ONE Doice

One Voice Edition 44 | May 2022

Welcome!

Welcome to the 44th edition of our ISA OneVoice, enjoy the articles!

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27th-30th May 2022 Montreal, Canada

Joint World Congress on Stuttering and Cluttering

The International Cluttering Association, International Fluency Association, International Stuttering Association, Canadian Stuttering Association, and Association bégaiement communication invite you to the 2022 Joint World Congress on Stuttering and Cluttering (JWCSC)!

One-of-a-kind congress

The JWCSC is a one-of-a-kind congress bringing together academics, researchers, speech-language pathologists, people who stutter, and people who clutter for dialogue and collaboration on current research, viewpoints, and treatments for stuttering and cluttering.

Taking place in beautiful Montreal, Canada from May 27 to 30, 2022, this event will bring together historically diverse groups to explore the experiences of living with, treating, and researching stuttering and cluttering.

Check out jwcsc.org for further details about the JWCSC including sponsorship opportunities and covid regulation updates. We hope to see you there!



The program

Keynote speakers

Recent developments in stuttering from neurological, emotional and motor perspectives.

Soo-Eun Chang, Edward Conture, Pascal van Lieshout

Overcoming Stuttering through the lens of Inclusion and Resilience.

Joze Piranian

The value of collaboration in advancing science in cluttering.

Kathleen Scaler Scott and Rutger Wilhelm

Pre-congress workshops

Stuttering and The School-Aged Child: A Confident Communicator who participates fully, whether or not they stammer and how to engage parents in this goal.

Addressing The Iceberg Of Stuttering In Adolescents And Adults Through Basic Counseling Skills And Acceptance And Commitment Therapy (ACT).

Dan Hudock, PhD., CCC-SLP



24th-28th August 2022 Liverpool, UK

Stamma Fest Global

Jane Powell | CEO STAMMA

I'm thrilled to tell you about STAMMAFest Global this year. A smorgasbord of plenaries, workshops and interviews, arts and theatre! From my personal perspective, I'm most excited about what the international aspect offers.

This conference combines the ISA World Congress with our own conference, STAMMAFest, which was delayed due to COVID. It is an opportunity for people who stammer from around the world to meet and have fun together, to celebrate stammered voices, and to work together planning and coordinating how we can best influence and create change. And build a movement for social revolution, here and across the world.

I want to tell you about what we'd like to see, what we'll be prioritizing, and what we'll put together ourselves over the next weeks and months. I've been attending conferences of every description since the 1980s. What works isn't where you get serially talked at for 30-40-minute sessions over a day, with a short interval for questions and hurried cups of tea or coffee. Sure, it is great to be inspired and informed. But more than that it is the exchange of information, the collective building of new ideas and collaborations, of friendships with a shared purpose, as well as shared experience, that ignites people.

So come to the conference, and if you plan on delivering sessions, then collaborate on what you want to bring. I want to sit around a table with those heading up the national organizations and talk about how we work together on campaigns and start conversations with what has worked best!

Let's engage in conversation

I don't mean talking about the bread and butter work we do, but what new ideas and projects have people been running? Let's have a conversation, all of us, and swap ideas. Those conversations can spill over into lunch and tea and coffee – but first let's use this superb opportunity to start these conversations in person. Not just over a drink snatched afterwards. This is work, as well as pleasure. Let's collaborate.

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At the last ISA online meeting, people talked about wanting to learn about running local groups, about recruiting new members. Each country does things differently, so I'd like to see submissions bringing together people from different countries about running local groups and networks. By all means start with a short summary, but we want to see dialogue, real conversations, sharing best practice and new ideas.

I'd like to see collaborative submissions; I'd encourage people to reach out across borders and put together shared sessions. If you've got a great piece of research you want to talk about, then reach out to others who you know also have findings to share. And put them into one session – where we can all hear what's new and exciting, and put questions. Let's create sessions which pack a punch, and lead to LOTS of questions and detailed focused conversations after.

Back to the smorgasbord that our congress will be. The themes we have running through the conference are community, culture, work and education and activism, so we're looking for submissions which touch

upon those threads. Hanan Hurwitz from Israel and a member of the STAMMA Board will open STAMMAFest Global. Plenary speakers and hosts so far include rapper and actor Scroobius Pip and stammering pride activist Patrick Campbell.

