



Minutes of the Annual General Assembly (AGA)

Monday, 03 August 2026

12.00-13.15 CEST

Virtual on Zoom

The 2026 Annual General Assembly (AGA) was presided by the IALP President Tamer Abou-Elsaad.

Number of attendees: 69

The President convened the General Assembly and presented the agenda.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last General Assembly of 26th August 2025 were circulated electronically ahead of the AGA. Kamini Gadhok highlighted the need to correct WHO representative information on her last year's report. The IALP CEO will make this correction. Tamer moved that the minutes be approved as a true record of the 2025 AGA. Minutes approved.

2. President's Report

President Tamer Abou - Elsaad presented the President's Report highlighting five strategic priorities: global visibility and advocacy, education, member engagement, digital growth, and focus on the Global South. Key achievements included IALP's official non-state actor status with WHO, participation in the World Health Assembly, and welcoming 70 new individual members. A detailed report is attached as Annex I of these minutes.

3. President Elect

Kamini Gadhok, as President Elect and IALP Committees' liaison, presented a full-report of the work of the 14 Standing Committees of IALP since August 2025 to date and their forecasted activities. She also presented IALP's work with WHO, including support for Global Status Reports on rehabilitation and hearing, and coordination of statements at various meetings. The report is attached as Appendix II to these minutes.

4. Vice President for Communication Report

Dora Knezevic, as Vice President for Communication, reported on social media growth, including LinkedIn with over 850 followers and 34,000 views, Facebook with 45 followers, and plans for a new podcast and member's only area on the IALP website. The report is attached as Appendix III to these minutes.

5. Vice President for Membership and Partnerships Report

Debra Phyland as Vice President for Membership and Partnerships reported membership growth from 313 to 436 active individual members and 52 affiliated societies globally. She also spoke about continuing to solicit contributions to the Membership Sponsorship Fund, progress on MOU discussions with the Voice Foundation and other related international organisations and referred to the planned meeting with the International Labour Organisation regarding occupational voice health. A detailed report is attached to these minutes as Appendix IV.

6. Vice President for Finance Report

Arlene Pietranton, as Vice President for Finance, referred to the IALP Financial Statements for 2025 as externally prepared by accountant Karl Cutajar, ACCA, M.I.A., Cert(AML), M.I.M, CPA. The financial report showing the organization is financially stable, though the 2025 Congress in Malta resulted in lower revenue than expected due to relocation from Tel Aviv. She also gave an account of IALP's income and expenditure for the first half of 2026 and future projections which indicate a slight surplus for 2026. A full report is attached as Appendix V to these minutes.

7. Vice President for Education Report

Fernanda Dreux, as Vice President for Education, highlighted the success of the first regional conference in Belém, Brazil with over 750 participants, and announced that voting is underway for main report titles for the Prague 2028 Congress. A full report is attached as Appendix VI to these minutes.

8. IALP 2028 Congress

In 2023, the Affiliated Society AKL CR from Prague, Czech Republic, was approved as the host of the next IALP Congress in 2028. Hana Nestalova, on behalf of the Czech Association gave a presentation highlighting Prague's attractiveness and benefits for delegates to attend the IALP World Congress in 2028.

9. Voting Process

Tamer Abou-Elsaad explained that voting is currently open for the selection of the main report titles of the IALP 2028 World Congress. An independent vendor was identified to support the voting process. Voting will remain open until 10th August at 13.00 CET.

The **Official Result** of the 2026 voting is as follows:

Selection of Main Report Titles for IALP 2028 Prague Congress:

1. Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Clinical Education – current practices and opportunities, impact and challenges – 143 Votes
2. Aging and its challenges - Speech and Language Biomarkers in Early Detection of Neurodegenerative Diseases – 134 Votes
3. Promoting critical thinking in clinicians – 126 Votes
4. Where are we at with Artificial Intelligence (AI) in rehabilitation for communication and swallowing disorders – 123 Votes
5. Rethinking Language Disorders: New Perspectives on Developmental Language Disorder – 101 Votes
6. Voice Beyond Speech: Identity, Expression and Human Connection – 68 Votes

Titles 1-3, bearing the highest number of votes, will be the main report titles at the IALP World Congress in Prague in 2028.

10. No other matters.

The General Assembly adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tamer Abou-Elsaad", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Tamer Abou-Elsaad MD, PhD
President
03 August 2026

Appendix I

Report of the President of the International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders (IALP) - Prof. Tamer Abou-Elsaad, MD, PhD Presented to the General Assembly

Reporting Period: August 2025 – July 2026

Dear Distinguished IALP members, Representatives of Affiliated Societies, and Friends of IALP,

It is my great honor and privilege to present this report on the activities and achievements of the International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders (IALP) since I assumed the presidency in August 2025.

The first year of this term has been marked by significant progress in global advocacy, educational activities, membership growth, strategic partnerships, digital transformation, and the development of new initiatives that will shape the future of IALP.

Our efforts have focused on the following strategic priorities:

1. Strengthening IALP's global visibility and advocacy.
2. Expanding educational activities and scientific exchange.
3. Increasing member engagement and affiliated society participation.
4. Enhancing communication and organizational development.
5. Expanding IALP's presence in underserved regions and the Global South.

1. Global Advocacy and International Representation

As an official Non-State Actor in relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), and a member of the World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA and the World Hearing Forum (WHF), IALP has continued to strengthen its international advocacy role.

