see you all next year, spread the word!

With sunny spring greetings, Maartje Borghuis, chair of the 10th World Congress for PWS

www.stuttering2013.com

For Your Information: I will remind you again in September that Maartje Borghuis is writing an article for the ISAD on line conference 2012---yeah!

A response to Stuttering a Gift or Not

The notion 'stuttering is a gift' may recall such a notion as being used in the HIV scene. In that context, supposedly it should evoke a courage of despair, showing the patients still being tough and cool. Essentially, though, no sensible person might desire such a gift. Life is unfair, however, and all of us are gifted in positive or negative way by nature – and that unevenly and differentially. Very different physical and/or psychological gifts may predispose for e.g. ballet dancers or boxing champions respectively, and when having such different natural gifts, people involved may be able to choose the life fitting best their very different abilities. In stuttering, as far as I am aware, no inherent compensatory qualities may be discerned. When speaking of a gift in that situation, it strikes me as a reversed denial, which is totally at variance with the in my view required acceptance. It is as with the triad defensive and aggressive as the contrasting points, whereas assertiveness would be the ideal to go for. Stuttering a gift? No? Stuttering a curse? Neither so. Stuttering a problem? Alas it is, but an approachable problem.

Bert Bast

Message from the Chair

Three ISA board members and others will be attending International Fluency Association conference in July 2012. I will be expecting to share their summaries with you in August 2012 e newflash.

When you have time check out www.isastutter.org website and let me know what you think?

Please put a link to us on your website.

“You can choose how you think---However, often times you can not choose how feel”

Kindly,

Michael, Chair

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