

International Fluency Association Strategic Plan 2013- 2020

Mission

The International Fluency Association is a non-profit, international, interdisciplinary organization devoted to the understanding of fluency, to the understanding and management of fluency disorders, and to the improvement in the quality of life for persons with fluency disorders.

Vision

The International Fluency Association will be the quintessential leader worldwide in helping every professional related to fluency disorders become knowledgeable, skilled, and compassionate and every person with a fluency disorder to be the beneficiary of an informed global community.

Guiding Principles/Core Values

The International Fluency Association shall strive in all ways to be international. The General Membership, Executive Board, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members shall include representatives from different continents so as to maximize diversity to the extent possible. International issues affecting fluency disorders or people with fluency disorders shall be given higher priority than local or regional issues.

The International Fluency Association shall provide a forum for all points of view that are consistent with its mission. All individuals engaged in research, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment pertaining to fluency disorders, or in any other activity consistent with the mission of the International Fluency Association, such as participation in the development and maintenance of self-help (peer-to-peer) groups for those with fluency disorders, are eligible for membership in the International Fluency Association.

The International Fluency Association shall encourage expression of varying points of view with respect to theoretical or debatable issues concerning the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of individuals with fluency disorders rather than strive for consensus among its membership on such issues.

Priority 1

Stimulate interdisciplinary thought and research in the area of fluency and fluency disorders. [Organizer: Research]

- Continue to encourage scholarly research and publication in the *Journal of Fluency Disorders*.
 - Responsibility of: Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Fluency Disorders*
 - Timeline: Ongoing
- Continue to plan and conduct the IFA World Congress on Fluency Disorders every three years.
 - Responsibility of: Meetings and Conferences Committee
 - Timeline: Ongoing
- Post the presentation abstracts from the 7th World Congress on Fluency Disorders (2012 in Tours, France) in the Members' Only section of IFA website.
 - Responsibility of: Website and Technology Committee
 - Timeline: 2013
- Explore and implement ideas to contain costs related to IFA Congresses on Fluency Disorders.

- Responsibility of: Meetings and Conferences Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Consider revised manuscript formats for the *Journal of Fluency Disorders*, introduce reviewer training, and design a new point system to heighten consistency of reviewer evaluations.
 - Responsibility of: Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Fluency Disorders*
 - Timeline: 2014
- Encourage scholarly research and submission of quality manuscripts for publication in the *Journal of Fluency Disorders* from diverse, international locations that have been under-represented or unrepresented.
 - Responsibility of: Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Fluency Disorders*
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Use social media and the IFA website to provide instruction for professionals and people with fluency disorders in developing and underserved countries.
 - Responsibility of: Instruction and Training Committee
 - Timeline: 2015 and ongoing
- Initiate collaborative research projects involving a greater number of IFA members.
 - Responsibility of: Research and Publications Committee
 - Timeline: 2015 and ongoing
- Prepare a stronger research-based IFA World Congress on Fluency Disorders.
 - Responsibility of: Meetings and Conferences Committee
 - Timeline: 2015, 2018
- Organize a collaborative World Congress on Fluency Disorders with other associations concerning fluency disorders (International Fluency Association, International Cluttering Association, and International Stuttering Association).
 - Responsibility of: Meetings and Conferences Committee
 - Timeline: 2015, 2018
- Create an edited proceedings of the IFA World Congress on Fluency Disorders.
 - Responsibility of: Meetings and Conferences Committee
 - Timeline: 2015, 2018
- Stream and/or videotape selected portions of the IFA World Congress on Fluency Disorders for dissemination in developing and underserved countries.
 - Responsibility of: Meetings and Conferences Committee
 - Timeline: 2015, 2018
- Create opportunities for more interaction between the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Fluency Disorders* and the IFA membership.
 - Responsibility of: Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Fluency Disorders*
 - Timeline: 2015 and ongoing
- Create and maintain an internet-based chat site for exchange of clinical and research experiences from people in different countries.
 - Responsibility of: Website and Technology Committee
 - Timeline: 2015 and ongoing
- Encourage emerging research and application of research findings to clinical practice.
 - Responsibility of: Research and Publications Committee
 - Timeline: 2016 and ongoing