Major achievements included:

- Official representation of IALP at the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2026.
- Delivery of an official IALP statement supporting the WHO Resolution on reducing the burden of stroke and emphasizing the essential role of rehabilitation and communication sciences in stroke management.
- Co-Sponsoring the WHO side event in May 2026 entitled "**Beyond Survival: Integrating Rehabilitation for Health, Longevity, and Equity**," organized in collaboration with international partners and the World Rehabilitation Alliance.
- Strengthening collaboration with global rehabilitation stakeholders and increasing the visibility of communication, voice, hearing, and swallowing disorders within international health agendas; particularly through active participation at the WHO Regional Meetings and the WRA workstreams.

These activities have further positioned IALP as a recognized global advocate for individuals with communication and swallowing disorders worldwide.

2. Expansion of IALP's Global Reach and Membership Growth

One of the major priorities of this presidency is increasing IALP's engagement with underserved regions and strengthening relationships with professionals and societies worldwide.

Major achievements included:

- Successful support of the **First IALP Regional Congress in Belém, Brazil (June 2026)**, representing a historic milestone in extending IALP activities to Latin America and the Global South.
- Strengthening communication and collaboration with affiliated societies across different regions.
- Approximately **70 new individual members** joined IALP during this reporting period, reflecting increasing international interest in the Association and its activities.
- **Three professional societies have expressed their interest in becoming affiliated societies of IALP**, demonstrating the growing global recognition of our organization.
- Encouraging greater participation of members from low- and middle-income countries and underrepresented regions through the Membership Sponsorship Fund.
- Continuing preparations for the **34th IALP World Congress in Prague, Czech Republic, in August 2028**.

The growth in membership and expanding interest from professional societies represent important indicators of the increasing global relevance and visibility of IALP.

3. Educational Activities and Webinar Series

Education remains one of the core missions of IALP. During this term, significant efforts were devoted to expanding educational opportunities and increasing access to high-quality scientific content worldwide.

Several successful webinars and online educational activities were organized through IALP committees, covering a broad spectrum of communication sciences and disorders.

Topics included:

- Aphasia and neurological communication disorders.
- Cleft palate and craniofacial disorders.
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).
- Voice, speech, language, swallowing, and hearing disorders.
- Community engagement and person-centered approaches in rehabilitation.
- Emerging technologies and digital health applications.

The webinar program attracted participants from numerous countries and significantly contributed to:

- Enhancing international scientific exchange.
- Increasing accessibility of educational activities, particularly for colleagues from low- and middle-income countries.

- Promoting interdisciplinary collaboration among speech-language pathologists, phoniatricians, audiologists, physicians, educators, and researchers.
- Expanding lifelong learning opportunities for IALP and affiliated societies members.

In addition, IALP committees continued to organize educational podcasts and professional development initiatives, further increasing member engagement and scientific visibility.

The continued success of these educational activities has strengthened IALP's role as a global platform for knowledge dissemination and capacity building.

4. Innovation, Artificial Intelligence, and New Scientific Initiatives

Recognizing the rapidly evolving landscape of healthcare and rehabilitation, IALP has taken important steps to address emerging scientific and technological developments.

Launch of the IALP Artificial Intelligence Taskforce

One of the major achievements during this reporting period is the establishment of the **IALP Artificial Intelligence Taskforce**.

The objectives of this initiative include:

- Exploring applications of artificial intelligence in communication sciences and disorders.
- Promoting ethical and responsible use of AI technologies.
- Facilitating international and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Identifying opportunities for education, research, and clinical innovation.

The inaugural meeting of the AI Taskforce brought together distinguished international experts and marked an important step toward positioning IALP as a key contributor to advancing emerging technologies.

Establishment of the Neurodiversity Committee (formerly Autism Spectrum Disorders Committee)

In response to the increasing importance of neurodiversity within communication sciences and disorders, IALP has rebranded the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Committee to the **Neurodiversity Committee**.

The committee aims to:

- Promote awareness and understanding of neurodiversity.
- Encourage inclusive and person-centered approaches.
- Facilitate international collaboration and research initiatives.
- Support evidence-based practices that respect neurodiverse perspectives and lived experiences.

The establishment of this committee reflects IALP's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and addressing emerging priorities within our professions.

5. Corporate Partnerships and Collaborative Initiatives

During this period, IALP actively pursued strategic collaborations with international organizations.

Major developments included:

- Development of the **IALP Global Partnership Program**.
- Welcoming the first corporate partner of IALP, opening new opportunities for technological collaboration and educational initiatives with the industry.
- Strengthening collaborations with international organizations in communication sciences, rehabilitation, otolaryngology, and related disciplines.

We continue to explore future collaborations with regional and international professional organizations to further increase IALP's scientific outreach and global impact.

6. Communication, Visibility, and Digital Transformation

Significant efforts have been undertaken to modernize IALP's communication strategy and strengthen engagement with members.

Major achievements included:

- Launch and expansion of IALP's official LinkedIn and Facebook pages.
- Introduction of regular presidential messages and digital outreach activities.
- Launch of **IALP CONNECT - A Quarterly IALP Newsletter (formerly President's letters) in a new digital format**, providing updates on IALP activities, strategic priorities, international representation, and future initiatives.
- Publication of newsletters and updates from several IALP committees during the past months, significantly enhancing communication and dissemination of committee activities.
- Increased promotion of webinars, podcasts, committee initiatives, and educational resources through digital platforms.
- Strengthening communication channels with affiliated societies and individual members worldwide.

