

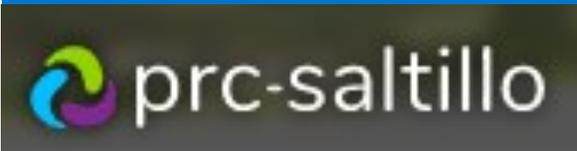
CDP Update

Feature Devices · Tech Tips · Clinical Practice

FALL 2021

- Device Spotlight
- Access Spotlight
- Clinicians Corner
- Education/Resources
- Odds & Ends
- What's New in CDP

Communication Device Spotlight



PRC-Salttilo is a worldwide developer of speech-generating devices (SGDs), apps, and AAC language systems. PRC was established in 1966 and formally merged in 2019 with Salttilo, which was founded in 1988.

PRC-Salttilo are not new to the market, but they are new to the Communication Devices Program lineup. **Currently we are assessing the range of devices to determine if they are a good fit in our Province.** Below you will find more information about the products we are assessing. Please feel free to get in touch if you want to learn more. The PRC line up includes the **Accent**® 1400, 1000, and 800. While the Salttilo line up includes the **NovaChat**® 5,8,10, and 12. In addition to traditional features such as, clear speaker, multiple alternate access options, and dynamic display, both the PRC and Salttilo products offer the following:



- Choice of screen size (8, 10, & 14" for Accent, and 5, 8, 10, 12" for NovaChat)
- Moisture Resistant
- IR and Wi-fi capability
- Long-lasting battery
- Multiple Optional Language systems available. **Accent offers:** WordPower™, Unity®, Essence®, LAMP Words for Life® & more. While **NovaChat offers:** TouchChat with standard Vocab files like: myCore, Multichat 15, Communication Journey: Aphasia, & more.
- Carrying and Mounting options
- Multiple alternate access options
- Front and rear facing cameras
- PRC Accent runs on a Windows Platform, while Salttilo NovaChat runs on an Android platform.



PRC Accent

PRC-Salttilo Via Pro
(Not currently offered at CDP)



Salttilo NovaChat

Consider contacting CDP if you would like to learn more about these devices, or if you have input as to whether they should be offered as a part of our standard inventory.

- CDP general email: cdp@wrha.mb.ca or phone: 204-831-3430
- CDP Coordinator: smcruer@deerlodge.mb.ca or 204-831-2579

Access and Selection Method Spotlight

Head tracking with iDevices - Yes, it's True! And Yes, it works!

Many of you are likely familiar with the original head tracking options such as Origin Instruments Head Mouse Extreme, AbleNet TrackerPro, and NaturalPoint Smart Nav. All of which have gone the way of the Dodo bird... But that has made way for a new generation of head pointer. Enter the [Head Mouse Nano](#) and the [TrackerPro 2](#). Personally, I think the best thing about the two of these options is their compatibility with an iDevice. With all the advances in accessibility settings on your iDevices (iOS 13 and higher), head pointer control is now possible, and is actually a pretty good option for individuals who use these systems and require alternate access.

Origin Instruments Head Mouse Nano Key Elements:

- Works on: all iOS13 and higher devices (iPhone, iPad mini, iPad, iPad Pro), as well as Windows, MacOS, Android, Chrome, and Linux systems.
- Smooth control of cursor
- Works in any lighting conditions
- No power adapter required (*USB adapter required for iOS*)
- Plug and play
- Multiple mounting options
- Selections and mouse button operations can be performed by a variety of adaptive switches, including an integrated Bluetooth receiver for wireless adaptive switches, or by using the built-in dwell settings on the iOS device.
- Switch port integrated into camera



AbleNet TrackerPro 2 HeadMouse Key Elements:

- Works on: Windows, MacOS, Android, and Chrome systems. Has some functionality on iOS
- Control of cursor
- Works in any lighting conditions
- No power adapter required (*USB adapter required for iOS*)
- Plug and play
- Mounted with Velcro
- Swivel base for altering angle of camera
- Selections and mouse button operations can be performed by a variety of adaptive switches, including an integrated Bluetooth receiver for wireless adaptive switches, or by using the built-in dwell settings on the iOS device.
- 3 cables hang from TrackerPro2: USB, 2 switch ports.



Having head mouse control of an iOS device might just be a game changer for some people. And we're here to help figure out whether it's an appropriate access method for your AAC device.

Consider a head mouse for those clients that:

- Have limited upper extremity strength or control making traditional access difficult
- Have some volitional head/ neck control
- Are computer savvy and want access to ALL features of the device they are using

Clinician's Corner - Global Symbols

Global Symbols Board Builder - FREE!

