



One Voice



Announcement-9th World Congress for PWS

May 17th-21st 2011, Buenos Aires Argentina



On behalf of the International Stuttering Association (ISA), we welcome you all to join us at the 9th World Congress for People who Stutter from May 17th to 21st, 2011.

The ISA was formed fifteen years ago after several National Associations realized support was needed for People who Stutter around the world and that National Associations were not well placed to provide this support.

One of the strengths of the ISA is support for a World Congress to be held every three years. A World Congress is an opportunity for people who stutter and speech language professionals to learn from each other about stuttering, therapies, self help groups and work together to share, give support and educate one another and the general public on the impact that stuttering has on individuals lives.

A World Congress for people who stutter has similarities with the ISA International Speech Project-Stuttering (ISP-S). The World Congress in Argentina is the first in South America. Spanish is one of the most used languages in the world so the World Congress will be widely accessed by English and Spanish speaking Countries. South America has almost 6 million people who stutter. Argentina has approximately 400,000 people who stutter. People who

speak English as well as Spanish will be very welcome.

On Tuesday, May 17th the ISA will host the membership meeting. This is an important meeting. The ISA is asking Member Associations to encourage their members or at least one representative to attend the Congress. We are looking for your input to influence the direction, purpose and future efforts of the ISA. If you are interested in attending, please feel free to contact us for more information.

It is important to recognize the significance of ISA being in Buenos Aires, Argentina for its first World Congress. Beginning May 18th presentations will cover a variety of topics related to fluency and fluency disorders, as well as self-help. Participants please feel free to ask your questions or comment at any time during a presentation---this is your time to learn---this is your time to learn and change how you view yourself as a person who stutters as well review treatment options. Hope to see you in May!

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy New Year 2011.

I have decided that OV 29 will replace the January 2011 e-newsflash.

Warmly,

-Michael Sugarman, ISA Chair

P.S. see end of OV29 newsletter for more details on the Congress in Argentina



ELSA, WITH AN “E” FOR EXCITING

This autumn was an exciting time for ELSA. Edwin Farr, Anita Blom and Richard Bourgondiën took part in the Nordic seminar, this year in Korsør, Denmark, a beautiful location near the Great Belt Bridge that joins Funen with Sealand. We were not only introduced to the country, the small town and the Danish language, but also to finding our singing voice, learning to sing together as a group in all our different languages. Also in the evenings we were asked to sing in our own languages, allowing many people the opportunity to perform finding that stuttering is not a barrier to singing, laughing and dancing.

During the Nordic seminar ELSA had its Annual General Meeting, highlighting the successful youth meeting in 2009, ELSA's presence during the past year at the Lessius University congress in Belgium (Antwerp). The cooperation with the ECSF (European Clinical Specialization in Fluency) was noted as being an important item for ELSA to be involved with enabling the issue of stuttering to be raised with trainee speech and language therapists.

We would like to thank FSD the Danish stuttering association for their hospitality. We are already looking forward to next Nordic seminar, to be held in Finland 2011.

For the International Stuttering Awareness Day, ISAD, ELSA launched its brand new website. The new site is now more interactive to make it a real medium for the associations to communicate and share events, ideas and thoughts.

The new website was also a way to celebrate ELSA's 20th anniversary, giving it a new look to prepare for another 20 years of stuttering awareness and co-operation in Europe.

ELSA continues to bring together people and associations, looking for help, co-operation and contacts. Three examples are: a) a German person looking to start an international theatre group in Italy, b) helping to launch a beautiful children's book written by a Slovenian lady, and c) writing a letter of support during the reorganisation of DAVs, the Danish stuttering information centre in Copenhagen.

We are also happy to announce that another application for funding to host a new European Youth Meeting has been submitted; hopefully we will be successful in 2011. So please do start looking for young people between 18 and 27 to come and represent your ELSA member organization. Do visit our brand new website www.elsa.info Update your information and browse the site.

Best wishes for 2011.

-Anita S. Blom, Richard Bourgondiën, Edwin J Farr MBE
ELSA Executive Board



MESSAGE FROM ISA OUTREACH-KEITH BOSS, ISA DIRECTOR

In my last message, I talked about the Danish 'Ambassadors at Large' program. How many Associations, where no such project existed, took the challenge and started their own? If you have a tale about starting such a project, please share it in OV30, just after our next World Congress in Argentina in May 2011.

It is superb to read so many articles from such a variety of Countries in every One Voice. OV29 is no exception. One of the articles is about a requested visit by one of our ISP-S teams to Benin. Other articles are from five new Countries, Bangladesh, Mali, Niger, Slovenija and Zambia. We have also made contact with Burundi. Having made these contacts it would be sensible and useful for someone in the ISA, or one of our ISP-S teams, to visit them to help them to spread stuttering awareness around their own Country. The media, in the majority of Countries, is usually more interested in helping spread the message if 'foreigners' have come to the country to talk about the stuttering message. **However, visits to other Countries involve time and travel / accommodation costs.**

There are two major challenges in ISA Outreach at this time in our history.

Time and Funding.

Time. There are not enough hours in the day to do all the outreach work that is needed. One way to address this is to have some Special Friends who are willing to help in Outreach work. Two people may be interested. I will pursue this early in 2011. Watch out for OV30 to see what transpires.

Funding. This is an issue for all Charities, but it is possible to find some funding, even in these difficult financial times. The ISA, and our ISP-S teams,

are passionate about Early Intervention for Children who Stutter. There are people / organisations around the world who will provide funding to help children. The ISA needs a person to research this and raise money. If you are a fund-raiser, or if you are interested, the ISA NEEDS YOU. Can you help? A secondary way to raise some funds is to ask all Member Associations to pay their annual fees. This process is in hand. Without funds, no valuable outreach visits can take place.

I was interested in a benefit talked about in the article from Nigeria. At Fakunle Comprehensive High School five students volunteered to join their National Association and start a school based club on stuttering. The Nigerians plan more school clubs in 2011. It would be good to hear more about this project.

We have had some considerable controversy recently about a Bollywood film trailer. The Indian Stammering Association (TISA) took legal proceedings about the way the film makers portrayed stammering / stuttering. TISA also arranged an on-line petition against the film at <http://www.petitiononline.com/TISA0001>. Almost 600 people have signed this petition so far.

In contrast Hollywood produced a film called The King's Speech. George VI, became King of the England just before the Second World War. In Germany, Hitler made many speeches. Hitler's style of speaking was superb. He persuaded his audiences in speech after speech. The new King George VI, who had not expected to be King, stammered severely. As leader of his people he had to speak publicly. He had a massive reason to begin talking and to improve his own communication skills. He did exactly that. He was very motivated and he took massive action. The film is his story. See <http://www.stutterisa.org/index.html>. This film

has been released in America and will be released in the UK in January. There are many comments about this film. For example <http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-colin-firth-stuttering-20101027,0,5024507.story> and <http://www.stammering.org/colinfirth.html>. See more comments about the film elsewhere in this OneVoice. Let us all use this film to reach out to the public and talk about stammering / stuttering and to raise more awareness around the world.

In November's eNewsflash our Chair reminded us all about the

9th World Congress for People who Stutter from May 17th to May 21st in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

If you are seeking a Scholarship, for full or partial funding, please provide the information requested. If you are uncertain about what information is required, please contact Michael (Michael Sugarman msugarman@sbcglobal.net) or myself (Keith Boss keithmaxkb@yahoo.com).

I will close my contribution to OV29, by reminding all of us that the ISA exists to help PWS in any Country where there is little or no co-ordinated help. For the ISA to succeed, we need

- Volunteers with time and
- We need money.

If you can give the ISA some of your valuable time and /or money, please contact either me at

keithmaxkb@yahoo.com or
Michael, our Chair, at
msugarman@sbcglobal.net.

I look forward to working with more of you over the next six months.

Keith (UK)

**NATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION- U.S.A.**

The National Stuttering Association is using the popularity of the new movie, "The King's Speech" to raise awareness of stuttering in the United States. Even though the film has not yet been shown in most parts of the country, several NSA members attended its New York premiere in November and gave it rave reviews.



The publicity campaign for the film has generated media interest in stuttering, and NSA chapters are contacting the news media in their cities. Vivian Sisskin, a leading SLP and NSA board member, was featured in a national television news story on stuttering and several of our members have been interviewed by reporters. Our Nashville, Tennessee, chapter has made arrangements to set up an information table at the movie theater when the film is shown.

The NSA hosted the premiere of another film on stuttering at the American Speech & Hearing Association convention in November. "Going With the Flow: A Guide to Transcending Stuttering" is a documentary by Phil and Uri Schneider that follows the progress of several people who stutter in coping with stuttering. Copies of the film are available through the NSA.