These initiatives have substantially increased IALP's visibility and strengthened engagement within our international community.

7. Governance and Organizational Development

During this reporting period, significant efforts were undertaken to further strengthen IALP's organizational structure and governance. Key activities included:

- **Collaborative engagement** with the Executive Committee, IALP Board, and Standing Committees. Between August 2025 and July 2026, the Executive Committee convened eight electronic meetings and one in-person meeting, while the IALP Board met electronically on four occasions.
- **Ongoing review** and refinement of governance processes to ensure alignment with best practice.

- **Enhancement of transparency,** communication, and opportunities for member participation across all organisational activities.

These efforts aim to ensure the long-term sustainability and continued growth of IALP.

8. Increasing Awareness of Communication and Swallowing Disorders

IALP has continued to advocate for greater recognition of communication, voice, hearing, and swallowing disorders as major public health concerns.

Key activities included:

- Raising awareness regarding the impact of communication disorders on quality of life and social participation.
- Promoting interdisciplinary rehabilitation approaches.
- Advocating for improved access to rehabilitation services worldwide.
- Strengthening the global voice of communication sciences and disorders within international health discussions.
- Celebrating World Awareness Days

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, our priorities remain:

- Continuing to strengthen IALP's global visibility and advocacy role.
- Expanding educational activities and webinar programs.
- Further increasing membership and affiliated society engagement.
- Advancing initiatives in artificial intelligence, neurodiversity, and digital health.
- Strengthening strategic partnerships and collaborative projects.
- Continuing active engagement with WHO and global rehabilitation initiatives.
- Continuing preparations for a successful **34th IALP World Congress in Prague, Czech Republic, in August 2028.**

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the IALP Executive Committee, extended Board, Committee Chairs, Affiliated Societies, Individual Members, our CEO and administrative team, and all colleagues whose dedication and voluntary efforts have contributed to these achievements.

The addition of approximately **70 new members**, the interest expressed by **three prospective affiliated societies**, the successful organization of the **first IALP Regional Congress in Brazil**, the launch of the **Artificial Intelligence Taskforce**, the establishment of the **Neurodiversity Committee**, and the introduction of regular **IALP newsletters** and committee newsletters all demonstrate the vitality and continued growth of IALP.

Together, we are building a stronger, more visible, more inclusive, and more globally connected IALP that continues to advance excellence in communication sciences and disorders and improve the lives of individuals with communication, hearing, voice, and swallowing disorders worldwide.

Thank you for your trust, support, and collaboration.

Appendix II

President-Elect Report

IALP GENERAL ASSEMBLY MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2026

**Report by President Elect, Kamini Gadhok MBE, BSc Hons, Doctor of Civil Law (Honorary),
Master of Science (Honorary), MRCSLT, Hon Companionship COP**

Progress against IALP Strategic Plan

Strategy 1 — Research & Implementation

IALP strengthened its leadership in advancing evidence-based practice and global research in human communication sciences and disorders. Committees contributed through surveys, publications, WHO reviews, resource development, and collaborative research initiatives.

- WHO TAP module reviews continued across AAC and Dysphagia Committees.
- IALP Committees progressing manuscripts, systematic reviews, and global surveys (e.g., Dysphagia: 340 responses; Motor Speech: 82 responses).
- Digital literacy publication (Child Language) scheduled for August 2026.
- Global Tales Networks - has research presentations by MA and PhD students

Strategy 2 — Networking & Educational Programming

Significant progress was made in strengthening knowledge exchange, professional development, and global collaboration.

- Committees delivered high-attendance webinars, podcasts, newsletters, and awareness campaigns across 2025–2026.
- Membership expansion continued across AAC, Aphasia, Child Speech, Motor Speech, and Neurodiversity Committees, with strong Global South representation.
- IALP AI Taskforce established at the request of the IALP President, approved by the IALP Executive Committee and chaired by the President Elect. Inaugural meeting held in July 2026.

Committee Activities and Cross-Committee Actions

Communications & Coordination

- Launch of the shared IALP Communications Hub to coordinate events, publications, and social media.
- Chairs encouraged to jointly plan annual events, including webinars and congress sessions.
- Recruitment processes strengthened, including open calls managed by the CEO when required.
- ASD Committee formally renamed the Neurodiversity Committee (March 2026 establishment; monthly meetings; inaugural newsletter ready).

