Welcome to fall and the busy-ness that comes with the back-to-school season. We are pleased to send you this newest issue of 5 Things; it includes articles on professional development, communication improvement, research and new staff at ISTAR. Read on, you are sure to find information that piques your interest and addresses professional challenges.

1. **ISTAR has a new Executive Director!**

ISTAR is excited to welcome Dr. Deryk Beal as our new Executive Director starting September 1! Deryk earned his master’s degree and completed his clinical training at the University of Toronto. He has maintained a clinical practice focused on the assessment and treatment of stuttering and other motor speech disorders for over 12 years. He is a dedicated therapist who is intensely passionate about the creation and utilization of evidence for the continued improvement of assessment and treatment services for children, teens and adults who stutter, as well as people with motor speech disorders. Deryk is a clinician-scientist whose research aims to further our understanding of the brain’s role in learning, planning and controlling speech production and how the brain differs in children, teens and adults with disordered speech production. Deryk designed his research program for the express purpose of developing novel treatments for stuttering and other childhood brain-based speech and language disorders that persist across the lifespan. Deryk was drawn to ISTAR by its world-renowned reputation for stuttering treatment and clinical outcomes research. Watch for his introductory remarks in our upcoming fall newsletter!

We are pleased that Marilyn Langevin, ISTAR's Director of Research, will continue to focus her efforts on conducting, promoting and facilitating leading-edge research into the nature, social impact, and treatment of stuttering and stuttering related clinical education, and developing and leading a research group centered at ISTAR.

2. **Calgary Refresher Clinic**

It's finally here - our first Calgary 2-day refresher clinic for people who stutter aged 15+! This refresher is aimed at refining skills and rates in clinic sessions, increasing stability of fluency control in structured transfers, improving problem-solving, and designing realistic and adaptive maintenance programs. Transfers will be primarily organized by the clinician with input from the clients. This clinic will also offer seminars and discussions aimed at addressing clients’ individual needs and concerns.
3. **Palin Parent-Child Interaction Therapy Workshop**

Willie Botterill and Elaine Kelman from the Michael Palin Centre in London, England will host this workshop on October 1 – 3, 2012. The sessions will aim to increase 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 stammering. The workshop will provide a step-by-step program for the assessment and management of this age group and is potentially applicable for children up to 7 years of age. The sessions will be supported by video demonstrations of therapy at the Michael Palin Centre, skills practice, discussion and problem-solving.

If you missed the registration deadline but are still interested in attending, we have 1 or 2 spots available. Contact us at istar@ualberta.ca or 780-492-2619.

4. **Communication Improvement Workshops**

ISTAR's Communication Improvement Program is offering three workshops this fall: Intelligibility of Speech / Public Speaking, The Art of Conversation, and Accent Reduction. While the first two are already fully subscribed, the just-scheduled Art of Conversation is open for registration!

The Art of Conversation workshop is for those who wish to increase their comfort with participating in group discussions, holding conversations during formal or casual gatherings, and one-on-one conversations. Participants will learn about important elements of conversation and practical strategies that can be used to begin, maintain and end conversations successfully. During the two-day workshop, participants will be provided with individualized feedback from a certified speech-language pathologist.

Anyone is welcome to register for these workshops as they are not specifically for people who stutter.

**Dates:** December 4 & 6 (2 nights)
**Time:** 6:00 – 9:00 PM
**Cost:** $300

5. **Exciting Research by ISTAR Staff!**

   **a) Children's Brain Development**

Exciting research from ISTAR's executive director, Dr. Deryk Beal, was just published showing that kids who stutter may have unique development of the brain regions responsible for speech motor control as compared to their fluently speaking peers. The title is “A voxel-based morphometry (VBM) analysis of regional grey and white matter volume abnormalities within the speech production network of children who stutter”. Read the complete article here: [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010945212002547?v=s5](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010945212002547?v=s5)
b) ISTAR’s Comprehensive Stuttering Program

Dr. Marilyn Langevin, ISTAR’s Director of Research, has her newest research on the Comprehensive Stuttering Program (CSP) published in “The Science and Practice of Stuttering Treatment” (2012). The chapter provides an overview of 4 previously published outcome studies, including our 5-year longitudinal study, and presents new 10-year outcome data. The book is available at [http://www.amazon.ca/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=the+science+and+practice+of+stuttering+treatment](http://www.amazon.ca/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=the+science+and+practice+of+stuttering+treatment)

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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