More than 600 people attended our national conference in Cleveland, Ohio, in July. In addition to dozens of workshops for adults, families and clinicians, the conference included a series of career workshops and special sessions for young adults in their 20s. Preparations are under way for our 2011 conference July 6-10 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Facebook, the social media web site, is becoming a significant part of the NSA's outreach. Our page has attracted more than 2,200 followers, including many who had never heard of stuttering support before they found us on Facebook.

The NSA recently published a new brochure on cluttering, and a brochure for teachers on stuttering and reading fluency. We also are distributing a new book by Dr. Gerald Maguire, "Without Hesitation," highlighting his research into the use of medication in stuttering treatment.

The NSA is continuing to conduct surveys on the experience of people who stutter. Our 2009 survey of 1,235 people found that support groups have measurable benefits. People who participate in support groups report fewer negative effects of stuttering and more



successful speech therapy than those who do not. These findings have been reported in the professional community and are being submitted to speech pathology journals. The NSA currently is working jointly with Friends, The Association for Young People Who Stutter, on a survey focusing on children and teens who stutter.

The NSA receives no government support and is funded primarily by its members. With a full-time executive director and two part-time employees, much of the organization's work is done by volunteer directors, program coordinators and chapter leaders.

-Jim McClure



1ST GRADUATING CLASS OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS IN BANGLADESH & REFLECTIONS ON STUTTERING IN BANGLADESH

By Sharif-AL-Mamaun, Bangladesh

Bangladesh, officially the People's Republic of Bangladesh, is a country in South Asia. It is a low-lying riverine country. Bangladesh is bordered by India to the east, north, and west and shares a short border with Myanmar (Burma) in the southeast. With a population of approximately 160 million, Bangladesh is the most densely populated agricultural country in the world. After a bloody struggle for liberation from Pakistan in 1971, Bangladesh was established as a parliamentary democracy.

International as well as indigenous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a major role in delivering social services and poverty reduction programs.

The Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) was founded in 1979 by a small group of Bangladeshis and a British physiotherapist, Valerie A. Taylor. CRP is the only institution in Bangladesh where a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) is offered. This course is run by the Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI), the academic Institute of CRP. This author, Md. Sharif Al Mamun, graduated in June 2010, from the first graduating class of the SLT bachelor program in Bangladesh. The course requires four years of theoretical study and clinical student placements, with a final 5th year required for compulsory internship. The course is registered under the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Dhaka.

The first group of bachelor Speech & Language Therapists in Bangladesh are currently working as Speech & Language Therapist at CRP. At CRP we work with adults and children who have difficulties communicating with others from a variety of causes. A good number of Stuttering clients are also treated here. General therapy includes working directly to promote speech and language skills as well as educating families, teachers and employers about the needs of people who find listening, talking, reading and writing difficult. In many cases, individuals are taught to use a combination of ways to communicate (gestures, picture books, symbol boards as well as speech) to make communication more effective.

The SLT program has been entirely taught by foreign volunteers. As part of our program, we made or adapted assessment or therapy materials for the Bengali language.

Stuttering issues and services in Bangladesh:

Currently, there is very limited awareness of stuttering (its cause and treatment) and no stuttering association in Bangladesh. It is my hope that a stuttering association will be formed soon to raise awareness and support people with a stutter in Bangladesh. There has no prevalence rate has been find out or no specific statistic in Bangladesh. Many stuttering clients come to CRP for help & they are really anxious for their communication breakdown. Parents are coming to our Speech and Language clinic also very anxious about their children who stutter. Due to stammering, many people in Bangladesh face discrimination, avoid social situations, and have difficulty participating in education and the workforce. For treatment of

stuttering, we use several different programs depending on the client. For example, when we are working with children with a stammer we use one or a combination of the (a) Demands & Capacities Model (b) Risk profiling and (c) The Lidcombe Program.

As I am a graduate from the first class of Speech & Language Therapist (SLT) in Bangladesh, I work hard to support my clients with a stutter, and am also trying to continue developing my new skills and knowledge with ongoing professional training.

A couple of our students also had the opportunity to travel abroad to attend different conferences and training. I myself have visited India, Canada, Singapore, Sweden and Australia for ongoing training, and I am trying to apply the knowledge I learn to establish our new department and new profession.

Conclusion:

As the first graduating class of Speech and Language Therapists in Bangladesh we are very proud of our achievements so far but we understand that we have many challenges ahead. We are a specialty in its infancy. We are confident however that we are able to contribute greatly to stuttering clients in Bangladesh. We hope to be involved in developing a stuttering association and support group for people who stutter.

Correspondence: Sharif-AL-Mamaun, 1st graduating class of B.Sc. in Speech & Language Therapy, Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed, Dhaka, Bangladesh

E-mail: sharif_slt_crp@yahoo.com;
Cell: +8801556302357

**NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF STUTTERERS (ANIPEB)****REPORT ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE 13th
WORLD DAY ON STUTTERING HELD ON October 22,
2010 THE CHINESE ROOM OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES UNIVERSITY of Niamey (NIGER)**

Like the international community, the Nigerien Association of stutterers (ANIPEB) celebrated on 22 October 2010 the 13th World Day of Stuttering in the Chinese Room of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Niamey (Niger).

The celebration of this day was one of the biggest events organized by the association since its inception in December 2008.

Celebrated on October 22 of each year (since 1998), this day, here in Niger, was entitled "Psychological and social aspects of stuttering."

Indeed the choice of this theme is not fortuitous because it fits perfectly with the specialty of the lecturer, a psychologist of the said faculty.



As part of the commemoration of this day, we received the support of financial, material, technical and

human goodwill partners, among them are:

The Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Niger.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Niamey.

Dr. Amadou Marou, the speaker.

Members ANIPEB.

The public, despite their concerns for every day life, has heard our call and responded massively.



The objectives during this day are: to inform and educate the public about the handicap of stuttering in order to raise awareness of how to change the

consideration. To show that stuttering is not inevitable and can be eradicated through a particularly early care and speech therapy through actions.

The speaker in his speech shows that stuttering affects mostly males (75 to 85%) and that worldwide it is millions of people of different ethnic, cultural or social backgrounds who stutter.

Regarding the definition and nature of stuttering, opinions are divided. Indeed, there is not a definition, but definitions of stuttering. These of course vary from one author to another and from one specialty to another. For example, some define it as "a disorder affecting the verbal rhythm of speech in the presence of an interlocutor." The DSM-IV American Psychiatric classifies as a "communication disorder."

Stuttering. Is it a disorder, disability or illness? Again, as the speaker, opinions are divided. WHO such as among the "emotional or behavioral disorders, while it is regarded by some as a "disorder" and by others as an illness or disability.

**NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF STUTTERERS (ANIPEB) CONT'D...**

In many countries, and for cases severe enough, it is recognized by government as a disability. Some subjects refused the contrary terms of illness or disability.

As for the etiology of stuttering is considered that the stuttering occurs most often during early childhood. It may be a result of language delay and "shrinks" around age 2 to 6 years. It seems that "stuttering begins in childhood and more than 75% before 2 years (RUSTIN 1991); it sometimes begins in adulthood is usually after a stroke or a trauma."

Also, as the speaker Dr. Amadou Marou, psychological aspects of stuttering can be understood through the anguish, fear and anxiety felt by the person who stutters whenever he wants to speak (especially public or dialogue).

These psychological aspects are often conditioned by the social aspects. Indeed, stuttering is often painful and has enormous social impact on the social experience of the person who stutters. Thus, among these impacts include discrimination, stigma, mockery and marginalization made in respect of the latter.

Tel : (227) 96 09 20 96 / (227) 90 10 91 92 / (227) 94 31 60 91

Email: ibrahimo50@yahoo.fr





CELEBRATION OF ISAD BY STUTTERERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (SAN)

Stutterers Association of Nigeria (SAN) celebrated this year's ISAD conducting a one day sensitization among students in two secondary schools in Osogbo the Osun State capital and Ede which is about 20km from the state capital. The schools are Fakunle Comprehensive High School, Osogbo and Christ Apostolic Church Grammar School Ede. The sensitization was done among adolescents based on the premise that with the appropriate information, young people can be reckoned with as agents of positive change.

The population of each school is about 400 students, it is therefore our belief that if up to 30% of this population are informed with the right information about stuttering and PWS, their enhanced understanding will go a long way in fostering a world that understands stuttering. The sensitization programme was conducted by a four members of the organization- Funmi Olatidoye, Tope Osundiran, Wale and Bukola Fadele.

Focus of the sensitization

The focus of the sensitization programme was based on the theme of ISAD- 'People who stutter inspire'.