Committee Highlights

- **AAC Committee:** New members recruited; WHO TAP module reviews; webinar on partnering with people with communication disabilities (24 February 2026); joint webinar is being planned with University of Pretoria; responded to WHO/UNICEF/UNDESA

- consultation on the draft Global Road Map towards Universal Access to Assistive Technology; presented at the IALP Regional Conference in Belém, Brazil.
- **Audiology:** webpage updates; regular newsletter; joint webinar held to celebrate World Hearing Day March 2026; planning for International Day of Persons with Disabilities; exploring joint research.
 - **Aphasia:** Highly attended webinar held in September 2025; new webpage; Tavistock Trust for Aphasia, the Aphasia Mentoring Programme has been expanded; planning for a webinar on the role of SLT with people with dementia and another about AAC and aphasia.
 - **Cleft Palate & Craniofacial:** Two webinars held in September and November 2025. FAQs completed; mentoring programme progressing; LMIC subgroup active; workshop by 3 members on Decision-Making in Cleft and individual papers to be presented at Cleft 2026 in Prague.
 - **Child Language:** Article on Digital Literacy nearly complete; Global Tales Network has research presentations by MA and PhD students; presentation at the IALP Regional Conference in Belém, Brazil; Composium planned for 2027.
 - **Child Speech:** Full membership; sponsorship for LMIC member; FAQs under review; student membership interest growing; webinar on genetics and speech sound disorders in April 2026.
 - **Dysphagia:** Global survey completed and two manuscripts in preparation; mentorship pilot launched; clinical repository development; strong WHO engagement; World Swallowing Awareness Day (webinar with RCSLT); FAQ video on dysphagia in production.
 - **Education of SLT & Audiology:** Strategic plan operationalisation; membership expansion; charge under review.
 - **Fluency:** Finalising preparation of the Folia special issue on fluency disorders and multilingualism; in preparation of a podcast on stuttering-affirming practice.
 - **Motor Speech:** New members; awareness campaigns - contributed to the World Parkinson's Day in April 2026.; webinar planned; international survey on assessment of motor speech disorders ; plans for a systematic review study on assessment of motor speech disorders.
 - **Multilingual and Multicultural Affairs:** Planning 2 Podcast series; Language and Culture, and Artificial Intelligence with Multicultural Populations.
 - **Neurodiversity:** Inaugural newsletter published; webinar planning underway with the first webinar planned for September; two research initiatives currently under development: a lived-experience survey and a literature review.
 - **Phoniatrics:** Regional conference sessions at: PEVOC; presentation at the IALP Regional Conference in Belém, Brazil, podcast being planned.
 - **Voice Committee:** Inaugural committee newsletter published; high attendance webinar in June 2026 "Unlocking clinical voice care: From physiology to clinical practice"; "IALP

Insights: Voice and its disorders” published; further planning for webinar and podcasts underway.

Strategy 3: Advocate and Partner

Scoping study to understand the needs of professionals working with people with speech, language, hearing and swallowing disorders in low- and middle- resourced countries

This scoping study was conducted by North Peak Insights (Miriam Antcliffe and Caroline Dix) with support from Professor Sue Roulstone, University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol on behalf of the International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders (IALP) on a pro bono basis. The study aimed to understand the professional landscape of professionals who work with people with speech, language, hearing and swallowing disorders in low- and middle-resourced countries.

Ethics approval was gained from UWE and Qualtrics was used as the platform for the survey. A total of 140 professionals completed the survey from 38 countries, using 46 languages.

Whilst it is difficult to draw robust conclusions because of the low response rate from each country, there were a number of themes arising which IALP and the global community can use to inform their work.

Key themes:

- **Advocacy** for global awareness of communication, hearing and swallowing disorders
- **Professional development:** including approaches to professional training and development e.g. curriculum guidelines, codes of ethics
- **Collaboration** on research and training.
- **Equitable partnerships**, avoiding historic “western expert” models.

Strategy 3: Advocate and Partner

WHO Engagement & Global Advocacy

Non-State Actor Role

Across 2025–2026, IALP deepened its engagement with WHO structures and workstreams.

- Strategic meetings held with WHO rehabilitation leads to agree our collaboration plan 2027-2029.
- IALP to support development of WHO Global Status Report on Rehabilitation and WHO Global Status Report on Hearing.

WHO Regional Engagement (Aug–Oct 2025)

IALP representation across AFRO, PAHO, Western Pacific. With thanks to IALP representatives as highlighted in the report at the General Assembly in 2025.

WHO Executive Board (EB158), February 2026

- President Elect of IALP played a key role as a member of the Advocacy and Communication Taskforce (ACT) in the coordination of statements by IALP representatives and other members of the World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA).
- All NSA statements delivered as planned across agenda items including UHC, stroke, primary care, health emergencies, and rehabilitation.
- Briefings held with Member States including Italy, Brazil, Slovakia, Belgium, and Japan.
- Rehabilitation referenced by 21 countries during the meeting.

World Health Assembly (WHA), May 2026

- President and President Elect (who self-funded) represented IALP.
- Official Side Event: *Beyond Survival: Integrating Rehabilitation for Health, Longevity, and Equity*:
 - Co-organised by Humanity & Inclusion and IALP; co-sponsored by Cameroon, Japan, Slovakia, and WRA members and moderated by the President Elect.
 - The event brought together international leaders, including representatives from WHO and the governments of Cameroon, Japan, and Slovakia, as well as members of the World Rehabilitation Alliance.
 - Key messages:
 - 2.6 billion people require rehabilitation; >50% lack access.
 - Importance of workforce planning and data systems for communication and swallowing services.
 - Emphasis on measuring functioning, not only morbidity/mortality.

Coordinating WRA Advocacy at WHA

- As a member of the WRA Advocacy & Communications Taskforce, the President Elect coordinated WRA's presence across agenda items. Outcomes:
 - Nine statements submitted; seven delivered during WHA.
 - Contributions from Humanity & Inclusion, IALP, ISPRM, WFOT, World Physiotherapy, and World Federation of Chiropractic.
 - Statements addressed key agenda items including NCDs, universal health coverage, primary care, health emergencies, rehabilitation, and health promotion.
 - The IALP President delivered a statement on Egypt's resolution on reducing the burden of stroke: strengthening prevention, acute care, rehabilitation and health system readiness.