From the BBC's 'I can't say my name' programme, we're expecting Felicity Baker and Sophie Raworth. Plus, novelist Hannah Tovey, poet and writer Owen Sheers – and bunch of artists, poets and musicians wanting to perform. Tickets should be on sale by the end of January. If you can't make it, we hope to ensure that some of the plenaries and sessions can be accessed online. See you there!

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Technology in Stuttering TherapyGareth Walkom | withVR

Technology in stuttering, up until now, has usually come in the form of DAF (Delayed Audio Feedback) or apps. And there are many of them. We've seen how using technology, we can delay recorded audio, recognize speech, and it can even prompt us in moments of speaking. Now, technology is currently at a stage where we can recreate our speaking situations and better prepare ourselves inside the safe space of virtual reality.

My name's Gareth Walkom, I stutter, and since 2015. I've been right at the core of these changes in technology. In these past few years of a pandemic, we've realized how reliant we are on technology and the potential it brings to connect us together. Perhaps we've met new friends online, attended an event that we usually wouldn't be able to attend, or maybe even collaborated with other groups/organizations of like-minded people.

While we've been Zooming and forgetting that we're on mute, virtual reality has been turning into something truly special that now has the potential to benefit people who stutter. More than any technology before.

Using virtual reality, we can be anywhere, create any speaking situation, and even stop or change our ..

.. environment at any time. It can shape our environments to our individual comfort levels and avoid jumping into a speaking situation too quickly.

⁹⁹ Using virtual reality, we can be anywhere, create any speaking situation, and even stop or change our environment at any time.

Lets think about the last three real-life speaking situations you encountered. Did you practice for them? For many people who stutter, we repeat in our heads what we want to say before we've said it, maybe even practicing in front of the mirror. But when we repeat things in our heads or practice in front of the mirror, it isn't quite the same as the real thing. We're missing our environmental factors, such as the unfamiliar room we'll be in, the strangers we'll be speaking with, and the off-putting sounds around us.

VR brings us so much!

What virtual reality does is it gives us the possibility to create these experiences, creating a safe space for us to slowly bridge that practice to the real thing. And I have seen through my research and others how impactful it can be for an individual who stutters.



Shaping VR for PWS (people who stutter)

On International Stuttering Awareness Day (22nd October) in 2020, I realized that virtual reality technology was finally at a stage where it could be shaped specifically for people who stutter. So, I decided to pause my Ph.D., drop everything, and build with VR.



withVR creates customizable virtual reality speaking situations for people who seek, provide, and research speech therapy. We're already collaborating with over 90 clinics, labs, and hospitals, from more than 20 different countries worldwide - many of these are leading speech therapists and researchers in stuttering. We're also supporting 16 national and 4 international stuttering associations to create something that works not just for one part of the world but many. Because together, we can create a safe space for people who stutter to speak.

We've recently spoken at national conferences in North/South/Central America, Australia, Europe, Africa, and most recently in real-life in Saudi Arabia. We've been showcased on BBC News, Google Cloud Blog, Stuttering Therapy Resources, and various podcasts. And I am super happy to announce that we are now testing our virtual reality software.

Are you going to the Joint World Congress on Stuttering and Cluttering in Montreal? We'll be speaking there, and we'll also have a booth! Will you be going to the World Congress on Stuttering in Liverpool? We'll also be speaking there! Come and find us to try the latest technology in stuttering.

Get in touch with us!

Do you want to learn more about what we're up to at with VR? Check out our recent media, get in touch at hello@withvr.app, and keep up-to-date with our Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. In the meantime, let's keep using our voices to empower others to use theirs too.



Let's keep using our voices to empower others to use theirs too!

-Gareth



2022 NSA® Annual Conference

National Stuttering Association (NSA)

Mark your calendars, and plan to join us in Newport Beach, California. We are thrilled to announce the 2022 NSA Annual Conference will take place in-person from June 29-July 3!

The NSA Annual Conference is a life-changing event for adults, children, families, and friends who share stuttering as a common bond. We're excited to bring the stuttering community together from all corners of the nation for a weekend of celebration and fun under the Southern California sun!