Participants at the programme were enlightened on the clinical and psychosocial definition of stuttering and its effect on PWS. When asked how they have been reacting when a person stutters around them, they responded with a thunderous laughter which confirmed the stigma associated with stuttering.

However at the end of the programme the response changed tremendously. At Fakunle Comprehensive High School five students volunteered to join the Association and start a school based club on stuttering. This is pointer to the positive effect the right information and education can have on people's attitude towards stuttering and PWS.

Lessons Learnt

-The lessons learnt from the sensitization programme include

-Awareness about stuttering is still very low in Osun state and by extension Nigeria

-PWS face the challenge of stigmatization and discrimination.

-Misconceptions about stuttering and PWS still thrive in the society.

-With the right information and education people are ready to inspire PWS and accept them like any other person in the society.

-Mobilizing young people can enhance the fostering of a world that understands stuttering.

Future Plan

With the interest shown by students to commence a school based club, SAN plans to mobilize and form four School based clubs by the year 2011. Other plans for 2011 include

Advocacy visits to government and non governmental agencies

Commencement of a weekly television programme to create more awareness on stuttering and enhance understanding of PWS.





COTONOU MISSION REPORT

Within the scope of the project Speech Pathology Technical Assistance for the Reinforcement and Development of CFNRP, exchanges between Togolese speech language pathologists (SLP) and those of Benin have been organized. A training for “How to take charge for stuttering, in individual and group settings” took place, last November, in Cotonou.

This training project was selected because stuttering is a running pathology in Benin and Togo. Today, speech pathology progress in those two countries has greatly improved the capability of practitioners.

In the same week, a public awareness campaign toward stuttering was conducted in Benin, with emphasis on organized training.

Intervening SLP: Anne Marie Simon, a French SLP dedicated to and specializing in stuttering treatment, being well familiar with this sub-African area, thanks to many visits to conduct trainings; she is also APB's General Secretary (Association Parole Bégaiement) which is an ISA member (International Stuttering Association). Moussa Dao, who planned to take part to this mission, was not able to attend due to last minute professional obligations.

Training

Mrs. Simon worked closely with two SLP's from Benin and four Togolese: emphasis was put on the use of therapy techniques by participants and on the importance to watch videos of other PWS recorded while in clinical treatment. Participants were also able to talk

with a PWS and to witness a speech evaluation interview conducted by Anne Marie Simon.

In the same way, they were able to witness a session by this clinician with the parent of a young stuttering child and to have an overview of the essential parental intervention in such instances.

In addition, participants were exposed to the exercises on body work (static, rest/relaxation and phonatory breath), as well as to participate in role-play to improve their speaking ability and self-assertion.

Sensitization

The week before the training session, a public awareness campaign in Benin was started with the announcement on the national radio – l'Office de radio et télévision béninoise (ORTB) - about this training on taking charge for stuttering for SLPs of Togo and Benin and the Friday, November 19, Conference, open to the public. Interviews made with Edith Choukpa, a Cotonou SLP, and Amandine Fisher, a French benevolent SLP attached to the Community Focussed National Rehabilitation Program, (CFNRP), were other opportunities to introduce the role of SLP's and their domain of intervention.

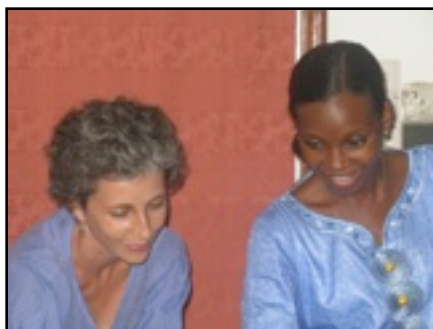
While on training, a radio/television team came many times to record a story. A first reporting was aired on the evening newscast on the national network to give information on stuttering, on the on-going training and about the Conference.

Mrs. Da Matha, reporter for the ORTB, recorded a documentary aired on prime time on Saturday

morning. This documentary was aimed to sensitize the Benin population about stuttering, its taking in charge, the SLP contribution to the later and an introduction to the training. Also mentioned were the various self-help stuttering associations. Anne Marie Simon was the guest of Mrs. da Matha's radio show entitled “Santé en ligne”. Accompanying Anne Marie Simon to this recording were Edith Choukpa, from Benin; from Togo, M. Agboda and the benevolent SLP from the CFNRP, Amandine Fischer. It was divided in two segments. First there was a lengthy discussion about stuttering and how to manage it. Then they proceeded to answer questions asked by the Benin listeners. Among the subjects discussed were: the role and training of SLP's in Benin, stuttering prevention, stuttering development and the suffering of PWS.

Finally, this training week was concluded with the Conference, open to the public, about “How to reconstruct the PWS”, how to prevent stuttering in very young children and how to manage it with the child and the adult. Teachers, trainers, PWS and former PWS were among the attendees and free to ask questions to Anne Marie Simon and the SLP's from Benin and Togo. The Conference was also a good opportunity to introduce the Benin association, Espoir pour les Personnes Bègues (EPB = Hope for PWS), ISA member (International Stuttering Association), and to emphasise the essential role, played by these associations.

Various documentation on the awareness of, and how to prevent, stuttering have been distributed by AM Simon and the Association

**COTONOU MISSION REPORT CONT'D...**

Parole Bégaiement (APB) to the Benin and Togolese SLP's, to the CFNRP and the EPB.

In Benin, the stuttering clinical treatment is not yet covered by the health system and the SLP status is not fully recognized by the Ministère de la santé of Benin. Our mission constitutes an important support to promote such recognition of the profession.

The media coverage of this event was efficient since most of those attending the Conference had heard from the media about it. We have been informed that some people from the North of the country would have liked to travel to attend.

The financial resources are very limited in West Africa and

such missions, encouraged by the ISA (ISP-S), are very important to help PWS. We deeply missed our friend Moussa and the very personal touch he would have shared with us. This journey to Benin was undertaken with the same spirit than the one I did with Moussa in Senegal, a benevolent commitment toward helping PWS.

-Anne Marie Simon





BRAZILIAN STUTTERING ASSOCIATION – ABRA GAGUEIRA

2010 Campaigns

The International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) is celebrated on 22nd October and this year, the chapters of the Brazilian Stuttering Association (Abra Gagueira) have many activities going on in many regions of Brazil.

The slogan of the DIAG 2010 will be the same as the past years - Stuttering is not funny, it is treatable.

The campaign theme, chosen by the International Stuttering Association (ISA) - People who stutter, Inspire! - Intends to show that people who stutter can be an inspiration for all of society.

Check out what happened.

3rd Brazilian Meeting of People Who Stutter:

In the closing the celebrations of the 2010 ISAD, Abra Gagueira held on October 23rd in Vila Velha, Espirito Santo, The 3rd Brazilian Meeting of People Who Stutter.

The event included lectures from professionals, various testimonials, discussions of current concepts of stuttering, issues about childhood stuttering, different approaches to adult therapy and the use of SpeechEasy, among other themes.

Online Forum "Inspire Yourself":

ABRA Stuttering wants to know: "What inspires you?" or "what do you do to inspire others?"

All answers were presented at the 3rd Brazilian Meeting of People

Who Stutter - October 23rd, 2010 - Vila Velha - ES.

Throughout Brazil:

City of Belo Horizonte

In Belo Horizonte (MG) during the entire month of October, there was handouts of leaflets about stuttering in Basic Health Units, Universities and the Federal University of Minas Gerais, where there was a lecture about the disorder, which also occur in public schools.

According to Leticia Celeste, representative of ABRA Gagueira in Belo Horizonte, moderator of the support group and speech therapist, "The goal is to demystify stuttering by giving information to society."

Services:

October 4th, 6th and 7th 6p.m. - Workshops for teachers in public and private elementary schools

October 18th & 20th at 6p.m. - Seminars for teachers at municipal schools

October 18th to 22nd 6pm.m - Handout of leaflets about stuttering at FEAD Faculty and Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG).

October 22nd 6pm. - Closing concert with singer Fernando, who is a PWS, at UFMG

City of Teresina

October 9th - Lecture on developmental stuttering at Dirceu Arcoverde Hospital. The activity was sponsored by Sonia Gomes, representative of Abra Gagueira in Teresina, moderator of the Support Group and speech pathologist. On the 18th, there was free speech screening at the same place.

"We want to sensitize and raise awareness among educators about the importance of diagnosis of stuttering and early treatment," says Sonia.

Services:

October 9th 3pm.m - Lecture on Developmental Stuttering at Dirceu Arcoverde Hospital - Military Police of Piaui

October 18th to 21st 8a.m. - Free speech screening at

Dirceu Arcoverde Hospital - Military Police of Piaui

City of Recife

In Pernambuco, the Regional Council of Speech Therapy (4th Region), in partnership with Speech Therapy Universities, held the First Meeting of Stuttering Awareness.