Engagement by IALP representatives on WRA workstreams

- There are currently IALP representatives serving on the following WHO workstreams:-
 - Research- Marian Brady
 - Emergency- Mershen Pillay
 - Primary Care – Maria Christopoulou

Looking Ahead

- Coordination of IALP and WRA presence and advocacy at WHO Regional events.
- Building momentum toward the UN High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage 2027:
 - An email has been sent to IALP Affiliated Societies asking them to support in country advocacy

Report of the Vice President for Communication

Annual General Assembly — 3 August 2026

Prepared by: Dora Knežević, VP for Communication

Reporting period: October 2025 – July 2026

1. Overview

At the start of this term, IALP had a limited social media presence (Twitter and Youtube). The Association's X account (formerly Twitter) is currently inactive. Many professional, scientific, and health organisations have reduced or ended their activity on the platform, and IALP's professional audience is clearly concentrated on LinkedIn. With communications run by a single volunteer, effort has been directed to where members actually are. The account has been retained and can be reactivated if circumstances change. Nine months later, the Association communicates with a global audience across five channels: LinkedIn, Facebook, YouTube, a members' newsletter, and a podcast series to be launched – meant for all fourteen committees. The website has been refreshed, and the next phase of development has begun.

All of this has been achieved organically. IALP has not spent anything on paid promotion, advertising, or external design services during this period. Content, design, and distribution have been handled by the VP for Communication.

2. Social media

LinkedIn

The IALP LinkedIn page launched on 23 October 2025. It is now the Association's primary professional channel.

Measure	October 2025 – July 2026
Followers	840
Posts published	51
Total views	almost 34,000
Total interactions	over 3,500
Countries represented among followers	more than 35
Paid promotion	none — all growth organic

Followers are spread across more than 35 countries, with the largest groups in the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, Brazil and India. Roughly two thirds of followers work in healthcare services or education, and the single largest group is students and early-career professionals — an audience the Association has long sought to reach. The strongest month of the year was June 2026, driven by coverage of the IALP Regional Conference in Belém. Content connected to international awareness days, committee recruitment calls and IALP advocacy has consistently reached the widest audience.

Facebook

An official IALP Facebook page launched on 16 March 2026 and has reached 243 followers in four months. Facebook reaches a noticeably different audience from LinkedIn — including students, carers and the wider public — and complements rather than duplicates it. It remains an early-stage channel maintained at minimal cost.

3. IALP Connect — the Association newsletter

IALP Connect launched in March 2026 as the Association's regular newsletter for members and affiliated societies. Two issues have been published:

- Issue 1, 27 March 2026 — the Belém and Prague congress announcements, the Membership Sponsorship Fund second call, the launch of IALP Voices, and committee spotlights.
- Issue 2, 17 July 2026 — IALP's advocacy at the World Health Assembly, the findings of the IALP Scoping Study on professionals in low- and middle-resourced countries, and a full report on the Belém Regional Conference.

The newsletter is well read. Issue 1 was opened by 53% of recipients and Issue 2 by 59%. The subscriber list grew by twenty per cent between the two issues, and neither issue has produced a single unsubscribe — **nearly six in ten members open IALP Connect when it arrives.**

Affiliated societies are invited to share each issue with their own members, extending the Association's reach well beyond the direct subscriber list. Design, layout, editorial and production have been carried out in-house.

4. IALP Voices — podcast

IALP Voices has been established as the official podcast series of the Association, hosted on Spotify for Creators. A complete set of guidelines has been prepared and circulated to all fourteen committees, covering episode structure, recording and editing standards, minimum technical requirements, review and approval procedures, and branding.

The purpose is to give every committee a straightforward route to sharing its expertise with a global audience without requiring specialist equipment or production skills. Committee chairs interested in contributing an episode are invited to contact the VP for Communication.

5. Website

The first phase of the website refresh has been ongoing, including updated leadership profiles, committee information, and a new committee page (Autism turned to Neurodiversity). This is an ongoing process that takes the most knowledge and time.

A full strategy document for the Members-Only Area was prepared during the year, in consultation with the VP for Membership and Partnerships, and presented to the Executive Committee at its meeting in Belém in June 2026. In July 2026 the developer has been engaged, the project has been formally kicked off, and the project plan is now in preparation. Phase II covers the members-only area.

6. Supporting committees and the wider Association

Communications support has been provided to committees throughout the year, including recruitment calls for the AAC, Neurodiversity and Fluency committees, promotion of committee webinars, coverage of the Belém Regional Conference, and dissemination of the IALP Scoping Study. Committee recruitment posts have been among the most widely shared content of the year.

IALP's corporate partners are now promoted on the website and across social media, in coordination with the IALP office.

The Association's YouTube channel, which pre-dates this term, holds the archive of committee webinar recordings — twenty-three videos and more than 120 hours of viewing to date. Over half of all views the channel has ever received have come in the past nine months, as webinars have been promoted more actively through the other channels. This means committee work continues to reach people long after the live session has ended. The channel remains under-used relative to its potential.

