

Meet the speakers – all members of the I-ASC research team.

Janice Murray

Janice Murray is Professor of Communication Disability & AAC at Manchester Metropolitan University. Finishing her PhD in 2001, she has been Head of Speech & Language Therapy and is currently the research lead within the Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care's Communication Disability Research Cluster (<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/health-psychology-and-communities/our-expertise/communication-disability/>). She is a former Chair of Communication Matters (www.communicationmatters.org.uk), and of ISAAC Council (www.isaac-online.org), and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists in 2016. Janice is a founding member of an All-Party Parliamentary Group for Assistive Technology formed in 2017. She has worked in practice as a specialist Speech and Language Therapist (AAC). She teaches undergraduate and post-graduate students in her professional discipline, including topics on cerebral palsy, atypical language acquisition, speech processing and literacy. She is currently working on several research projects concerning aided language development, literacy & AAC and was Chief Investigator for a project on clinical decision making in AAC [NIHR HS&DR: Project 14/70/153: Identifying appropriate symbol communication aids for children who are non-speaking: enhancing clinical decision making, (I-ASC)].

Juliet Goldbart

Juliet Goldbart is Professor of Developmental Disabilities at Manchester Metropolitan University. She is an applied developmental psychologist, with research interests that include severe and profound intellectual disability and communication disability. She has published widely in these areas and is a member of the Communication Disability research cluster (<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/health-psychology-and-communities/our-expertise/communication-disability/>). She has formerly been head of speech and language therapy, faculty lead for research and ethics and is an honorary member of the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists. Among other research projects, she is currently involved in the update of the Routes for Learning online assessment for the Welsh Government and the Pathways to Talking evaluation for Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). Juliet was a co-applicant on the I-ASC project

Stuart Meredith

Stuart Meredith uses a communication aid for daily interactions. In the past, he was employed by a communication aid supplier to be part of assessments, offer training and mentoring. He has volunteered in local specialised colleges to work as a mentor and role model to younger people who use communication aids. He has previously run his own on-line business. He has been a committee member and chair of a number of disability related organisations and was a school governor. Currently, he is a Board member for a national specialised AAC service. Stuart was a co-researcher on the 'Identifying appropriate symbol communication aids for children who are non-speaking project: enhancing clinical decision-making (I-ASC)' project.

Liz Moulam

Liz Moulam is the parent of a young woman with cerebral palsy who uses a communication aid for daily interactions. Over the last 20 years Liz has both volunteered and taken paid work in the field of AAC, she has a BA (Hons) in Psychology and completed postgraduate studies in child development. From 2015 to 2019 Liz was a Public Involvement Co-Researcher on the (I-ASC). Co-Researchers were equal members of the project team, involved from the concept stages of the research bid, through

every stage of the research process, including and not limited to methodological design, data collection, data analysis, developing tools and resources and from the start of the project Liz led with Stuart Meredith on project dissemination.

Yvonne Lynch

Yvonne Lynch is an Assistant Professor in Speech and Language Therapy at Trinity College Dublin. She is a registered Speech and Language Therapist with many years clinical experience working with children and adults with physical and multiple disabilities. She was a post-doctoral Research Fellow on the I-ASC study, a major NIHR funded research project examining clinical decision-making in AAC. Her research and clinical interests include AAC, telehealth, service delivery in speech and language therapy.

Helen Whittle

Helen Whittle is a speech and language therapist who has worked in the field of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) since 1991 when she joined the team in an AAC assessment centre. Helen is the current Chair of Communication Matters (www.communicationmatters.org.uk). She has worked with young adults with head injuries and also those with progressive disorders and those who have had a stroke. She has worked in a number of special schools and had time working for one of the suppliers of symbol-based communication solutions. Most recently, she worked as a lecturer in Speech Pathology and Therapy at Manchester Metropolitan University. Working there enabled her involvement in research projects, for example, developing online training materials for NHS Education Scotland in the field of AAC for support workers. For the last 3 years she has been a research assistant on the I-ASC project.

Simon Judge

Simon Judge is a clinical scientist who has been intensively involved in the assistive technology community since the beginning of his career having graduated from Imperial College in London with an MEng in Electronic Engineering. Simon is an honorary research fellow with the Universities of Sheffield and Manchester Metropolitan, and an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. Simon is the service lead for the Barnsley Assistive Technology Service (<https://www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/assistive-technology/>) which provides specialised communication aids (AAC) and environmental control (EC) throughout the Yorkshire and Humber region. The team is commissioned to provide these services by NHS England. Simon was a co-applicant on the I-ASC project.

Nicky Randall

Nicky Randall is an Assistive Technology Specialist Speech and Language Therapist with the Barnsley Assistive Technology Service. Nicky's role is to work with individuals using the service to assess and provide appropriate electronic assistive technology. Nicky qualified as a Speech and Language Therapist in 2010 and initially worked in a community team for adults with long-term neurological conditions and a community stroke service. In 2015 Nicky began a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) internship, which included contributing to the development of the CARLA computerised receptive language assessment. Nicky worked as a research associate on the I-ASC project.