The event opened the week of Stuttering Awareness (Oct. 18th to 22nd) in town and was held at the Catholic University of Pernambuco, starting at 5 p.m.

Throughout the week, the professionals visited schools, colleges, parks and subway performing a public awareness campaign.

On Friday (22nd), the population benefited from a screening in the clinic-schools of the Catholic University of Pernambuco, Funeso and Federal University of Pernambuco.

Abra Gagueira - New Board Elected

Abra Gagueira now has a new board composed by the following people:

President - Eliane Carrasco

Vice President - Debora Rangel

**BRAZILIAN STUTTERING
ASSOCIATION –
CONT'D...**

Secretary - Luciana Contesini

Treasurer - Daniela Zackiewicz

A letter from Eliane Carrasco

When I was invited to coordinate the Abra Gagueira support group at São Paulo in 2006, I didn't imagine I would be initiating one of the most gratifying jobs in my 21 years as a speech-language pathologist, that would be useful in my professional career as well as for my improvement as a human being.

At first, I thought the support group meetings would be to answer doubts from people who stutter such as: causes, existing treatments, research, predictions and perspectives. These doubts for sure are always present and are always questioned and debated. Often I see relief in the faces of the people who come to our group for the first time and have their doubts about stuttering answered, for this is a theme that has many peculiarities and uncertainties.

The best learning for all participants occurs during the exchange of personal experiences. During these moments, I sense some real soul giving and sincere complicity between the participants who share their fears, their shame, their anguish, their obstacles, but also their victories, conquests and successes! They share their acceptance or non-

acceptance of the problem and help each other seeking solutions for their daily difficulties, as well as their deepest yearning.

For sure the intimate questions, the personal testimonies we hear and share, the exchange of ideas and the suggested "solutions" give us strength and renew our energy, helping us face the barriers that stuttering presents to us in the most different levels and life situations.

It's all about the very valuable experience to all. Definitely, I sense that the discovery of other people with the same problem brings relief and lessens the feeling of being "different". Discovering that other people have the same problem sets us free!

Basically, São Paulo's Abra Gagueira free Support Group meetings are held only for people who stutter as monthly reunions of about 3 hours duration.

The basic and unquestionable ground rule at the meetings is to keep confidential the identity and the personal testimonies of the participants, the liberty of exposure and expression for everyone and the mutual respect between the group members.

All this is done so that everyone feels free, at ease and safe to express their thoughts and opinions.

A scientific subject or a movie is always presented as a theme for discussion, but the priority is to discuss group necessities and that the meeting is conducted in a way that everyone benefits from it and identify themselves with the themes discussed.

Without doubt moderating São Paulo's Abra Gagueira Support Group and being the nation-wide Support Group general coordinator has been a very rich experience for my personal and professional life. I thank God, and my friend Daniela Zaciewicz, for the invitation to work in this sweet and affectionate job.

Nowadays we have 12 support groups in several Brazilian states.

For more information, see our website www.abragagueira.org.br

**JMB 2010 IN MALI- REPORT OF MISSION ODM/AVB BAMAKO**

From 23rd, October to November 6th 2010;

This mission went off particularly well, I thank the “world orthophonist” indeed. I also thank AVB “association vaincre le bégaiement” meaning “stuttering fighting association in Mali”, and the Malian ministry of health for their placing trust in me, and for the good organization of this fortnight despite the shortage of time for the preparation.

The emotions were high, the task was profitable and the exchanges were particularly profound, thanks to the commitment of stuttering persons and their families.

During this mission I learnt a lot, I also made progress and improved my notions about how to understand others. I learned not to judge, but to accept differences. I befriended many people and I was granted humanity and warmth.

I got to Bamako on Saturday October 23rd, at 9pm but my plane arrived a little bit late.

The president of the stuttering fighting association, Mrs. Oumou Diallo and the vice president Zan Camara went to meet me at the airport.

The program of this fortnight was:

**The celebration of the International Stuttering Awareness Day:**

This celebration took place in the International Conference Center of Bamako, and was well attended by many personalities among which included the representative of the ministry of health, the president of AVB by honor Dr Aliou Sylla, and the ministry in charge of the relations with the institutions of the republic. This latter was also the godmother of the association.

Things started with the address of Mrs. Diallo, President of the Association, followed by the people mentioned above.

The address and the touching account of Soumaila, one of the AVB's members, were also heard.

There was also the musical interlude of the blind singer and the Cora player Madina Ndiaye accompanied by a balafon player named Lamine Traoré.

There was the Presentation of my film (self image and the observation of the others), and a warm debate with more

than 160 persons present in the conference room.

**Participation**

- The National TV
- Covered the event and made broadcasting and did a report on it.
- The press
- They also inserted an article in the daily 'L'ESSOR' about the same event.

From Monday 25th to Saturday 30th- October 2010:

Group A: Intensive course for adults. (15 o'clock to 17 o'clock)

Number of participants: 17

Group B (17:30 to 19: 30)

Number of participants: 23

Wednesday October 27th, 2010.

Morning schedule:

Therapeutic group of small children's parents;

Number of participants: 20

Saturday October 30 Th, 2010.

Morning schedule:

Therapeutic group, children and parents

Number of participants: 14.

Afternoon schedule:

**JMB 2010 IN MALI- REPORT OF MISSION ODM/AVB BAMAKO- CONT'D...****Afternoon schedule:**

Last day of the course (15 o'clock to 20 o'clock)

Big group provided with snack.

Dancing party with the trainees in 'le diplomate'

During this course I was assisted in my activities by Soumaila.

This person is a member of the stuttering fighting association whose French acronym is AVB in Mali. He also wants to be a speech therapist and to be trained in the ENAM school of Lomé.

Oumou Diallo and Zan Camara too, were very helpful for

me. Issa Coulibali, a Malian speech therapist, also participated in the course, twice.



Sunday, October 31st, 2010

We then visited the town of Bamako, particularly around the monument dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of Mali.

From Monday, 1st November to Thursday 4th November;

Intensive course for both children and parents;

A young French speech therapist named Olivia Lefevre who was in Mali for a year, carried out her first training. This was done by the assistance of Soumailou who did the translation in Bambara.

Oumou Touré who is a Malian speech therapist also participated in a session.

Group A: (from 7 to 12 years old) from 15 o'clock to 16:30, then from 16:30 to 17 o'clock with the parents.

Number of the participants: 16

Group B: (from 12 to 16 years old) from 17:30 to 19 o'clock, then from 19 o'clock to 19:30 with parents.

Number of participants: 15

Wednesday 3rd November 2010

Morning schedule;

Familial speech therapist group;

Number of participants: 3

Oumou Touré, the Malian speech therapist, also participated in this session.

Thursday 4th November 2010

A Lecture was held in favor of the primary and secondary teachers at 'ANPE', meaning the national agency for employment.

Number of participant: 70

-Projection of the film, (to speak) of Erik Lamens.

-A debate lead by Mrs Oumou Diallo

-There were Interesting reactions of teachers, Reflection on the traditional practices.... Beliefs...physical corrections stages in children's education;

-Presence of the national TV, report and broadcast on the national channel;

-Presence of the press;

-Residential invitation to the ministry of health.

-Profitable exchanges lead in simplicity and joy.

-Confirmation of commitment in favor of the AVB.

Friday 5th, November 2010

-Appointment with the deputy of the ministry of health.

-Renewal project of this mission for one year.

Financial projects of Soumaila's studies at 'l' ENAM' in Lomé. This latter works to be speech therapist.

-Residential invitation to the ministry (government spokesperson) in charge of the relations with associations, at the same time godmother of AVB. This ministry is entirely involved in the activities of the AVB.

-Simple, profitable, joyous and profound exchanges lead in families.

-An hour of the recording of a broadcast at the radio station with the assistance of Mrs Oumou Diallo and Soumaila, this recording was broadcast on November 7th 2010.

-Interesting interviews, pertinent questions of journalist, high emotions.....

-Boarding at the airport of Bamako for Paris.

-Arrival in Paris on November 6th, 2010 at 6 o'clock

**JMB 2010 IN MALI- REPORT OF MISSION ODM/AVB BAMAKO- CONT'D...**

The commitment of AVB was really great during this fortnight. And the energy displayed by all the members of AVB was important to help me work efficiently, despite the heat.

Therapeutic intensive courses permitted patients and their families to comprehend the stuttering better, and to work out a motor technical strategy in a soft way to help curb it.

Thanks to films such as: "self image and the observation of the others", "to stutter.... to love..... to be loved....to communicate" and "to speak", stuttering is no more thing than a taboo to be defied among people and, we hope that AVB's work plan that works every Saturday from 10 o'clock to 12 o'clock will keep on working and helping one another to evolve.