7. Looking ahead

- Reach 1,000 LinkedIn followers, the point at which the page gains additional visibility.
- Publish IALP Connect on a regular schedule.
- Release the first episodes of IALP Voices.
- Complete phase two of the website
- Make fuller use of the YouTube channel as the permanent home for committee webinars.
- Expand the Social Media Task Force

8. How members can help

Three simple actions from those present would make a measurable difference:

- **Follow** the IALP page on LinkedIn and on Facebook. We are 160 followers away from 1,000.
- **Share** IALP posts with your own networks. Posts shared by individual members travel considerably further

- **Contribute** — think of social media content we can create and share, and tell us about work from your committee worth bringing to a wider audience.

Submitted for inclusion in the minutes of the 2026 Annual General Assembly.

Appendix IV

VP for Finance Report

Submitted by Arlene A. Pietranton, PhD

IALP Annual General Assembly

August 3, 2026

It is my pleasure to submit the following updates:

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

I have thoroughly reviewed and conferred with IALP CEO Vanessa Ebejer about each of the 2025 Financial Statements (Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income; Balance Sheet; and Detailed Income Statement) as prepared by accountant Karl Cutajar, ACCA, M.I.A., Cert(AML), M.I.M., CPA.

The Executive Committee reviewed the 2025 Financial Statements on June 22, 2026; and the Board approved them on July 13, 2026.

IALP Financial Statements	2025	2024	2023
Total Equity & Liabilities (page 8)	€279,056	€372,465	€317,459
Income (page 9)	€120,078	€162,391	€76,969
Expenses (page 10)	€189,600	€159,168	€163,866

- 2025 Total Equity and Liabilities was €279,056. €219,784 of which are invested in a Brokerage Account in the United States.
- 2025 Income was higher than the Income forecast of €73,800 in IALP's approved 2025 Budget. Almost all of the higher income was attributable to the role the IALP office took in planning and managing the Social Programme (Gala Dinner and Tours) for the 2025 Congress. (NOTE: the additional Income was offset by additional expenditures to deliver the Social Programme.) The primary factor in the difference in income across the years 2023, 2024, 2025 was the €32,896 benefit IALP received in the 1st Quarter of 2024 from the 2023 IALP Congress in Auckland.
- 2025 Expenses were higher than the Expenses forecast of €107,750 in the approved 2025 budget. As noted above, the additional expenses are almost entirely related to the role the IALP office took in planning and managing the Social Programme for the 2025 Congress and the bad debt write off of €39,475. As anticipated and reported during the August 2025 General Assembly, revenue shortfalls for the 2025 IALP Congress in Malta in the areas of Registration and Sponsorship/Exhibition were substantial (€375,750). Although expenses were carefully managed and substantially reduced, the "bottom line" shortfall for the 2025 Congress was €79,728.62, some of which was absorbed by the PCO Paragon. However, Paragon did not reimburse IALP for expenses that IALP incurred for the site visit and international promotion of the 2025 Congress.
- The overall result was a deficit of €69,522 for the year 2025.
- There will not be a forthcoming benefit to IALP of €40,000 that was in the 2025 Congress budget, which would have been received by IALP in the 1st Quarter of 2026.

Second Quarter 2026 Income and Expenditure Report

Income and expenses are essentially on track or slightly better.

2026	Approved 2026 Budget	Current as of June 30, 2026	Year-End Projection
Income	€87,150	€59,133	€99,203
Expenditure	€87,150	€56,991	€95,092

The primary source of additional projected Income is anticipated reimbursement from SBFa (the 2026 Belem Regional Conference organizers) to help cover travel expenses for the EC meeting that was held in Belem.

The primary sources of additional projected Expenditure are: €1,500 more in fees to Karger due to renewal of the current agreement; €1,000 subscription fee for the newsletter platform; and €1,250 for a potential request for support for a 2027 Composium.

Membership Sponsorship Fund

- 2026 Opening Balance €4,162
- 2026 Expenses to Date € 223
- Current Balance €3,939

Investment Advisor

As previously reported, IALP's investment account is currently located with a brokerage firm in the United States. Now that IALP is registered as a Voluntary Organisation operating in Malta, its operating account has been moved to a bank in Malta (Lombard). Vanessa Ebejer and I are working with Curmi & Partners, IALP's accountant, and the current US-based financial advisor to determine the best way and time to transfer the investment funds to minimize any tax consequences to IALP.

Additional Activities

In addition to the above responsibilities specific to the role of VP for Finance, I am also involved in the following activities:

- Collaborating with IALP President Tamer Abou-Elsaad and IALP CEO Vanessa Ebejer in working with the PCO Guarant regarding the budget for the IALP Congress Prague 2028.
- Collaborating with IALP CEO Vanessa Ebejer to manage the relationship with Keynote PCO (the PCO that worked with the 2016 IALP Congress in Dublin and the 2023 IALP Congress in Auckland; and serves as IALP's preferred PCO) in handling IALP's advertising and sponsorship operations on an ongoing, outsourced basis that began in August 2025.
- Serving as a member of the Journals Review Subcommittee chaired by VP for Education Fernanda Dreux.
- Attended the 1st IALP Regional Conference in Belem Brazil in June. Moderated a session "Chatting with the Presidents: Role and meaning of professional associations in different contexts" with Tamer Abou-Elsaad, Ingrid Gielow, Pablo Vinicius do Nascimento Pinto, and Silvia Tavares.

