It looks like it will be another bright summer! This issue features a request for research participants, new training opportunities, and an announcement of the next lecture in the ISTAR-Alberta Network for Fluency that will be held in October. Enjoy!

1. **Fun Speech Therapy Apps**

Now that we have iPads for clinical use, we’ve been trying out some apps to increase the effectiveness of speech therapy sessions. Some of our top picks are:

- **Toontastic** - a creative storytelling learning tool that enables kids to draw, animate and share their own cartoons with others.
- **Clicky Sticky** – an animated sticker book that includes ocean, aviation, space, dolls, arctic winter and safari scenes.
- **Toca Tea Party** – kids can invite their friends to an iPad tea party!
- **My Scene** – helps develop visual perception.
- **10,500+ Cool Facts** – 15,500 cool facts.

2. **Recent Clinical Observations by Swedish Students**

In May ISTAR welcomed Sandra Hammarstrom, Helena Holgren, and Nicole Zetter, students at Uppsala University, Sweden, who completed observations of all clinical staff and seminars with Dr. Langevin and Dr. Beal as part of their advanced study of stuttering and its treatment. Dr. Langevin is especially grateful to Holly Lomheim and the clinical staff for making arrangements for the clinical observations that gave the students exposure to treatment of age groups.

3. **Research Participants needed: Brain activity in school-age children who are typically fluent**

Boys aged 9 to 12 years who are right handed and are typically fluent are needed for a study of brain activity using near-infrared spectroscopy. Near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) is a technique that uses light to measure brain activity. A small sensor is taped to the forehead. The sensor contains a light source and a detector that are used to detect oxygen levels in the blood within the brain. NIRS has been used to measure brain activity in children and adults. Children participate in a speech and language screening that is followed by the NIRS data collection session. Both sessions can be conducted on the
same day and take approximately 1 hour. For more information please contact Dr. Marilyn Langevin at marilyn.langevin@ualberta.ca

4. **New Training Opportunities**

We are now offering modified training experiences in our Comprehensive Stuttering Program for SLPs. These 5 day training workshops are held during our 5 day teen and adult refreshers in July and December. This is an excellent opportunity to have hands on learning.

We can now also offer these training experiences via distance using video conferencing. Please contact us for more information.

5. **Save the date: October 8 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. The Four Facets of Effective Counselling**

Dr. Langevin is pleased to announce that the next lecture in the ISTAR-Alberta Network for Fluency will be presented by Dr. Derek Truscott who will present on different approaches to counselling. Dr. Truscott will discuss the "active ingredients" in counselling that lead to change. More details to follow.

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**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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