This mission should also go on. The seeds have been already sowed and watered, but we think that a new yearly session is necessary from now on to consolidate the first acquired experiences. The lack of human resources and therapeutic knowledge doesn't permit to dispel the handicap that weighs on Mali. Difficulties linked to stuttering are enormous for stuttering persons to realize family, school, social and professional integration.

The unemployment rate is extremely high even among those stuttering persons who went through doctorate studies in domains like: law, pharmacy etc... And till; now no adjustment exists for these mentioned persons. (Not a third time is given to them during the oral exams let alone interviews... beliefs around stuttering are still negative. Heredity, fatality and ignorance often keep families in traditional and ineffective practices that are sometimes violent and mutilating. The despair of children, adolescents and adults is immense.

We hope that this fortnight will ignite a gleam of hope that will be spread vividly.



Association vaincre le bégaiement du Mali AVB-Mali
Centre de Référence de Santé de la Commune III
(PMI Central)

Tél (00223) 676 94 37/ (00223) 698 97 70,

Email: avbmali@hotmail.com/zanjunior@yahoo.fr.

BP E 47 93



ASSOCIATION OF FINNISH STUTTERERS (AFS)



There's a lot going on in the Association of the Finnish Stutterers (AFS). Our information campaign has been active for three years now and will end in December 2010. The campaign has spread the knowledge about stuttering all over Finland. In 2010 we have translated our brochures to other languages.



We have seven self-help groups in Finland all together. AFS has put a lot of effort into making the groups more visible and effective. It's been great to see that there are more people involved with the groups. For example, in the group operating in the capital area there are about 15 people who gather regularly.

AFS arranged a national meeting for stuttering children and their families in October. The meeting was very popular and therefore it is very likely to be organized again in 2011. We cannot address enough the importance of stuttering

children and their families taking part in the activities AFS organizes.

Our third national meeting this year was in November. Our agenda included psychodrama exercises aiming to promote how good self-esteem has an influence on stuttering and the quality of life. Besides exercising, we also elected the new board members and chairman for our association. The chairman of the board for the year 2011 is Thomas Sten.

In order to sustain the continuity and effectiveness for the years to come, AFS has constructed a strategy which sums up the most important activities of the associations. The strategy is the foundation upon which the activities and organization of the association is planned in the future.

The future looks bright and we are looking forward to it!

Valtteri Hellgren

Eeva Nurvala

CHILDREN'S BOOK NOW AVAILABLE...

Artie Knapp's children's book *Stuttering Stan Takes a Stand* is now available as a free flash-animated storybook from MightyBook Inc.

Stuttering Stan Takes a Stand - teased and bullied about his stuttering, Stanley the squirrel refuses to let on that his feelings are being hurt, until one day he learns an important lesson from a new friend.

At mightybook.com there are more than 60 free animated stories, songs, games and puzzles. To read *Stuttering Stan Takes a Stand* click on the illustration below.

http://www.mightybook.com/MightyBook_free/books/stuttering_stan/stuttering_stan.html





A WORKBOOK FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN WHO STUTTER



Shinji Ito
Executive director
Japan Stuttering Project

Japan Stuttering Project is a self-help group of adults who stutter. They are engaged in various activities including a summer camp for children who stutter and their parents and publication projects, as well as holding weekly meetings.

In Japan there have been very few comprehensive guidebooks for school children who stutter. On August 31, 2010, a workbook for children who stutter was published by the speech therapists working for public schools, hospitals and special centers. The book contains many exercises designed for school children.

The book also shows various approaches which help children to deal with their stuttering based on the recognition of the following three realities:

1. Many people continue to stutter even after undergoing therapy.
2. There is no effective approach that leads to complete recovery from stuttering anywhere in the world.

3. The severity of the stuttering varies greatly between individuals. There are some people who do not stutter severely but are affected by the symptoms, while there are others who stutter severely but are less affected and are leading meaningful lives.

Based on these realities we have been exploring ways to live with stuttering for more than forty years, and we choose not to spend a huge amount of energy to cure, improve and control the symptoms. The workbook is our message to school children based on the experiences of adults and children who stutter. It aims to give them ideas about how they can face and deal with their stuttering.

The book also introduces the experiences of Shinji Ito, Charles Van Riper, Scatman John, and Joseph G. Sheehan as well as approaches to stuttering used in the United States and Australia. The exercises we invented to help children to deal with stuttering focus on the following areas.

Exploring with children what stuttering is and its causes

In order to think about the issues involved with stuttering children make cubic shapes with wood blocs or paper and clay to illustrate the 'language relation figure' invented by Wendell Johnson. Also, they make their stuttering icebergs following the concept of Dr. Sheehan's iceberg theory.

Children use a checklist to understand their interpersonal relationships, emotions, thoughts and their avoidance behavior, to go beyond simply focusing on their stuttering symptoms.

The exercises help children to develop their 'social interest,' which is one of the key concepts of Adler's psychology. The exercises focus on developing communicative skills.

Vocal and pronunciation exercise of Japanese language

The book has been reviewed by major newspapers and educational journals. The initial print run of the book was 2,500 copies and sold out within a month of its debut and so far an additional 2,500 copies have been published.



SLOVENIJA- BEATA AKERMAN

I'm an assistant lecturer at Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. I've stuttered for more than 20 years now and because stuttering in Slovenia is a big stigma, I became an activist and I fight for the rights of people who stutter. Therefore I wrote many articles, I participated on television and radio shows, congresses, I have my own support group and now I published a book for children about Princess Izabela who stammered (the will be shown on the ISA website soon), for which I won a special award in Austria for the best international children and young people literature. In Slovenia PWS are dealing with many problems and it looks like society couldn't care less. A few months ago I was invited to some tv-show where I was talking about my book. The problem was that they cut all the important parts ... like discrimination and prejudice towards PWS. Also invited was a psychologist who said: 'I believe, those people are almost completely normal (while telling this, the viewers could watch a small group of teenagers (around 15 years old), playing with doll!)'. Before I started to look for friends on facebook I had no support what so ever. In Slovenia, it is so hard to do anything to make our lives easier. I'm all alone fighting for our rights and it's even harder, because I don't get any support from speech therapists.

Pupils with speech impediments are sometimes placed in a special school, even into total institutions, so it

wouldn't be empty, but PWS who survived this horrible experience don't want to talk about that, so not many people know about this problem. The Slovenian law does not protect us as it does in other cases of special needs. We also don't have the right to use a speech easy device.

In Slovenia, it is so hard to do anything to make our lives easier, because people who don't stutter make all the decisions and they are far from being accustomed to our needs. In addition, we don't have a strong support group (PWS are still afraid of talking about their problems) or some well-known association, which would help PWS. We have one association, but the main goal of this association is not to spread awareness about problems of PWS, but to organize trips and events with the purpose of gathering PWS together. Because I don't see how trips could improve our day-to-day situation, I've started to write about problems of PWS.

PWS in Slovenia need equal educational and job opportunities. There is also a lack of awareness of Slovenian society – for example, I had a teacher who thought I stuttered because of a lack of discipline. Whenever I stuttered, she sent me to the corner, facing the wall, where I stood for many hours. If I stuttered very hard, standing in the corner was not enough. She made me get down on my knees. PWS find it hard to find job. I still remember a director of a hospital (I had responded to an AD. They were looking for a social worker). When she heard me stuttering, she said: 'Oh, I've just remembered, that

job is already taken', but, have a nice day. Those stories are not old. Some could think this should not be happening nowadays. I'm only 28 years old.

Everywhere we go people can make fun of us, but that is not the only reaction to our speech impediment. People often talk to us as if we were little children. They scream as if we couldn't hear. Some are very surprised how normal we look – a student, future teacher – said to me: 'Do you stutter? Oh, but you look so normal!'. Even better: 'It is so sad that you stutter, you could be very pretty if you did not have this speech impediment.' People often think that they won't understand what we are saying to them so they are always asking – what did you say? I also remember a situation where I had been asked if I was drunk.