Priority 2

Encourage and facilitate the development of interdisciplinary approaches to the prevention and management of fluency disorders. [Organizer: Intervention]

- Continue to coordinate Continuing Education Unit (CEU) opportunities for those with Full Membership in IFA.
 - Responsibility of: Instruction and Training Committee
 - Timeline: Ongoing
- Identify a group of experts in the field of fluency and fluency disorders who are willing to provide training at minimal or no charge for developing and underserved countries via the internet, in person, or other venues.
 - Responsibility of: Instruction and Training Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Conduct yearly online conferences focusing on a specialized aspect of fluency, fluency disorders, or intervention for people with fluency disorders.
 - Responsibility of: Instruction and Training Committee
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Create one-on-one mentoring relationships between novice and seasoned clinicians/fluency specialists.
 - Responsibility of: Instruction and Training Committee
 - Timeline: 2015 and ongoing
- Encourage psychological training and counselling skills to be part of professional preparation of speech-language pathologists.
 - Responsibility of: Self Help and Consumer Affairs Committee
 - Timeline: 2015 and ongoing
- Create mentorship, training, and other instructional opportunities within the professional and consumer communities, particularly in underserved and developing countries, using online presentations, webinars, and other venues on the forefront of technology.
 - Responsibility of: Instruction and Training Committee
 - Timeline: 2016 and ongoing
- Promote interaction and forums to exchange clinical experiences, assessment and treatment procedures, and models of intervention.
 - Responsibility of: Website and Technology Committee
 - Timeline: 2016 and ongoing
- Create research groups composed of IFA members and affiliates associated with public and private institutions to report group data resulting from specific forms of intervention reflecting progress of clients with fluency disorders.
 - Responsibility of: Research and Publications Committee
 - Timeline: 2016 and ongoing
- Respond to consumer-initiated inquiry about validity claims made by proponents of specific interventions by publishing a report in the *Journal of Fluency Disorders*.
 - Responsibility of: Self Help and Consumer Affairs Committee (after review and approval by IFA's Board of Directors)
 - Timeline: 2017

Priority 3

Facilitate communication among researchers, speech scientists, fluency specialists, and clinicians from all disciplines and people with fluency disorders. [Organizer: Communication]

- Publish an electronic newsletter twice yearly to include short articles, communications, viewpoints, and updates from members around the world that are not included in the *Journal of Fluency Disorders* and distribute to the membership and post on the IFA website.
 - Responsibility of: Research and Publications Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Engage more IFA members from diverse locations in service of the organization through participation on Standing Committees.
 - Responsibility of: President, Executive Board, and Board of Directors
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Develop a plan to identify diverse, international candidates for awards and recognitions and implement the plan.
 - Responsibility of: Nominations, Elections, and Awards Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Maintain an updated website that is interactive, modern, and easy to navigate including links to information and organizations affiliated with IFA.
 - Responsibility of: Website and Technology Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Create a forum to discuss and distribute cutting edge information related to fluency disorders.
 - Responsibility of: Instruction and Training Committee
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Inform the members about activities related to fluency and fluency disorders worldwide.
 - Responsibility of: Professional Liaisons Committee
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Explore and utilize new technologies to disseminate information relevant to the IFA mission.
 - Responsibility of: Website and Technology Committee
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Advertise the International Fluency Association through state, national, and international organizations.
 - Responsibility of: Membership Committee
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Create and maintain a directory of the IFA General Membership (with prior permission of individual members) to be located in the Members' Only section of IFA's website.
 - Responsibility of: Membership Committee
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Review and revise as appropriate the mission and priorities of IFA to ensure and articulate the uniqueness and distinction of IFA as an international organization and its relevance to the profession of Communication Sciences and Disorders.
 - Responsibility of: President Elect with an Ad Hoc committee
 - Timeline: 2015
- Use technologies to provide educational opportunities other than that provided through the *Journal of Fluency Disorders* and the World Congresses on Fluency Disorders.
 - Responsibility of: Instruction and Training Committee
 - Timeline: 2015 and ongoing

- Create venues for professionals (researchers, speech scientists, and clinicians) and people with fluency disorders to dialogue, listen, consider alternative perspectives, and learn from each other beginning with IFA's World Congress on Fluency Disorders.
 - Responsibility of: Meetings and Conferences Committee
 - Timeline: 2015, 2018