I was lucky enough to attend the ISAAC Connect Virtual Conference in August, and one of the presentations was titled: **From Universal to Global: The Impact of Language and Culture on Symbol Design for Communities**. Presenters, David Banes and E.A. Draffan discussed the different layers of culture, aspects of language and how that influences the development/ use of symbols in AAC. If you are interested in learning about their work, you can download the entire presentation here: [SLIDES](#). You can also find further information and training on their [Moodle](#) platform.



Global Symbols

Global Symbols was co-founded by David Banes and E.A. Draffan. It is an online repository of freely available multi-lingual AAC symbols sets with training materials and tools for creating AAC supports. Their page features [Symbol Sets](#) such as: ARASAAC (13,261 symbols), Sclera Symbols (12,893 symbols), Blissymbolics (5,819 symbols), OpenMoji (3,540 symbols), Mulberry Symbols (3,117 symbols) and more. You can easily create AAC materials by using the [Board Builder](#) function that they offer. They have templates available, or you are free to create your own layout as well. Once in Board Builder, you can search from thousands of free images, use your own, OR create an entirely new symbol if you need.

You will be required to create an account to access the Board Builder feature. Once in you can choose from 5 different blank templates (i.e. 2 x 3, 4 x 3, etc), or you can select Custom Settings (minimum is 1 x 1, maximum is 12 x 12). You can also select if you want a label, and the position of that label. Once you've created your template, filling the cells is pretty easy. Typing in your label will help you locate an appropriate symbol. You can filter the symbol sets that you search, OR you can search all of them at once. One other feature that may come in handy is searching by language. The symbols that are associated with the language may be more relevant and produce more effective symbols for your client.



Global Symbols, in partnership with Unicef developed some AAC early intervention training modules. It does look like you are required to create a separate user account for the training modules. My understanding is that once your have signed up, the courses are free. You can find more about this collaboration here: ["Giving every child a voice with AAC technology"](#).

For this project, they used an open source app called [Cboard](#), developed by UNICEF Innovation Fund Graduate. Cboard is available in 30+ languages and accesses the Global Symbols database of over 20,000 symbols. It seems to be FREE, web based (Chrome, Firefox, Edge, & Safari), incredibly easy to edit, OH, and it looks like you can use & edit it as a guest! We were able to change the language as a guest as well! One consideration is that some languages look as though they require an internet connection (for example Arabic, Bulgarian, etc all indicate 'Online'. Others such as English, and Russian, do not say that). We discovered this app just moments ago, so... more on Cboard in the future!! Stay tuned for our further thoughts!



Education and Resources

Long COVID: On the ground real-time evidence and lived experience

ILLUMINATE SPEAKER SERIES

Long COVID: On the ground real-time evidence and lived experience

Thursday, September 23 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Presented via Zoom



Dana Kliever

Speakers: Dana Kliever, Katie Kitchen and Marlee Mayer

Dana Kliever is a physiotherapist in the regional pulmonary rehabilitation program at Deer Lodge Centre. An alumna from the College of Rehabilitation Sciences, she began working with individuals with long-COVID in December 2020. She recently completed training in the Bradcliff breathing method for dysfunctional breathing, and has integrated this training into the management of individuals with long-COVID.

Katie Kitchen is a registered occupational therapist and alumna of the College of Rehabilitation Sciences. Currently a community forensic mental health specialist with Shared Health Manitoba, Kitchen was a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in December 2020 and has subsequently experienced numerous symptoms of long-COVID. She shares her insights both as a health-care professional and as a patient, with the goal of bringing further awareness to the multifaceted challenges of long-COVID.



Katie Kitchen

Marlee Mayer is a registered occupational therapist and alumna of the College of Rehabilitation Sciences. She has worked with adults and older adults in the areas of long-term care, long-term ventilator unit, communication devices program, geriatric rehabilitation, motor neuron disease clinic and geriatric day hospital. Mayer began working with the pulmonary rehabilitation program at Deer Lodge Centre in January 2021 with the goal to bring further awareness to long-COVID and provide insight into its complex challenges.

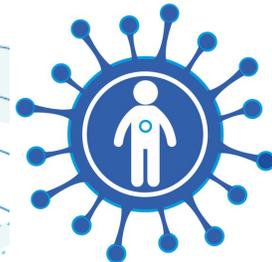


Marlee Mayer

Zoom meeting ID: 842 2097 9521 | Passcode: 891570

I couldn't have been more impressed with this presentation put together by Dana Kliever, Katie Kitchen, and Marlee Mayer. It was informative, eye opening and a reminder to always be aware of our own biases. We need to *really* listen to what our clients are telling us. If you didn't get the opportunity to watch it live on Thursday 23 Sept 2021, you can still access the recorded webinar here:

[Long COVID](#)



LONG
COVID
PHYSIO

AT Banter Podcast

In their own words, "AT Banter's goal is to provide a balanced and entertaining look at the field of Assistive Technology, with insights and discussions from varied technology specialists. Sometimes serious, sometimes irreverent, but always informative".

