Dear Colleagues of the Affiliated Societies,

I hope that you have started the New Year in good health and spirit. As has become normal practice for the IALP President, I am hereby providing an update of the Organisation’s activities.

I am pleased to inform you that following review, the IALP has once again been designated the status of a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) of the World Health Organization (WHO). The IALP-WHO Collaborative Plan for the next 3 years has recently been discussed and approved by WHO officials.

The preparations for the 30th World Congress of IALP to be held in Dublin, Ireland, between 21-25 August 2016, are well underway. The Main Report themes are the following:

- Neuro-scientific implications in assessment and intervention in acquired communication disorders
- Technological advances and innovation in voice and dysphagia
- Biological and environmental influences in prevention and early intervention in speech and language disorders

We have also received an update regarding progress with the preparations for the 31st World Congress to be held in Taiwan in 2019.

Since our special issues are increasingly gaining popularity, we have recently prepared 2 such issues, one on Child Language and one related to New Horizons in Speech Language Pathology, which we hope that you will enjoy reading.

The IALP is unique as it provides the networking and partnerships between speech language pathologists and physicians responsible for the management of human communication and its disorders. Considering that relatively a few people in the world are working in this field, a strong international professional bondage is crucial. So, please keep in touch and do not hesitate to contact Vanessa Borg, our Office Manager (office@ialp.info) should you wish to share ideas as to how we can reach you better and
serve the communication disordered population and respective families more effectively. We are also keen to receive updates about your Association. If you have a draft of these please forward them to our Past President, Tanya Gallagher. We will be able to include the information on IALP News and also on our website.

Sincerely,

Helen Grech Ph.D.
IALP President