Priority 4

Encourage collaboration between self-help (i.e., peer-to-peer) groups for people with fluency disorders and the IFA. [Organizer: Self Help]

- Include people who are not Speech-Language Pathologists on the Self Help and Consumer Affairs Committee.
 - Responsibility of: Self Help and Consumer Affairs Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Survey and gather feedback from self-help organizations worldwide regarding the priorities, needs, and experiences of people with fluency disorders and publish this information in IFA's Newsletter and website.
 - Responsibility of: Self Help and Consumer Affairs Committee
 - Timeline: 2014
- Build bridges between professionals in speech-language pathology (researchers, speech scientists, speech-language pathologists) and the consumer community (people with fluency disorders and self-help organizations).
 - Responsibility of: Self Help and Consumer Affairs Committee
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Provide consumer feedback to the general IFA Membership by reporting views of consumer online chat forums and consumer self-help organizations worldwide.
 - Responsibility of: Self Help and Consumer Affairs Committee
 - Timeline: 2015 and ongoing

Priority 5

Represent and serve as an advocate for people with fluency disorders; professionals who serve them; professionals in training who serve them; and organizations and institutions dedicated to professional training, understanding fluency disorders, and meeting the needs of people with fluency disorders. [Organizer: Advocacy]

- Encourage members of IFA's Board of Directors to attend congresses and/or conferences of other associations regarding fluency disorders and to represent IFA at those events.
 - Responsibility of: President, Executive Board, and Board of Directors
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Increase awareness of and respect toward diverse perspectives on assessment and treatment of fluency disorders by informing the IFA Membership of projects and developments worldwide.
 - Responsibility of: Professional Liaisons Committee
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Provide quarterly updates highlighting activities of the International Stuttering Association (ISA) and affiliated self-help groups on IFA's website.
 - Responsibility of: Self Help and Consumer Affairs Committee
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Review and revise the procedures for delivering scholarships for IFA's World Congresses on Fluency Disorders to people from underserved and developing countries with a priority for those who will share the information with professionals and consumers in their

locations and create a sustainable venue for implementing the knowledge gained in perpetuity.

- Responsibility of: Meetings and Conferences Committee
- Timeline: 2014

- Increase the degree of collaboration for the World Congress on Fluency Disorders by designing a cost sharing arrangement between ISA, ICA and IFA.
 - Responsibility of: Meetings and Conferences Committee
 - Timeline: 2018

Priority 6

Educate the general public about the nature and management of fluency disorders and the abilities and needs of people with fluency disorders.

[Organizer: Public Relations]

- Develop a public awareness statement to be posted on IFA's website that describes the nature of fluency disorders and the potential impact of intervention.
 - Responsibility of: Member-at-Large and an Ad Hoc committee
 - Timeline: 2014

- Write and disseminate an international press release to coincide with International Stuttering Awareness Day that provides information about the International Fluency Association, its mission and goals, and how the IFA benefits professionals and people with fluency disorders.
 - Responsibility of: Secretary and an Ad Hoc committee
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing

- Organize professionals to educate the general public in their local communities (e.g., civic organizations, faith-based groups, educational agencies, and others) about fluency disorders and the International Fluency Association.
 - Responsibility of: Professional Liaisons Committee
 - Timeline: 2015 and ongoing

- Provide general information about fluency disorders and available resources for the general public on the website.
 - Responsibility of: Website and Technology Committee
 - Timeline: 2015 and ongoing

- Build bridges between the International Fluency Association and related professional communities (e.g., Psychology, Psychiatry, Counselling, Social work, and the like).
 - Responsibility of: Professional Liaisons Committee
 - Timeline: 2016 and ongoing

Priority 7

Build an efficient, effective, and sustainable infrastructure for the International Fluency Association. [Organizer: Infrastructure]

- Survey past, present, and potential members of the International Fluency Association to determine their experiences, needs, and interests and to review the focus of IFA's activities and direction.
 - Responsibility of: President
 - Timeline: 2013, 2019

- Develop a 7-Year Strategic Plan to ensure targeted direction and measurable progress of the International Fluency Association's growth and development.
 - Responsibility of: President
 - Timeline: 2013, 2020