Because I don't look my age and because I'm not that tall, people are talking to me as if I was a child ... 'Oh, bravo, you made it, you filled in the form to send a letter, Bravo! You see, it wasn't that hard, was it? Again, bravo!' Sometimes, people try very hard to help because they think that I'm deaf so they make up their own way of talking to me with some kind of body movement. Last winter I had some medical examinations, so I went to the radiologist and his nurse asked me to take off my belt and all the jewellery I was wearing. I asked her something about the procedure. On hearing me stutter she looked very shocked. She just stood there quietly. Then she said very loud 'NO' and rubbed her belly and asked: 'Are you?' When I said that I'm not pregnant and

**SLOVENIJA CONT'D...**

that it is ok to speak to me, I just stutter that is all, she screamed back: 'THAT IS GREAT!' She knocked on the frame of the machine and once again screamed: 'NOT GOOD FOR BABY!!!' Before the procedure could start she gave me all the instructions: she waved with her hand as if she was trying to tell me to come closer to the machine, then she grabs on holders and squeeze her teeth. The same procedure she repeated at least 3 or 4 times and while doing so she was screaming: 'YES YES, DO YOU GET IT? YES?' When I didn't answer her stupid question she screamed even harder: 'CAAAAAAAN YOOOOOOUUUUU HEEEEEEAR MEEEEEEEEEEEEEE?'

Some people think that I stutter because I'm stupid. I remember when I was invited to a TV-show where I was talking about stuttering and problems of PWS. During the interview host asked: 'do you have a mobile phone?' When I answered yes, she asked: 'Oh, really? And you even know how to use it?' I was trying to explain to her that having speech impediment does not mean that person is living under a rock. I told the journalist that I can show her that I do know how to use it and I did. The cameraman even recorded it (of course that did not appear on the show because like she said: It didn't look real, instead of that they put a scene where I'm standing under a tree!!!!). Growing up with a stutter and not having a person to talk about problems related to stuttering was

very hard. No one can understand those problems better than someone who actually stutters. I was ashamed of myself. Always wondering, why me? Never knowing the answer to that question. Even though, it's been 20 years, the pain has not gone away and I still remember my school years. I don't want anyone to go through the same experiences alone as I did. That is why I've decided to help other people who stutter and fight for the rights of those who are afraid to speak for themselves.

That is how it all began. At the age of 22 and after a third unsuccessful speech therapy course I become aware that I needed to accept myself for who I am and not hide behind thoughts about what I'm not able to do because I stutter. I am a person who stutters and there is nothing wrong with that. When I reached that point in my life, my stutter was no longer a problem for me.

At the age of 24 I wrote thesis with title 'Living with Speech Impediments Through the Eyes of People who Stutter' for which in the year 2006 I won a special award called Prešeren's award (Prešeren was famous Slovenian writer). The thesis explored different aspects of the lives of people who stutter and the difficulties that lie within each individual aspect, as well as the ways in which these interwoven problems influence the individual's self image, their own speech and their daily lives with a speech impediment. I also finished postgraduate studies of social work for people with special needs where my main area of interest was representation of people who

stutter in the media. My postgraduate studies ended with a specialist thesis 'Changing public opinions about people who stammer in Slovenia'. The thesis shows a detailed survey through the history of the social exclusion of people who stammer. A very detailed medical model of procedures of speech particularities has also been described and the influence of such proceedings to people who stammer. I have been dealing with some public opinions, which together with education, upbringing, and words of other important people affect the shaping of conceptions, persistence in prejudices and consequentially the discrimination. The goal of the active research was to change public opinions about the people who stammer with a help of holding and leading lectures and workshops for different age groups and professional profiles of listeners, co-operation in different projects, writing articles and appearances in media. For my doctoral dissertations, I'm planning to do a research about educational and employment opportunities for people who stutter.

-Beata Akerman

(see following pages for "Izabela" story)

**IZABELA-**

A fairytell of a princess who stammered...

Once upon a time, a queen and a king lived in a castle. Soon after they were married, five children were born. Two of them were boys and three of them were girls. The oldest one was princess Evelina who always had the last word. Two mischievous boys followed; prince Filip and prince Jakob. A very talkative princess Luiza was born after the twins. The last one was the quiet princess Izabela. She was not quiet because she did not like to talk but because other children laughed at her. Princess Izabela stammered. In the castle, she was always reminded to speak smoothly and was scolded when she got stuck. That is why she grew more and more quiet every day.

On one spring day, all the princes and the princesses gathered at the courtyard.

"Let's go play catch! Or throw marbles! No, I got it! Let's go play with the skipping rope! I want to be first!" rushed chatty Luiza with suggestions and already started skipping.

"I want to play hide-and-seek!" shouted Filip and hid under the stone table.

"Let's go and play with the ball!" Jakob shouted even louder.

Izabela was still silent so Evelina raised her voice:

"Today we will play the theatre. We will make up a story and everyone will have his own part. When we will know the story by heart, we will show it to our father, the king and to our mother,

the queen." Like always, her suggestion prevailed.

"I will be the knight, called the Brave," Filip said. "And I will be the knight, called the Rightful," said Jakob who did not want to be less important than his brother.

"You may. You will compete in the Knight's tournament where you will try to win the princess's heart," added Evelina.

"Luiza, you will be their princess and I will be the queen and I will have the main word," she divided the roles.

"W-W-What about m-m-me?" finally spoke Izabela.

"You can't perform with us," strictly replied Evelina.

"Why n-n-not?" argued Izabela?

"Listen to yourself, you can barely talk!" Filip laughed at her.

"I w-w-want to b-b-be the good fai-fai-fai ..." she could not finish the word fairy.

"You will be no fai-fai-fai!" shouted Jakob.

"Until you learn to speak like we do, you can't play with us," added Luiza.

"So go away," finally added Evelina.

*

In all her sadness, Izabela ran to the castle park. She hid behind the hedge of roses and cried bitter tears. Then she suddenly heard beautiful bird singing above her.

She looked up and saw a tiny bird in the bushes.

"Who a-a-are you t-t-that sings so b-b-beautifully?"

"I am a nightingale and this is the only way I can sing," sang the nightingale. "And who are you?"

"I-I-Izabe-bela," replied the princess.

"And why are you so sad?" asked the nightingale.

"I-I-I'm afraid to t-t-talk. E-E-Everything I s-s-say is w-w-wrong," stammered Izabela and cried again.

"Nothing is wrong if you don't speak like others. Even each nightingale sings differently," the nightingale comforted her. And Izabela believed him.

From then on, she rushed every morning, before the sunrise, to the park and to the hedge. The nightingale waited for her to sing her a morning song. And how beautifully did he sing! He changed the voiceful sounds with the warbling ones, sad ones with the happy ones, sometimes he sang gently so you could barely hear him and sometimes he sang so loudly and proudly that his singing echoed all over the castle park.

By listening to such a master, Isabella gained courage and opened her heart. She started to tell him her favourite stories. When doing so, she changed her voice in a special way: sometimes she whispered as a forest fairy, sometimes she was rude and loud as a harsh and strict queen, than she spoke charmingly as a small baby and sometimes loudly like an old dwarf. She could speak fast or slowly, with her voice being high

**IZABELA CONT'D...**

or low. And when she impersonated these fairy tale heroes, she did not stammer for even a bit.

"You really are a born actress," said the nightingale surprisingly and was very proud of his new friend.

"T-T-Then I will al-al-always a-act. I-I-I will p-p-p-re-pretend t-to be s-s-someone else and I won't s-s-s-stammer anymore. O-O-Other k-k-kids will love me and they w-w-will play with m-m-me," rushed her words Izabela.

"Oh, no," warbled the nightingale. "You cannot fool yourself with someone else's voice. When you borrow your voice to a fairy tale character, it is alright if you change your voice, but otherwise be who you are and speak like you speak. Your speech makes you unique like my singing makes me unique. Other children must accept you and love you for who you are."

"But h-h-how do I t-t-tell them that? They h-h-hear only my sta-sta-stammering!"

"You will think of something. It is not important how you speak but what you speak. Remember that!" the nightingale warbled for the last time and flew to the warmer places with other migratory birds. "I'll see you the next spring," echoed while the nightingale was disappearing in the distance.

"I will re-re-remember that," whispered Izabela to herself and waved goodbye to the nightingale.

*

Izabela's seventh birthday was near. Her father, the king and her mother, the queen, had the habit to fulfil one wish for each child on their birthday and that day there were no exceptions, too.

On the night before her birthday, Izabela tirelessly thought of what to wish for her birthday. A new doll? Building blocks? New crayons maybe? She thought of it the whole night and at dawn, she thought of the right idea. She ran to the castle bedroom and declared to her father, the king and her mother, the queen:

"I want for my b-b-b-birthda-day that E-E-Evelina, Luiza, Jakob and F-F-Filip would s-s-s-stammer the entire day."

Her father, the king and her mother, the queen found this wish very unusual but her father, the king still ordered that Izabela's brothers and sisters must stammer from morning till evening. And they did because it was the order of the king and no one dared to break it.

Izabela watched closely and quietly. First problems appeared already at breakfast.

"I-I-I w-w-want s-s-some more sh-sh-sh..." before Evelina could finish the word shortbread, Jakob gave her a big spoon of sugar into already sweet tea.

"W-w-what are you d-d-doing?" Evelina asked angrily.