It's going to be blast!

During our days together, you will be inspired and informed on the contemporary issues facing stuttering today in an environment designed to bring comfort, joy and a deeper perspective on our resilient community. It's going to be a blast!

Join us this summer in sunny Newport Beach and experience the NSA in a whole new way. As a note, this event and our room block are expected to sell out, so be sure to book your room and register soon!

More information!

Simply hearing from and being around others who stutter – others who really get it – can have a life-changing impact on you. The NSA Annual Conference captures that magic and truly unique experience of bringing people together during a time when we've needed it the most. Most importantly, you will leave this event knowing for certain that when you're a part of the NSA, you will Never Stutter Alone.

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Speech as a digital toolAnita Blom

In a new research project, The Swedish Stuttering Association, "Stamningsförbundet", is investigating speech-controlled communication services to make them. more accessible for people who stutter or clutter, persons with slurred speech and other speech disorders.

The number of services that use speech as a digital tool increases every day. Everything from answering machines to home electronics can be controlled by speech. This technology is beneficial for many, however, if the speech is the only way of controlling devices and services, it can create problems for people with speech impairments, or even with a dialect.

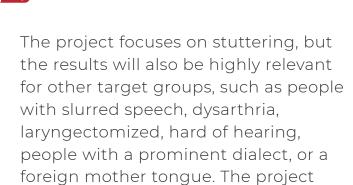
The number of services that use speech as a digital tool increases every day. Everything from answering machines to home electronics can be controlled by speech.

Not being able to reach important public services, or use devices and applications, leads not only to lack of inclusion, participation, and equality in society, but it's also against the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

The project is funded by the Swedish Inheritance Fund and the research is carried out by accessibility specialist company Funka. Since the start in September 2021, the project has mapped the use of speech-controlled communication services in Sweden. and currently end users are consulted to find out which communication services and products are used and which of them cause most problems. Even though this is a Swedish project, we would love to hear about experiences from other parts of the world!



By researching and reviewing speechcontrolled communication services. mapping what kind of difficulties the target group experiences, and by developing solutions, the project aims to ensure that public and private sectors understand the importance of offering alternatives for people who for different reasons have difficulties using their speech.



Have a listen to the webinar where the project was launched, with guest Gareth Walkom, WithVR, as guest speaker.

Click to visit the webinar!

will last until August 2024.

Spring greetings from Sweden Anita S. Blom scatsis@gmail.com

Set Up Your Own National Petition Jane Powell | CEO STAMMA

A National Petition with our goal to 'Reach 50 million Signatures By October 2022: It is Time to Include Those who Stammer on Film and TV'

On 22nd October this year STAMMA launched a change.org petition calling for people who stammer to be represented on our broadcast channels, not just one day a year – but every day.

We've aimed the petition at the BBC, along with others like Netflix, Disney, and Amazon Prime. The petition has had over 20,000 signatures so far. The campaign has been welcomed by the official regulatory authority in the UK, Ofcom, and we've already seen calls for actors and voice artists who stammer. If you set up your own petition in your own country to push for the media to include the voices of people who stammer or stutter – and link it with ours - then Change.org will aggregate all the numbers, so you'll start with 20,000. And each nation's petition signatures will be counted as one.

We are setting up a microsite, NotJustOneDay.com, which will be unbranded. On the website NotJustOneDay.com we will list all the different countries petitions, plus all the supporting logos. We'll amend the video so it links to this site, rather just our own petition, so everyone can

use it in their own local petition. We want to give everyone until December 28th 2022 to set up their own petition (please collaborate with your other national organizations so there is just one petition per country), and then we launch all the petitions on 1st January.

Why is this useful?

Because it helps raise the issue about stammering. Because if we do see and hear people who stammer or stutter on television, then it helps normalize it. The petition is a tool we can use to create awareness and change. If all the partner organizations run this campaign, then people around the world will get the message that stuttering is OK, that millions of people across the world stutter.

79 Then people around the world will get the message that stuttering is OK, that millions of people across the world stutter! <<

This petition sends out a strong message to all those companies who want to be seen as diverse and inclusive companies that if they are genuine in their desire, then include us, include people who stammer.