Vice President Membership & Partnerships Report 2026- Debbie Phyland

Overview

The first year of the Vice President Membership & Partnerships role has focussed on building on the strong foundations established by previous leaders, strengthening understanding of member needs, and identifying opportunities to enhance the value, engagement, diversity and sustainability of IALP membership.

The transition into the role was supported by a comprehensive handover process, including review of previous priorities, ongoing initiatives, membership structures and current activities. This has provided an important foundation for building on existing achievements while responding to emerging opportunities.

Progress during the year has been supported by collaboration across IALP, including the Executive Committee, IALP Office, Clinical Committees, Affiliated Societies, Board Representatives/Leads for Large, Medium and Small Affiliated Societies, and the Communications portfolio. This collaborative approach has supported work aligned with IALP Strategic Priorities 3 (**Advocate and Partner**) and 4 (**Grow and Sustain**).

Key areas of focus have included membership growth and retention, review of Individual and Affiliated Society membership value, strengthening communication of member benefits, supporting Affiliated Society engagement, and progressing strategic partnerships.

1. Membership Growth and Retention

Membership growth remained positive during 2026, with **70 new individual members joining IALP between January and June**. Membership growth remained positive during 2026, with 70 new individual members joining IALP between January and June. As of 1st August 2026, IALP had 436 active individual members and 22 active student members.

The Affiliated Society network continues to expand and diversify, with current Category A representation comprising:

- **Large societies:** 4
- **Medium societies:** 19
- **Small societies:** 23

Changes during the year included two Medium Affiliated Societies discontinuing affiliation, one new Medium Affiliated Society joining (Costa Rica), and one new Small Affiliated Society joining (Bangladesh). Two additional affiliations were welcomed:

- Bishkek Musical-Pedagogical Institute, Kyrgyzstan (Category D); and

- Communication Disorders and Sciences Department, School of Health Sciences, Southern Illinois University (Category B).

Follow-up discussions were undertaken with two Affiliated Societies that chose not to renew their affiliation. These conversations provided valuable insights into barriers to engagement, including organisational capacity, discipline-specific relevance, and opportunities to strengthen communication, support and future retention strategies. Importantly, relationships have been maintained, leaving opportunities for future re-engagement.

A major focus has been understanding what members value most from IALP membership. Consultation with members, Clinical Committees, Affiliated Societies, Board Representatives/Leads and IALP staff identified IALP's key strengths as its global interdisciplinary network, international collaboration opportunities, education and research activities, Clinical Committees, and connections between societies.

This work has informed review of the membership value proposition, including benefits, engagement opportunities and communication strategies. Global advocacy through IALP's relationship with WHO, professional leadership, education, research dissemination, capacity building and participation in IALP activities remain important elements of member value.

2. Understanding and Enhancing Member Value

A major focus during the year has been understanding what members value most from IALP membership and ensuring that membership benefits continue to align with member needs and IALP's strategic priorities.

Consultation has included review of previous member survey data, meetings with Clinical Committees, discussions with Affiliated Societies, input from Board Representatives/Leads for Large, Medium and Small Affiliated Societies, and collaboration with the Vice President Communications and IALP staff.

Across consultations there was remarkable consistency. Members identified IALP's greatest strengths as:

- its global interdisciplinary network;
- opportunities for international collaboration;
- access to education, research and professional expertise;
- the work of Clinical Committees; and
- connections with Affiliated Societies.

Clinical Committees were consistently recognised as one of IALP's greatest assets and an important mechanism for delivering member value through education, mentorship, advocacy, networking and professional leadership.

This consultation informed a review of the value proposition for both Individual Members and Affiliated Societies, including membership benefits, engagement opportunities and communication strategies. Core benefits include global advocacy through IALP's relationship with the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a Non-State Actor (NSA), international networking, professional leadership, research dissemination, educational opportunities, capacity building for Affiliated Societies, and participation in IALP governance.

The review has also identified opportunities to strengthen communication of member benefits, improve engagement pathways, and support future membership growth and retention.

3. Affiliated Society Engagement and Collaboration

The Affiliated Society network remains central to IALP's global reach and international collaboration. Meetings with Affiliated Society representatives, Board Representatives/Leads and potential future affiliated organisations have supported stronger relationships, shared understanding of priorities and identification of opportunities for collaboration.

Feedback has highlighted strong interest in increased connection between societies through shared educational activities, networking and exchange of resources. To support this, IALP will commence a webinar series featuring different Affiliated Societies across the Large, Medium and Small categories, providing opportunities to showcase initiatives, share expertise and strengthen connections across the global IALP community.

The Board Representatives/Leads for Large, Medium and Small Affiliated Societies have provided valuable insights into the diverse needs of societies and will continue to support communication and engagement across the network.

Capacity-building opportunities remain an important focus, including promotion of existing and developing IALP resources, website engagement and utility. A needs assessment initiative is also underway to better understand priorities and challenges among colleagues and organisations in low- and middle-resource settings and inform future collaborative support initiatives.

4. Membership Support Fund

The Membership Support Fund continues to be an important initiative supporting participation by colleagues and professional organisations from low- and middle-income countries. A call for applications was issued twice in the last reporting year (September 2025 and March 2026).