"I thought y-y-you w-w-w-want more su-su-su," Filip tried to stammer out the sentence.

"You should s-s-s-say s-sooner. D-D-D ..." tried to help Filip.

"D-D-Donkey? D-D-Drum? D-D-Doll?" Luiza tried to guess the word.

"D-D-Dummy!" Filip finally called her after long effort and added angrily: "And d-d-don't guess the wo-wo-words i-i-if you don't know w-w-w-what I am t-t-trying to say!"

"I th-th-thought that I was he-he-helping you," said his sister in defence, and Filip added: "W-W-Well, you weren't."

*

After the afternoon nap, the party began. All the cousins, along with children from the nearest kingdom came to congratulate Izabela.

"Why do you all speak so strangely?" little guests were wondering.

"T-t-that was I-I-Izab-b-bela's w-w-wish for her b-b-b ..." Luiza tried to reply while stammering. In that moment, one of the cousins hit her on her back. "Now will you speak normally?"

"N-N-No ..." Luiza moved away. She didn't expect that her cousin would hit her on her back.

"Do you have something stuck in your throat? Maybe it will help if you cough it out!" another cousin tried to help. Everyone started to cough. When this didn't help, the little visitors have had enough.

"You are alright, you are just too lazy to talk," they said in an offended manner and went away.

"L-L-Let's go p-p-play h-h-hide-and-s-s-seek!" shouted Filip after them.

**IZABELA CONT'D...**

"L-L-Let's go to the p-p-pond and th-th-throw s-s-stones!" Jakob tried to be louder than his brother.

The invited children started laughing. The more they laughed, the more the twins stammered and the more they stammered, the more other children laughed at them.

"W-w-why are you la-la-laughing?" Evelina tried to scold them.

"Did you hear that? W-w-why ..." the invited children repeated Evelina's words and couldn't stop laughing. Evelina, Jakob, Filip and Luiza stopped talking. There were no games and only the invited children ate the cake.

*

When Evelina, Luiza, Jakob and Filip waved goodbye, they couldn't hide their anger.

"Everyone i-i-is laughing and is i-i-mmitating us," said Luiza. "I want to t-t-talk but no one l-l-l-listens," she added.

"A-A-And no-no-no one w-w-wants to play with us," Filip and Jakob complained.

"This i-is horrible!" they all shouted.

"C-C-Couldn't y-y-you w-w-wish for something e-e-else?" asked Evelina angrily.

"I have enough of t-t-toys but I d-d-don't h-h-have a-a-a-anyone to p-play with. I wanted to sh-sh-show how sad I-I-I am b-b-because y-you la-la-laugh at me, you don't l-l-listen to m-m-me and

y-you d-don't want t-t-to p-play with me," answered Izabela.

Suddenly, with nothing else to say, Evelina, Luiza, Filip in Jakob started to cry. Only now they understood Izabela's wish for her birthday. Izabela also had tears in her eyes. She said quietly: "I-I-I want that you w-w-would l-l-love me," she covered her face with her hands and cried. Then she suddenly felt someone hugging her. It was Evelina.

"I am sorry that I hurt you so many times. I never showed that I love you," and she held her little sister even more tightly, saying the words which Izabela waited for so long: "I love you."

"I am also sorry for everything," wept Luiza. Izabela reached with her hand to Luiza and she also hugged her. "I love you too," she whispered and Izabela smiled at her.

"Is there any room for us?" asked the twins at the same time. Every one of them embraced Izabela so that they were joined in a big hug.

"From now on, we will all play together and none of us will laugh at you because you stammer. What you want us to do when you stammer again?" asked Jakob "And how you want to play so that we can all play together?" Filip also rushed to asked.

Izabela spoke and the other children listened carefully for the first time. She told them everything that came to her mind. Evelina took a piece of paper and wrote everything that her sister has told them, and so that they would never forget what she told them.

Before the end of her seventh birthday, Izabela's seven rules were written on the paper.

Seven rules of our Izabela, the princess who stammers:

If you hear someone stammering, do not laugh at him/her because s/he will be sad.

Listen to him/her.

Do not send him/her away just because s/he stammers.

Do not interfere when s/he is talking.

Do not guess the words s/he is trying to say because you don't know what s/he wants to say.

If you tell him/her not to stammer, you will not make things better. S/he will still stammer.

Playing is for everyone and that is why everyone can play.

The next morning, the children put the paper on the castle gates so that everyone in the kingdom could read it. From then on, no one ever laughed at people who stammered.

-Beata Akerman



**MESSAGE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF ACB -
(BURKINA FASO
STUTTERING
ASSOCIATION)**

Since 2002, thanks to ACB (Action against stuttering), our national stuttering association, our country like others in the world (mainly developed countries) celebrated the ISAD every October 22nd.

This celebration responds to a major worry: stop the taboo on stuttering, talk about stuttering and create an interest toward stuttering.

Being an unknown speech impairment, yet, stuttering is present in our society.

Several studies revealed that 1% from any population stutter. This means that about 140.000 persons in our country stutter.

For the majority of PWS, stuttering is the major problem in their life. It takes the control of all the aspects of their life and prevents them from expressing fully their feeling. It may waste the life of several children, adolescents and adults...

However, at different periods of history, at different areas in the world, some pws successfully managed their stuttering. Despite the presence of severe stuttering in their language they successfully tame their stuttering. They practice the quote: don't let stuttering tell you what you should do. Their experiences and testimonies can be a source of inspiration for all pws.

This year the personal experience of pws will be the main theme of ISAD in our country

Our association will organize a conference on Saturday, October 23rd. The theme will be: people who stutter, inspire.

This conference will allow to respond to questions on stuttering, to do presentation on famous people who stuttered or still stutter and particularly to share testimonies of pws that developed good strategies in order to manage their stuttering.

An American scientist said : «pws face at an unimaginable number of challenges that we can not conceive”.

Talking, at any moment, is a challenge. Could I pronounce the world? What would be the reactions of my listener? Would I be judged on my real value?... In short, several sources of scares. Successfully facing those challenges is an challenge. Inside all of us there is a kind celebrity.

By coming to the conference and sharing your experiences and testimonies about pupils that are facing bullying and teasing by their classmate, and facing bad attitudes of teachers towards them and the loss of their self esteem, about the worker scared about the presentation of a report and talking during meeting about the parents that are helpless face to the stuttering of their children..., you be very helpful.

By your testimonies you will prove that stuttering is not a fatality.

By that gesture, you will give hope to several pws and their families.

Dr Moussa DAO ISA Director
President of ACB

Email : daomoussa@yahoo.fr

Tel : (226)70 26 35 29



MESSAGE FROM ZAMBIA

Dec, 2010.

Message from Zambia

My name is Mike Mabika, Zambian, aged 40, married, I have 4 children and basically I have stuttered all my life.

Anyway over the years I have decided that stuttering will not be a hurdle to limit me from achieving my dreams.

I'm particularly concerned about the lack of knowledge regarding stuttering among the public in Zambia. This country has very few professional speech therapists if any and the government should ensure that more are trained and deployed in Schools to help pupils, students with such speech disorders.

Most people are totally ignorant about this subject and they assume that stuttering is caused by nervousness or lack of confidence or the traditional beliefs that one's tongue was not properly sliced at a younger age.

I believe that stuttering is caused by so many factors and some of these factors are different from each individual case. It really annoys me when people try and trivialise the causes the stuttering.

I also feel stuttering is being marginalised in the areas of Academic, professional and interpersonal development. For instance most jobs being advertised in the papers require one to possess oral communication skills and this usually disqualifies one who severely stutters. This is pure discrimination and leads to isolation of people with speech disabilities.

There is no organisation in Zambia that looks into the plight of people with stuttering problems.

One day I would like to be involved in the formation of an Association such as stuttering Association of Zambia which could spearhead stuttering awareness campaigns and ensure that this fight remains steadfast and also long term. Most

Zambians are not even remotely aware that 22nd October is designated as International stuttering day.

My aim is to see people living with stuttering meet others who stutter and share a common bond and objectives in a safe and supportive environment. I am



optimistic that given a chance some people with such impairments can contribute positively in the development in their countries.

Mike.

REPORT OF ISAD 2010 IN BURKINA

I - Orthofaso Mission 2010

For the fourth year, we received, from September 27th to November 1st, Six (6) students from the medical school of the University of Montpellier (France). They are members of the association called Orthofaso. Yearly, this association sends several Speech language pathologist students in their final year of study to Burkina Faso, in order to support our activities. This year, three of them were in the capital Ouagadougou and three others were in the second big city of the country (Bobo dioulasso).

The students took care of children with their families, adolescents and adults. Many families that have children with other speech impairment took this opportunity to approach us in order to get access to the therapist.

