



## The CM Sessions: A series of Twilight Presentations for AAC Awareness Month

Every Thursday in October 2020 - from 3.30pm online

Communication Matters relies on income from holding the annual conference and other events to help run the charity. We support AAC users, families, and professionals to get the most up to date information about Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

As all our events have been cancelled this year due to the pandemic, we have decided to run a series of virtual events throughout October (for AAC Awareness Month) to help raise awareness of AAC and vital funds for the charity.

### What are the CM Sessions?

The **CM Sessions** will have both academic and social elements and will be held every Thursday afternoon in October: 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

The first session (on the 1<sup>st</sup>) will be a short introduction followed by our keynote speaker and a much-loved CM quiz! The middle 3 weeks will be jam-packed with presentations each week from professionals in the AAC field, AAC users and AAC suppliers, with each night culminating in a fun activity. The final session (on the 29<sup>th</sup>) will be a panel session with AAC users and a celebratory finale from the wonderful Sign Out Loud!

### Speakers

We are excited to announce that we have been lucky enough to secure **Meredith Allan** as a keynote speaker.

*Meredith Allan is currently President of the International Society for AAC (ISAAC) and National Treasurer of ISAAC-Australia. Meredith worked for the Australian Public Service for almost 30 years. She is currently studying for a master's degree, by research, at Deakin University in Melbourne. Meredith works part-time as a Communication Assessor and Disability Educator with Scope in Victoria. Meredith uses AAC to communicate and takes great joy in watching other people who use AAC become more confident and take leadership roles.*



We are also pleased to have confirmed presentations from:

- **Gail M. Van Tatenhove, PA, MS, CCC-SLP**  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
Orlando, FL USA
- **Gloria Soto, Ph.D.**  
Coordinator of Joint Doctoral Program in Special Education  
Professor in Department of Special Education, and Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences  
San Francisco State University
- **Catia Crivelenti de Figueiredo Walter**  
Associate Professor of the Graduate Program in Education  
Inclusive and Continuing Education Department - Faculty of Education  
State University of Rio de Janeiro
- **ATtherapy**  
Independent speech and language therapy service for children and adults with neurological conditions specialising in AAC and Assistive Technology.
- **The Seashell Trust**  
A national charity supporting children and young adults with complex learning disabilities and additional communication needs from across the UK.
- **Jamie Preece**  
Jamie's personal story about #500mileswithoutavoice.
- **Gregor Gilmour**  
ATmentors - Gregor's experience of mentoring during lockdown.
- **Verity Elliott**  
Project Lead for the Communication Matters Mentoring Project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund working with Creativity in Practice Ltd.
- **Ace Centre**  
Charity specialising in AAC and Assistive Technology speaking about learning Morse Code.

And supplier presentations from:

- **AAC Camp UK**
- **Abilia**
- **AssistiveWare**
- **EyeControl**
- **Liberator**
- **Mounts & More**
- **Techcess**
- **Therapy Box**
- **Tobii Dynavox**
- **SCandLE**
- **Smartbox**
- **Voiceonics**
- **Widgit Software**

### What do I need to take part?



The afternoons will run like a series of simple webinars, so you don't need a webcam or a microphone, you just need a computer, phone or tablet (with access to the internet and speakers) so you can just press play and listen in!

Contact details of presenters will be provided after each session so you can get in touch with them directly if you have any questions.

Some of the social sessions may need your interaction, but we will let you know!

### What if I am busy on those days?

If you aren't available to watch at the set times, once you have registered you will be sent the links to watch the presentations in your own time if needed. All the resources will be available online for 30 days. (However, please note that some of the fun activities may need to run live).

### Cost

The tickets for all five CM Sessions across the whole month with full access to all of this amazing content are just **£20!**

If you think it is worth more, or if you can afford a donation on top, we would be very grateful for your support at - <https://www.justgiving.com/communicationmatters>

Certificates of attendance can also be made available on request.

### Sounds great! How do I sign up?

You can register at <https://communicationmatters.org.uk/what-we-do/the-cm-sessions>

This is all very new to us and we are working hard on the details, but a full timetable will follow soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CM Office on [admin@communicationmatters.org.uk](mailto:admin@communicationmatters.org.uk).

Please put the dates in your diary now - every Thursday in October: 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> from 3.30pm!

### Find out more and register at

<https://communicationmatters.org.uk/what-we-do/the-cm-sessions>

We can't wait for you to join in and help **#SaveCM**

Please help us to spread the word on social media using:

**#CMsessions** **#AACAwarenessMonth** **#SaveCM**

And tag us on:



**@communicationmattersuk**



**@Comm\_Matters**

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