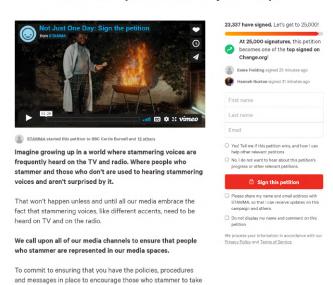
Ambition & Timeline

Wouldn't it be great if we can hit 50 or 70 million signatures by 22nd October 2022? To do this, we will promote the petition on a regular basis for the next year. We will make note of any initiatives to include people who stammer. We've already seen changes. With Ed Sheeran reading a story about a boy who stammers on a children's TV channel, CBeebies, as well a discussion at BBC, coverage on ITV.

On 22nd Oct 2022, lets come together and look at what progress has been made, and tell the world about it. Whether it is good news or bad, we can point to the numbers of people around the world who will have signed the petition, talk about the messages they have left, and use it to push harder so that we can see and hear people on TV who stutter.



We need to hear and see people who stammer on TV & radio all year round, not just a day.



How to?

Setting up the petition is easy, just go to change.org and hit the button 'start a petition'. Use the same title as ours – or create your own. hen add the film and television channels who need to be told about the petition. Search online and put in contact names and addresses (we're still adding ours). Next, let me know by mail (click the link below!) that you want your petition to link with ours, and I'll let people at change.org know, so all the numbers will count as one.

Click here to mail Jane!

Nearer to the end of December, I'll send out a draft press release and ideas about promoting the petition. And then I suggest well launch them all on 1st January 2023.

.. and use it to push harder so that we can see and hear people on TV who stutter. 66

Sign our petition here!

a full part in producing and appearing on your programmes. On

the news, in soaps, in chat shows, as experts,

| The Lithuanian Stuttering Association

The Lithuanian Stuttering
Association ("The Lithuanian
Stuttering Problem Club")
wishes to inform that Dr.
Vidūnas RAMŠA – the founder
and long-term president of the
Lithuanian Stuttering
Association – was awarded the
Knight's Cross as an Order of
Merit for Lithuania on July 6,
2020!

Dr. V. Ramša has been stuttering very strongly since childhood and has tried all available treatments for this disorder in the former USSR. In 1977 he arranged a translation of one of publications from the Stuttering Foundation of America (SFA). Copies of this typewritten manuscript circulated around Lithuania for 15 years, maintaining the hope that stuttering people could one day speak fluently. In 1992, the book was finally published.

In the fall of 1992, Dr. V. Ramša, together with Dr. K.-O. Polukordienė, a psychologist interested in stuttering, founded the Lithuanian Stuttering Association, and he was the president of this association until 2009. Dr. V. Ramša himself developed the strategy of the Association's activities. In cooperation with Šiauliai University (Prof. Dr. R. Ivoškuvienė) and speech

therapist-psychologist Dr. V. Makauskienė, 11 SFA books for stuttering people, parents of stuttering children and speech therapists have been translated into Lithuanian, in addition to several videos of this organization. Twelve booklets on various aspects of a stuttering person's life have been creatively translated by Dr. V. Ramša from English, German and Danish, and 6 original booklets were also co-written with Dr. V. Makauskienė. Dr. V. Ramša himself published the Association's internal "MI-bulletin". In 2002, he created the website of the Club (now www.mikciojimas.eu).

Dr. V. Ramša is currently a member of the Danish Stuttering Association. He maintains contacts with the SFA, other European national stuttering organizations, reviews their publications and periodicals and participates in international events.

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Twelve booklets on various aspects of a stuttering person's life have been creatively translated by Dr. V. Ramša from English, German and Danish!

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Lectures on stuttering

Around 1996-98, Dr. V. Ramša drastically reduced his stuttering and even though he'd never been able to answer orally or had spoken publicly in front of an audience, Dr. V. Ramša started presenting and giving lectures on the topic of stuttering: ELSA management seminars (Vienna 1999, Strasbourg 2003), Norwegian Stuttering Association Conference (Geilo, 2005), Nordic Stuttering Organization Meetings (Norway, Suldal 2007 and Sweden, Gothenburg 2008). In Lithuania, in-service training lectures for speech therapists are often given together with Dr. V. Makauskienė.