We transferred our self help meeting in the park of Ouagadougou. It was very interesting. They taught breathing and relaxations techniques.

II- ISAD 2010

II-1 Messages in newspapers

For our ISAD, I sent an ISAD message that was published in newspapers. I received positive feedback.

II-2 Radio broadcast

We had a one hour live broadcast in a private radio station. We received several calls of testimonies and questions.

II-3 Conference

We celebrated our ISAD on October 23rd. Unlike past years, this year, the celebration was very simple, practically without opening ceremony that was characterized by solemn speech, theatre and folkloric dance. The content of this celebration was one of the best that we had never experienced.

The theme of the conference was: People who stutter inspire

We had two presentations:

The three students from France did a presentation on "generality on stuttering". They gave information about the causes, the manifestation and how to handle with stuttering.

Then, Mr Sourabié, member of our association and student at the medical school of the university of Ouagadougou and I did a presentation on "famous people

that stuttered or stutter". After presenting different famous people from the world, and from our country, we demonstrated how any people who stutter, by facing to a great challenge that is opening their mouth to speak and by overcoming this challenge, are also famous persons.



The main part of the conference was the testimonies of the participants. They have to tell how they successfully face to their stuttering. Several persons shared moving and enriching testimonies.

We were honored by the presence of the colonel Yaguibou who is one the important personality of our national army. By reading my ISAD message in newspapers, he contacted me and expressed his will to attend at the conference. He told a touching testimonies about his stuttering that was very severe and was treated thanks to slp during his military training in France.

A boy aged 10 with severe stuttering, had a courage to stand up face to participants and express his joy to be among us. His testimony was very moving.

REPORT OF ISAD 2010 IN BURKINA



Self help group at the park of Ouagadougou



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

ABOUT THE 9TH WORLD CONGRESS FOR PEOPLE WHO STUTTER

IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, MAY 17-21, 2011

1. When and where will the 9th World Congress for People Who Stutter be held?

It will be held at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Buenos Aires, 2155 Paraguay Street, City of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The dates of the Congress are Wednesday May 18, 2011 through Saturday May 22, 2011.

2155 Paraguay Street is located between Uruburu Street (on some street maps José Uruburu Street) and Junin Street. It is one block from Cordoba Avenue.

For subway transportation, use Line D of the subway – the green line on subway maps. There is a subway station stop at **Facultad de Medicina**.

2. What is the ISA Membership Meeting? When is it? Who should attend?

The International Stuttering Association (ISA) is an association of associations. Its members are the stuttering associations for people who stutter in many countries (about 50), worldwide.

Every three years (but this time, it has been four years), a membership meeting is held, usually the day before the start of a World Congress. Anyone interested may attend. Only the designated representative for each ISA member association is entitled to vote, however, when a motion is made, seconded, and put to the membership for decision. The meeting is rather similar to the AGM (Annual General Meeting) that is held by many organizations.

The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to about 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 (the day before the Congress starts on May 18) at:

Koh Lanta Bar
located on Gorriti Street, 4647
Palermo neighborhood
Buenos Aires.

Delegates and others will be invited to get together for a social period and dinner at a local restaurant (not yet selected but perhaps the Koh Lanta Bar).

The ISA requests that each member association to send at least one representative to this meeting. (If several attend, this is OK but only one person from an association may vote.)

3. How do I register for the Congress? Where do I get a registration form? What is the amount of the registration fee? How do I pay (U.S. dollars, Euros, etc.)?

To register for the Congress, send an email to: info@citargentina2011.com.ar

For information about registration fees for those from Argentina, go to the Congress web site at <http://www.citargentina2011.ar> and look at the *Registration* tab and the *Rates* tab.

For those in the USA, Europe and the rest of the world:

Rest of the WORLD

(In USA dollars (USD) / Euros)

	(Starting Dec. 1, 2010)	(Until Nov. 30, 2010)
Professionals	400 USD / 300 €	300 USD / 225 €
Non Professionals	300 USD / 225 €	200 USD / 150 €
Students	200 USD / 150 €	100 USD / 75€
Accompanying Person	200 USD / 150 €	100 USD / 75€

We are sorry that payment by **credit card** is not possible.

Payment may be made by **Western Union**. You should go to a Western Union office with your ID, and make a deposit of the amount of the registration fee. Then, you should send an email to info@citargentina2011.com.ar giving your name, country, and transfer number. You will receive a confirmation email from the World Congress.

Information that you will need to make the transfer:

Name: Claudia Lucia Diaz or Graciela Silvia Fiocca (you may use either)

City: City of Buenos Aires

Country: Argentina

An option for direct payment **by bank account** will be available later in November 2010.

4. Who are the keynote speakers?

The keynote speakers (in alphabetical order) are:

Prof. Beatriz Biain de Touzet, **Argentina**

Licenciada en Fonoaudiología

Especialista en Trastornos de la Fluidez

Directora de Posgrado en Tartamudez. Departamento de Graduados UBA

Directora de Seminarios de Tartamudez. Carrera de Licenciatura en Fonoaudiología UBA

Fundadora y Presidenta Honoraria de la Asociación Argentina de Tartamudez

Dr. Hans Georg Bosshardt, **Germany**

Faculty of Psychology, Ruhr-University, Bochum, Germany

Luc deNil, Ph.D., **Canada**

Department of Speech-Language Pathology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Gerald Maguire, M.D., USA
Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Kirkup Chair in Stuttering Treatment
Senior Associate Dean, Educational Affairs
University of California - Irvine School of Medicine, Irvine, California

Frederick P. Murray, Ph.D., USA
Professor, Communications Disorders Department, Retired
University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, USA
Author of “A Stutterer’s Story”
Named to the National Stuttering Hall of Fame

Michael Sugarman, MBA. MSW, USA
Chair, Board of Directors, International Stuttering Association (ISA)
Chair, International Fluency Ass’n (IFA) Support Group & Consumer Affairs Committee
Co founder, National Stuttering Project (now National Stuttering Ass’n), USA, in 1977
Executive Director, NSA/NSP, 1978-1983 and again 1995-1997
Named to the National Stuttering Hall of Fame
Recipient of American Speech-Hearing Language Assn’s Distinguished Service Award

5. Will small group, discussion-type, workshops be offered, using breakout rooms?

Yes. Details will be available later.

6. What housing options (hotel, rooms, etc.) are available? Where can I get detailed information?

Housing information is available at:
<http://www.tipinternacional.com/cit2011>

You may send an email to:
cit2011@tipinternacional.com

7. Is housing located within a reasonable walking distance to the World Congress venue? If some are not, is subway or local bus (transit) service available? Or is a taxicab the only option, for those who do not have a car?

One way to get to the Congress venue is by taking subway route D, the green line, to the subway station stop at **Facultad de Medicina**.

(Need input from Claudia and Beatriz)

8. For those who are handicapped or with limited mobility, are handicapped parking places available for those who arrive by private car? Is transfer by taxi a reasonable alternative to the subway for those staying at a hotel?

(Need input from Claudia and Beatriz)

9. What scholarships are available? What costs may be covered? Where may I find detailed information as to availability and find out how to apply?

The ISA has a small fund for partial scholarships to people who stutter (stammer) who want to attend the World Congress,

In looking at the applications, we will be considering some or all of the following points:

The applicant:

- o is applying for the first time to the ISA;
- o will be giving a workshop / presentation at the Congress;
- o is a person who stutters;
- o comes from a developing country;
- o represents their National Association and will be present at the ISA membership meeting on May 17.

Successful applicants will be advised as soon as possible after we have seen their names in the program and been contacted by their National Association. The scholarship money will be provided at the World Congress, not in advance.

Scholarships will be considered for travel (air fares) and accommodation. This restriction will mean more people can be helped.

Please send a written application (see below) to:

msugarman1@sbcglobal.net

In your written application, please:

- o give your full Name / address / email address / National Association
- o confirm this is your first application;
- o give the name of your workshop / presentation
- o state the name of the person that you have asked from your National Association to contact us to confirm you can represent them at the meeting;
- o for travel, please give airports (from and to) and the name of the airline you will use to support the amount you request;
- o for accommodation, please give the name of the guest house you will use to support the amount you request.

The deadline for applications is January 15th, 2011.

10. What social events are being planned?

A banquet/gala dinner is planned. More social activities will be announced later.

11. What about touring, before and/or after the World Congress?

Tourism information is available at:

<http://www.tipinternacional.com/cit2011>

You may send an email to:

cit2011@tipinternacional.com







Edited by: Josh Denault U.S.A. (email: jdenaultoo@yahoo.com)
 Liaison: Keith Boss U.K. (email: keithmaxkb@yahoo.com)