- Review and revise as appropriate the International Fluency Association's Bylaws.
 - Responsibility of: President
 - Timeline: 2013
- Conduct annual meetings (electronically or face-to-face) of the Executive Board and the Board of Directors.
 - Responsibility of: President
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Prepare a diverse slate of nominations for elected positions as specified by the International Fluency Association's Bylaws according to the stated timeline.
 - Responsibility of: Nominations, Elections, and Awards Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Maximize the diversity of the International Fluency Association's General Membership.
 - Responsibility of: Membership Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Maximize the diversity of the International Fluency Association's Executive Board.
 - Responsibility of: Nominations, Elections, and Awards Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Maximize the diversity of the Chairpersons and Members of the International Fluency Association's Standing Committees.
 - Responsibility of: President and Executive Board
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Update the roster of the International Fluency Association's General Membership.
 - Responsibility of: Membership Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Review and revise as appropriate the categories of Membership in the International Fluency Association and streamline the registration and renewal processes.
 - Responsibility of: Membership Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Review and revise as appropriate the current dues structure for Full Membership and Affiliate Categories.
 - Responsibility of: Membership Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Create a hard copy and online brochure about the International Fluency Association, highlighting the diverse benefits accrued from Full Membership.
 - Responsibility of: Membership Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Explore and implement ideas to reduce costs of Full Membership in the International Fluency Association.
 - Responsibility of: President, Executive Board, and Board of Directors
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Increase the number and type of benefits for Full Membership in the International Fluency Association and publicize these benefits accordingly.
 - Responsibility of: President, Executive Board, and Board of Directors
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Document the history of the International Fluency Association since its inception and post the chronology with related archival documents on IFA's website.
 - Responsibility of: Historian/Archivist
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing

- Complete a quarterly financial report and post to IFA's website for transparency.
 - Responsibility of: Treasurer and Finance Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Complete a quarterly progress report for each of IFA's Standing Committees for accountability and post to IFA's website for transparency.
 - Responsibility of: President, Executive Board, and Board of Directors
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Submit a quarterly statement for publication in the *Journal of Fluency Disorders* (i.e., the IFA News/President's Column) to keep the General Membership abreast of recent and significant developments within the organization and to provide a venue for instructional purposes.
 - Responsibility of: President, Instruction and Training Committee
 - Timeline: 2013 and ongoing
- Conduct annual meetings of the IFA General Membership electronically or face-to-face at the IFA World Congress.
 - Responsibility of: President
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Research and implement as appropriate a requirement for IFA's Treasurer to be bonded and/or insured.
 - Responsibility of: President Elect, Finance Committee
 - Timeline: 2014
- Develop guidelines for approving expenditure requests and for conducting an internal audit of the IFA's financial records.
 - Responsibility of: Finance Committee
 - Timeline: 2014
- Review the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating IFA's financial accounts for greater efficiency and take appropriate action.
 - Responsibility of: Finance Committee
 - Timeline: 2014
- Explore and implement as appropriate the possibility of multiyear memberships for individuals.
 - Responsibility of: Membership Committee
 - Timeline: 2014
- Review the International Fluency Association's Strategic Plan annually and report successes and challenges to the General Membership.
 - Responsibility of: President, Executive Board, and Board of Directors
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Ensure that the diverse perspectives of IFA's General Membership are being heard and represented in all deliberations related to IFA's business.
 - Responsibility of: Member-at-Large
 - Timeline: 2014 and ongoing
- Explore and implement as appropriate the possibility of group memberships for institutions.
 - Responsibility of: Membership Committee
 - Timeline: 2015
- Conduct a cost/benefit analysis of the relationship between Elsevier and the International Fluency Association and make recommendations to decrease costs to IFA members while respecting and preserving the mission of both organizations.

- Responsibility of: Finance Committee
- Timeline: 2015

- Explore and implement as appropriate the possibility of creating an International Federation of Fluency Disorders, within which there would be a professional (International Fluency Association) and consumer (International Stuttering Association) component, each of which would maintain an independent administrative structure in addition to a collaborative partnership.
 - Responsibility of: President Elect and Ad Hoc committee
 - Timeline: 2016

Approved by the International Fluency Association's Executive Board, Board of Directors, and General Membership on December 31, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,



**David A. Shapiro, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
International Fluency Association President, 2013-2014**