- One affiliated society was supported
- 6 Individual members from Middle Income settings and
- 1 Individual member from Low Income

Preparation is underway for the next funding round, including promotion of member sponsor experiences to encourage broader engagement and support. The call will open again in September 2026,

Preparations are now underway for the next funding round. Previous sponsors have been invited to share their motivations for supporting the Fund, with these testimonials helping to inform future promotion, increase awareness and encourage broader sponsorship.

The Fund represents an important membership-building initiative by reducing barriers to participation and supporting greater global representation within IALP.

5. Strategic Partnerships and Communication

Work has continued to strengthen IALP's international partnerships and identify opportunities aligned with IALP's mission. Current initiatives include progressing discussions towards a Memorandum of Understanding with several related organisations, exploring collaboration with the International Labour Organisation regarding occupational voice health. We have also focussed on identifying international organisations, including those informed by lived experience, that may strengthen IALP's partnership network; and working with Clinical Committees to identify relevant organisations within their specialty areas.

Collaboration with the Vice President Communications and IALP staff has supported development of the members' section of the IALP website and improved communication of membership benefits, engagement opportunities and resources.

6. Communication and Member Engagement

Improving communication with members and increasing visibility of IALP membership benefits has been an important focus during the year.

Collaboration with the Vice President Communications and IALP staff has supported review of membership communications and the ongoing development of the dedicated members' section of the IALP website. This work aims to provide clearer access to information about membership benefits, engagement opportunities, Clinical Committee activities, Affiliated Society connections, educational resources and pathways for involvement within IALP.

Ongoing collaboration between members, Affiliated Societies, Clinical Committees, collaborators and the Executive Committee remains central to ensuring that member perspectives inform IALP initiatives and future priorities.

Looking Forward

Priorities for the coming year include:

- continuing to grow, diversify and retain IALP membership;

- strengthening engagement between members, Clinical Committees and Affiliated Societies;
- supporting Affiliated Society representatives to enhance communication, collaboration and connection across the IALP network;
- expanding collaboration between Affiliated Societies through shared educational and networking initiatives;
- continuing review of membership categories, benefits and engagement pathways;
- promoting IALP membership through international networks, conferences and partner organisations;
- progressing strategic partnerships aligned with IALP's mission;
- promoting the Membership Support Fund; and
- continuing collaboration with VP Communications to enhance visibility of member benefits and opportunities for engagement.

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are extended to the CEO, Executive Committee, Clinical Committee Chairs and members, Board Representatives/Leads for Large, Medium and Small Affiliated Societies, Affiliated Society representatives, and all members who have contributed their time, expertise and enthusiasm to strengthening IALP's global community.

The collegiality, commitment and shared vision across the IALP community have been instrumental in progressing this work during the past year.

August 2026
IALP Annual General Assembly

VP for Education Report

Fernanda Dreux M. Fernandes, PhD

1. Rebranding of the Autism Spectrum Disorders Committee (ASD) into **Neurodiversity Committee** (to align with international best practice and lived experience terminology)
 - 11 members
 - Published an inaugural Newsletter

2. Webinars

August 2025 to July 2026

By the following Committees:

- Aphasia
 - o September 2025 – “Providing Evidence-Based, Person-Centered Aphasia Rehabilitation: Resources to Support your Practice”
- Cleft Palate:
 - o Webinar 1: September 2025: “Basic Overview of Feeding in Non-Syndromic Cleft Palate”
 - o Webinar 2: November 2025: “Early assessment & Intervention for Cleft Palate Speech & Language”
- AAC
 - o February 2026 – “Partnering with People with Communication Disabilities: Community Engagement in Research and Service Design”
- Child Speech
 - o April 2026: “Genetics and Speech-Language Pathology: What does the Future Hold?”
- Voice
 - o June 2026: “Unlocking Clinical Voice Care: From Physiology to Clinical Practice”

Coming Up:

- Motor Speech – August 2026
- Neurodiversity – Webinar series – 2026/2027

3. **Aphasia Mentoring Programme** – supported by the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia (TTA)
 - 18 pairs: mentors
 - o (individual members of IALP)
 - mentees (newly graduated or in their first seven years of professional activity)

- from: Ghana, Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, India and Gambia)
- Induction sessions are underway for both groups
- We sincerely thank the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia for its continued support.

4. 1st Regional Conference of the IALP

- Belém, Pará, Brazil -June 22nd – 25th
- Over 750 participants
- 177 posters
- 58 symposia
- 57 oral presentations
- 13 workshops
- 11 keynote presentations
- Photos at: <https://banlek.com/album/22c652>

5. Forthcoming IALP World Congress –

- Prague
- 20-24 August 2028
- 3 (three) Main Reports will be selected by this GA
 - Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Clinical Education – current practices and opportunities, impact and challenges
 - Aging and its challenges - Speech and Language Biomarkers in Early Detection of Neurodegenerative Diseases
 - Promoting critical thinking in clinicians
 - Rethinking Language Disorders: New Perspectives on Developmental Language Disorder
 - Voice Beyond Speech: Identity, Expression and Human Connection
 - Where are we at with Artificial Intelligence (AI) in rehabilitation for communication and swallowing disorder
- Voting is currently underway and closes on August 10th at 13:00 (1pm) CET

6. Bidding process for the IALP 2031 Congress

All Affiliated Societies in Category A will be invited to submit a bid to host the IALP 2031 World Congress

Bidding will open in October 2026 and close in February 2027

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