Call for Seminar Proposals for the 2014 ISAAC Research Symposium

The 2014 ISAAC Research Symposium will follow the 16th Biennial Conference of ISAAC in Lisbon, Portugal, on July 25-26, 2014. The aim of the Symposium is to create opportunities for in-depth discussions, something that is not always possible as part of the main conference. The focus of the Symposium is on basic and applied research questions. The issues should not directly concern practice and "how to do it" but focus on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) as a phenomenon in itself and why it should be promoted in one way or another for a particular group, and why particular strategies work or do not work.

The aim is to discuss and expand the knowledge base of the field. The seminars (also called 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. 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 a total of eight hours, distributed over the two days (excluding breaks). Except for the timeframe, the format is open 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.

Proposals for seminars should be sent to the symposium co-chairs at researchsymposium@isaac-online.org. The Abstracts will be included in the Symposium Program. Papers from the seminars will be published in full in "The Proceedings of the Research Symposium", which is published after the symposium. The discussion may also be reflected in the Proceedings.

The seminar proposal should contain:

1. Title of the seminar. We prefer a final title but it may be a working title or a theme initially.

2. Name and email address of designated correspondent (aka the primary organizer)

3. Name and email address of organizer(s)

4. Name of the moderator (typically not a presenter)

5. Format of the seminar and number of presentations planned. Identify proposed and/or committed presenters.

6. An abstract of no more than 500 words, which includes the reasons for choice of theme and brief summaries of the issues to be discussed.

7. Names and email addresses of the two organizers who will commit to staying for a two-hour meeting following the conclusion of the research symposium on the second day. This is a very important commitment which will greatly facilitate the ease of producing a high-quality conference proceedings.

It is possible to submit proposals without a full set of presenters and, if needed, the Research Symposium Committee will assist in finding presenters and developing the seminar theme.

Please send your proposals as soon as possible. We hope to start reviewing within in the next few days. **The final deadline for submissions will be midnight on December 22, 2013.** We hope to have all of the reviewing completed by mid-January to allow time for travel arrangements.

The 2014 Research Symposium Co-Chairs are:

Lyle L. Lloyd, Co-Chair, 2014 ISAAC Research Symposium

Stephen von Tetzchner, Co-Chair, 2014 ISAAC Research Symposium

Linda Koehler, Co-Chair, 2014 ISAAC Research Symposium

Isabel Maria Amaral, Co-Chair, 2014 ISAAC Research Symposium

For further information on the ISAAC Research Symposium, click here.