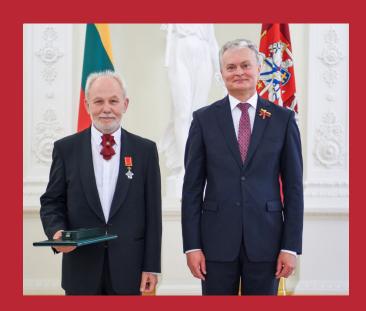
Articles, interviews & consults

Dr. V. Ramša has published articles on the topic of stuttering in the publications of international stuttering organizations "The Voice of ELSA", "One Voice". He expressed his opinion in Lithuanian newspapers, gave interviews to Lithuanian radio stations, Radio Free Europe, and actively cooperated with speech therapists. As an experienced stuttering person, Dr. V. Ramša, within the limits of his competence, annually consults 10–20 stuttering people or stuttering parents of children and refers them to specialists.

A strong influence

All of Dr. V. Ramša's activities highlighted above - 15 years before the establishment of the Association and during 27 years in the Association – had a strong influence on the development of Lithuanian speech therapy and created conditions for active professional collaboration between Lithuanian speech therapists and specialists from the Western world. With the translated literature and special lectures, the knowledge of Lithuanian speech therapists was supplemented with methods and information for eliminating stuttering that were unknown to them before Lithuania became independent.

Dr. V. Ramša's personal example strongly influences the motivation of stuttering people to solve their language problem, dispels the doubts of stuttering young people to pursue education and professional heights, encourages parents to take appropriate measures in time to overcome childhood stuttering and thus returns intellectuals to an active life.





"You, like Christ, wash the feet of those who stutter so that their lives may be brighter, so that disability does not prevent them from being happy ..." - in one Easter wish to Dr. V. Ramša wrote Juozas Danilavičius, a 92-year-old Lithuanian speech therapist and prolific author of books.

Dr. V. Ramša graduated from Kaunas Polytechnic Institute (now the University of Technology). In 1988, without saying a word, he defended his doctoral dissertation in Moscow. He finished his career as an electromechanical engineer as the head of the adaptive control systems sector at one of Vilnius' applied research institutes in 1994. Subsequently, he successfully worked as the director of a representative office of a German company in Lithuania - a commercial engineer. Later as the commercial director of a lighting company, as a certified expert in the origin of goods.

Since 2006, he has been a translator of technical and medical texts. In this work, he makes use of different languages every day: Lithuanian, Russian, German, Norwegian, Latin, as well as some basic English and Polish.

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You, like Christ, wash the feet of those who stutter so that their lives may be brighter, so that disability does not prevent them from being happy.

"

Dr. V. Ramša is also active in other areas. he is a member of the Lithuanian National Committee of UNICEF and other organizations. In the professional field, he has published 38 scientific works in the field of technology. In his leisure time he sings in choirs and is interested in medicine.

SingWell Virtual Choir of PWS (people who stutter) Eeva Stierwalt | The Singwell Project

The Canadian Stuttering Association (CSA) has partnered with SingWell (Ryerson University and Université de Montréal) in their research relating to group singing and people living with communication challenges!

The Kick Off

To kick off their project section focused on people who stutter (PWS) who sing, they are creating an international virtual choir of people who stutter which will be showcased (virtually) at the JWCSC 2022 Congress in May!

They are now ready to recruit singers and have developed some marketing around it and have asked me to share this with my contacts. Let the world hear Your Voice with SingWell's unforgettable virtual choir for PWS! Looking for a unique opportunity to share your voice? SingWell's extraordinary Virtual Choir for people who Stutter needs you!

An example song

An example choir

An unique opportunity

Looking for a unique opportunity to share your voice? SingWell's extraordinary Virtual Choir for people who Stuttwe needs you! Learn more by clicking below!



You can read a full description of the project on the next page, we hope to see you there! Click on the left for one of our example songs or an example virtual choir!

Let the world hear Your Voice with SingWell's unforgettable virtual choir for PWS!



