



2012 ISAAC Research Symposium Call for Seminar Proposals

The Research Symposium is an independent part of the ISAAC Biennial Conference, which follows the main conference at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, USA, on August 3-4, 2012. The aim of the Symposium is to create opportunities for in-depth discussions, which are typically missing in the tight schedule of the main conference. The focus of the Symposium is on research questions, in other words not directly on practice, or how to do it (as in most of the presentations in the main conference), but rather on why augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) for a particular group should be promoted in one way or another, and *why* something works or does not work.

The seminars (a.k.a. strands, themes or topics) that comprise the Symposium should consider theoretical, methodological and empirical issues related to AAC, both in core areas and areas where present knowledge is insufficient or totally lacking. The aim is to discuss and expand the knowledge base of the field. Seminars may also address aspects of AAC use and development that are indirectly related to clinical practice, such as linguistics, cognitive science and social science.

The number of parallel seminars will depend on the proposals that are submitted. Each seminar comprises seven hours, distributed over the two days (excluding breaks). Except for the time frame, the format is free and decided by the organizers of the proposals. **However, discussions should take up the major part of the time. Presentations should be introductions to sub-themes and their number should be limited.** The introduction to the themes may also be the shared responsibility of an organizing group.

Abstracts and *Summaries* of the accepted seminar proposals may appear in the main conference Proceedings. Papers from the seminars will be published in full as Proceedings of the Research Symposium, to be released after the Symposium. The *Abstracts* and *Summaries* may also be included in the Symposium Proceedings.

THE SEMINAR PROPOSAL SHOULD CONTAIN:

1. Name and contact information of organizer(s)
2. Name and contact information of designated correspondent
3. Name of the moderator (typically not a presenter)
4. Theme addressed in the seminar
5. Format of the seminar and number of presentations planned. Identify proposed and/or committed presenters.
6. An *Abstract* of no more than 200 words which may be used in pre-symposium announcements, the main conference program and/or the symposium.
7. A one- to three-page *Summary* giving the reasons for choice of theme and briefly summarizing the issues to be discussed.

The Research Symposium Committee will assist in developing seminar themes. **Early submission of proposals is strongly encouraged** because we will use a two-phase rolling review. The early proposals may be able to get more feedback and assistance.

TWO-PHASE ROLLING REVIEW AND FINAL DEADLINE:

The initial review of proposals will be a committee rating as they are received. Those with the highest ratings will be encouraged to submit their proposal (with possible modifications) for the final review. **The final deadline for submissions will be November 11, 2011.**

With this process we intend to notify the contact person of the accepted seminars in time for the presenters to take advantage of the *introductory 40% reduced registration which ends on January 31.*

SEND PROPOSALS TO:

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