

Editorial

This special edition of the South African Journal of Communication Disorders is the second of two publications containing proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Communication Disorders in Multilingual Populations held at Kwa Maritane, South Africa from 18-21 July, 2000. The first publication is a special issue of *Folia Phoniatica*, the official journal of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics (IALP). Altogether, 23 papers presented at the conference have thus been published, 14 in this volume of SAJCD and 9 in *Folia Phoniatica*. This represents a substantial 35% of all the papers presented at the symposium.

Interestingly, the titles of the articles in this journal reflect the variety of topics covered at the symposium as well as the fact that the theme of the conference: *Communication Disorders in Multilingual Populations* was interpreted in its broadest possible sense, to include not only research on various communication disorders as they manifest in individuals who speak more than one language, but also issues pertaining to communication disorders in languages and cultures other than English and learners of English as a second language. Other prominent themes included: neurolinguistic aspects of multilingualism, language policies in deaf education, and the educational needs of multilingual children. As we discovered at the symposium, all these issues are pertinent globally and lie close to our hearts as clinicians and researchers.

We would like to thank all the authors who contributed to this volume. The articles were peer reviewed according to the criteria and high standards set by the editor of the journal, Prof. Brenda Louw, and we are very proud of the final quality of the publication. Our sincere thanks to

Brenda and the South African Speech Language and Hearing Association for affording us the opportunity of contributing to the profession in this special way. Thank you also to our colleagues who acted as referees, for their *valuable comments and input*. A special word of thanks to Sandy Murray for her hard work in editing the articles, and to Dianne van der Ploeg for effecting the changes.

Without the generous financial support of the Spencer Foundation Research Conference Fund, the symposium and this publication in particular, would not have been possible. For this we are deeply grateful. **The views expressed and the statements made in the papers published in this volume, remain the sole responsibility of the authors.**

Ramona S. Thomas, associate program officer of the Spencer Foundation, in her letter acknowledging the final narrative report of the conference organisers wrote: "I was intrigued by the different perspectives and policies, as well as the effects of different policies on multilingual learners in various countries and from different cultures. The conference was obviously productive and seems to have highlighted a number of issues that will undoubtedly benefit from further conversations."

Hear, Hear! VIVA MULTILINGUALISM VIVA! It is our fervent wish that the symposium and this publication will be the start of many more fruitful meetings, discussions and publications around this locally and internationally relevant topic.

May we continue to ponder and write about the wonders of our multilingual, multicultural world!

Heila Jordaan and Claire Penn
(Guest Editors)