

## ISA Membership meeting (message from the Chair)

To all our ISA friends here today. Welcome. It is good to renew our face to face friendships, built up over the years and over the many, many flying miles. I hope you all have a superb 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress here in Atlanta.

I would like to thank our NSA hosts for all the work they have done over many months to make the Congress possible.

In these more security conscious times we have experienced some difficulties in getting VISAs, so in future Congresses we do need to urge people to make VISA applications earlier and advise host nations of this requirement.

I am sorry I cannot be with you in Atlanta. I had a failed hip operation in September 2015 and I have been in a Nursing Home, without a right hip, since then. My thanks go to those who ask about my progress. I have heard that the design of a new implant has been completed, and the 3D printing build of the implant will be completed soon. There is a possibility of an operation this month and me learning to walk again.

At our 10<sup>th</sup> World Congress you asked us to work more closely with the IFA. The ISA has

Two Board Directors on the IFA Meetings and Conferences Committee;  
Two Board Directors on the IFA Self Help and Advocacy Committee;  
One Board Director on IFA Professional Liaison Committee.

Later in this meeting you will be asked to vote on the proposal to have the 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress as a joint Congress with the IFA in Japan.

We continue to be active in arranging the 22 day On-line Stuttering Conference in October and ISAD on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October. During this Congress in Atlanta, Bruce and others will ask you if you would like to take part in brief videos, for us to use in the On-line conference and possibly on our website. Please, please help the ISA if you can make time.

We tried, with friends living and working in Africa, to hold a 3<sup>rd</sup> World African Congress. That project was not to be in the lifetime of this Board. So Hanan Hurwitz offered to lead an ISA Outreach Africa project. I guided him through the ISA ISPS (International Speech Project Stuttering), and he

wrote a project plan for Outreach Africa. He reports on this at this meeting very soon. He is to be congratulated as being the first Director since 2007 to get involved in detailed Outreach work. Thanks Hanan.

During this Congress we will be discussing the ISA SWOT chart [Strengths; Weaknesses; Opportunities and Threats].

It is so easy to find Weaknesses, so I am very pleased that during this Board we have written down some of the Strengths and Opportunities. We owe a debt of thanks to Bert Bast who spent considerable time trying to turn us into an Association which would attract funding opportunities. We have begun some of the work he suggested, but it is still ongoing. Our main difficulty with his work, and with many of the weaknesses, listed in SWOT, is lack of volunteer time to take on the work. I wish the next Board more success.

One of our better ideas was to use Universities in different countries as a base for many things we do in ISP-S. Again, I regret we were unable to find Director time to follow through on this. There is still much to do. See the articles in One Voice 37 ( <http://www.isastutter.org/news-and-events/one-voice-newsletter> ) for many ideas on this.

I will close by thanking fellow Directors and the ISA Advisory Board for their work in the last three years. I wish the new Board, which will be elected during this meeting, every success in the months ahead. Meet face to face as often as you can, and as a backup plan use Google / SKYPE, four to six times a year. Enjoy your time, learn a lot and have fun helping PWS around the world. Network here in Atlanta and see who at the Congress would be willing to help.

My best wishes to you all,

Keith Boss.