Join People who statter from across the world on a unique singing opportunity!

Our Goal

The goal of this project is to bring people who stutter around the world together through song. We are creating a "virtual choir" comprised of people who stutter. Individuals from around the world will record their own videos which will be stitched together into a composite. The composite video will be screened at the Joint World Fluency Congress on Stuttering and Cluttering in Montreal, Canada, in May 2022. It will also be available for viewing or download on the SingWell website.

What Will I Do?

You are invited to learn the following song and submit a voice recording or a combined voice-video recording of yourself (using your phone, tablet, or computer equipment) to SingWell. We also offer some 1-1 sessions online if you think you might be interested but would like some extra support.

Here is a preview of the song we will be singing:

- Sing for Joy: https://youtu.be/LeJLSCkaw9c
- Example of a virtual choir: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqWQCWc_zCc&t=1s

Who can participate?

- People who stutter
- Have some understanding of English and/or French
- NO SINGING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!



Why should I participate?

- You will have lots of fun
- You will unite with other people who stutter around the world
- Our video will be premiered at the Joint World Congress on Stuttering and Cluttering in Montreal, Canada.
- You will raise awareness about singing and stuttering.

^

Who Are We?

Singwell is an international network of researchers, community organizations and choirs, studying the benefits of group singing as an activity that can improve communication skills and wellbeing, especially in people with communication challenges. The Joint World Congress on Stuttering and Cluttering is a major triennial event to advance our understanding of stuttering from a scientific, therapeutic, and community-oriented perspective.

If you are ready to join this unique opportunity, please leave your name and email in the form provided at https://www.singwell.ca/get-involved/.

You can then leave your email-address to receive all the detailed instructions on how to learn the song and make the recording!

Thank you for helping to improve the lives of people who stutter!











The 'Stuttering is Beautiful' Project

Sybren Bouwsma

Improving the lives of Young People who Stutter. There are about 70 million people who stutter around the world, of which about a third can be seen as a young person who stutters (YPWS).

YPWS often face social exclusion, stuttering affects their relationships with others and their happiness at social situations. They have often a lower self-esteem, low self-perceived communication competence and apprehension in social situations. Most youth workers (YW) and teachers, who could reach these young people have limited understanding about what stuttering and limited knowledge and skill about how exactly help young persons who stutter.

About the project

Therefore, stuttering organizations from three different countries (Estonia, Iceland and The Netherlands) applied for an Erasmus+-funded project called "Stuttering is Beautiful". In this project the organizations worked together to create a manual for youth workers about stuttering on how to work with and support young people who stutter. Youth workers can help YPWS to step out of the comfort zone, have less social exclusion, help them to ..

.. have clear goals about they want to achieve and a plan how to achieve it. In the long term young people who stutter will have better relations with other people and a better self-esteem.



During the project four meetings where held – one in Estonia, one in Iceland and two in the Netherlands. They researched which resources are currently available for youth workers (YW) about stuttering, had interviews with YW about stuttering, and tested the manual with young people who stutter (YPWS). The project is now finished, and the online manual is published in English here.

yho stutter will have better relations with other people and a better self-esteem!



Available in four languages!

The manual is also available online in Icelandic, Estonian and Dutch. The manual is also very useful for teachers, parents, adult educators and social workers.

Currently, the partner organizations, together with the Italian stuttering association AIBACOM, are working on on a follow-up project 'Stuttering is Beautiful 2' that aims at creating a manual about stuttering for young persons who stutter themselves.

79 The manual is also very useful for teachers, parents, adult educators and social workers. 46

A short introduction video about the project can be seen **here.**

Get in touch with us!

For questions and more info about the project you can contact the project partners. We will keep you updated in one of the next One Voices!

Iceland

The Icelandic stuttering association Contact persons: Sigríður Fossberg Thorlacius and Satu Nygren malbjorg@stam.is

The Netherlands

Anatta Foundation and Dutch Stuttering association Demosthenes. Contact person: Sybren Bouwsma sybren.bouwsma@gmail.com

Estonia

EKÜ Eesti Kogelejate Ühing. Contact person: Hardi Sigus hardi.sigus@gmail.com