Welcome to the excitement and promise that a new year brings! We at ISTAR are looking forward to another great year of excellence as we help people to realize that every voice matters. Each article in this issue is geared towards accomplishing that goal. Enjoy!

1. **Increased Telehealth Availability**

Thanks to a generous donation from the Edmonton Telus Community Board, ISTAR was able to purchase a videoconference unit for each of our Edmonton and Calgary offices and 4 iPads. The videoconference equipment and iPads (through FaceTime) have been an immense help with facilitating speech therapy over long distances. The iPads are also being used with speech therapy apps and built-in audio and video recording features to help us collect data to facilitate the delivery of quality therapy to our clients.

We are so pleased to expand the scope of our services through new technology!

2. **Solution Focused Behavioral Therapy**

In October, Willie Botterill and Elaine Kelman from the Michael Palin Centre in London, England, provided training to the ISTAR staff on solution focused behavioural therapy. SFBT provides our clinicians with yet another tool that expands our capacity to provide the best possible therapy to our adult clients with a cognitive behavioural approach. Willie and Elaine also hosted the Parent-Child Interaction (PCI) workshop for SLP’s across Alberta in October. The training increased SLPs’ knowledge and skills in assessing and identifying those children who are at risk of more persistent problems, as well as in the treatment of early stuttering. Learn more about PCIs environmental approach for young children here: [http://www.stammeringcentre.org/mpc-home](http://www.stammeringcentre.org/mpc-home).

3. **New Intensive Stuttering Clinic**

We are excited to modify our intensive stuttering programs to ensure that individual client needs are best met. The July clinic for teens and adults is always very popular and typically has a waiting list. To enable more people to attend an intensive program, we are adding a June clinic for adults. In doing so, this frees up the July clinic for teens aged 12 - 18. The addition of the new adult-only clinic also ensures that appropriate age groups are working together.

This year’s intensive clinic dates are:
4. Communication Improvement Workshops

Our Communication Improvement Program workshops continue to be very popular. We are offering 2 types of workshops in 2013: Intelligibility of Speech / Public Speaking and Accent Reduction. Anyone is welcome to register for these workshops as they are not specifically for people who stutter. If you know of anyone who would benefit from these sessions, please have them contact ISTAR.

**Intelligibility of Speech / Public Speaking**

For anyone who is required to do public speaking or interact with people in order to succeed in their professions. Participants will be introduced to the concept of speech rate and clear articulation and how it can vary across situations.

**Dates:** April 17 & May 24 (2 Wednesday evenings)

*More workshops will be added in the fall*

**Accent Reduction**

For participants who have an accent or are English as a second language learners and who wish to increase their intelligibility through reduction of their accent. General instruction about how to produce the English sounds and how to reduce speech rate for improved intelligibility is provided.

**Date Options:** February 5 – March 12 (6 Tuesday evenings)
February 7 – March 14 (6 Thursday evenings)
October 1 – November 5 (6 Tuesday evenings)
October 3 – November 7 (6 Thursday evenings)

5. The Future of Research in Brain Development in Stuttering – Article Published by the SFA

Dr. Deryk Beal, ISTAR’s Executive Director, is the subject of a newly-published article in the SFA’s Winter 2013 newsletter. Deryk discusses his view of using a multi-disciplinary approach for research in brain development in stuttering. He states that “the best chance for a major leap forward in the field of stuttering research is the funding of larger projects with a focus on the convergence of multiple sciences.” Read the full text here: [http://www.stutteringhelp.org/content/brain-development-stuttering](http://www.stutteringhelp.org/content/brain-development-stuttering).

Can We Have Your Email? ISTAR continues to collect the email addresses for our colleagues for the purpose of sending informative messages such as this one. Our goal is to help other speech-language professionals to improve their knowledge of stuttering. Please send your preferred email address to istar@ualberta.ca and we will be sure to add you to our mailing list! Use “Add me to your SLP distribution list” in the subject line.

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