I haven't had a chance to listen to many of the podcasts yet, but some of the ones that I am particularly interested in include: Episode 253: Brain Computer Interfaces, Episode 252: Andrew Gurza, Episode 251: What's my Pronoun, Episode 250: Darryl Lennox, Episode 248: Tova Sherman & reachAbility, and Episode 237: Audio Description; Human or Synthetic?

You can find them wherever you listen to your podcasts:



EPISODE 10 Communicating Alternatively



One of the other things that I really appreciate about the site/ podcast is that they offer 'Show Transcripts' that clearly indicate who was talking and what was said. They also offer 'Show Notes' which have links to important information and/ or articles from the show.

It looks like they have weekly episodes spanning all the way back to May 2016! My only suggestion is that the Podcast needs to pull in more discussion about AAC, I could only find one! Episode 10: Communicating Alternatively, and now, I'm off to listen to it!

October is AAC Awareness Month!

Every year since 2007, the ISAAC LEAD committee puts out a theme for AAC Awareness Month, and this year is no different! The ISAAC AAC AWARENESS MONTH THEME for 2021 is.....

Get Out, Speak Up and Break through the Screen in a Recovering World!

AAC AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER 2021 | #AACaware21

GET OUT, SPEAK UP AND BREAK THROUGH THE SCREEN IN A RECOVERING WORLD

*** REMINDER - if your client is eligible for Communication Devices Program they DO NOT need to purchase their own app. The recommended app/ software and hardware is provided through our program. This information is for those who are unable to access the Communication Devices Program, or for those who specifically choose to purchase their own app.**

There are also some wonderful ISAAC Webinars for International AAC Awareness Month. Check them out here: <https://isaac-online.org/english/webinars/> Some International Chapters are hosting events to mark AAC Awareness month, for instance Denmark is hosting a [one-day seminar](#), ISAAC-US is hosting a [virtual auction](#) and ISAAC - South Africa is challenging individuals to make a [1-2 minute video](#)! So, **Get Out, Speak Up and Break through the Screen in a Recovering World!**

We encourage everyone to consider participating in AAC Awareness month and spread the news using #AACAware21 on Twitter and/ or Facebook! We love seeing what people get up to. Also, don't forget, many AAC & Educational app companies offer significant (up to 50%) discounts during AAC awareness month. Check out this [amazing poster](#) created by [Lauren Enders](#), that outlines all the apps that are on sale, for how much and for how long! It's even an interactive poster that allows you to click on the app, and it will take you to the appropriate site.

Odds and Ends: Join-In

Join-In App Service

Join-In is a new service that offers High Tech AAC users greater access to digital platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Netflix, Spotify, WhatsApp, Messenger, Youtube, TikTok and more.

The creators of Join-In recognized that these online platforms change frequently and the developers of Communication Software, such as Communicator 5 and the Grid 3 just aren't able to keep up. That's where Join-In offers a service.



Digital life made easy

How it Works: *below directly from Join-In website*



"Join-In creates an "AAC Optimized" flow that links your AAC solution to the app you are using. This flow enables you to perform both simple and complex actions by selecting a button on your AAC app using your preferred access method"...

While CDP can discuss the pros and cons of using a service such as Join-in we are unable to provide it as part of our program and do not specifically endorse this product.

To learn more, please visit: <https://apps.d-bur.com/>

CASTING Call!!



Woody Harrelson is going to be in town shooting a movie called *Champions*. It's a remake of the 2018 Spanish film: *Campeones*. It's about a basketball team training and competing in the Special Olympics. Currently there is an open casting call for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Manitoba.

No previous acting experience is necessary, ages 16 and up!

Shooting the movie will happen in Winnipeg from November 1 through December 17, 2021.

For more information or to apply you can contact the casting director: Jim Heber at: jimhebercasting@gmail.com. All compensation will be paid at union fees, Covid-19 testing & safety protocols are implemented at all stages of production.



What's New in CDP

CDP, Lightning Pitch Winners! Indigenous Languages Access in AAC

Deakin University Australia hosted a Lightning Pitch competition at the ISAAC Connect Virtual Conference in August 2021. The Communication Devices Program submitted an idea titled: Indigenous Languages Access in AAC, and we WON! We were beyond thrilled to make the final five, but to win the competition was such an honour. The other submissions were equally as deserving of the final prize as well. If you would like to view all the submissions, please visit: <https://www.menti.com/ajcwd6bsov/0>
To watch our 2 minute, 18 second video submission, please feel free to click on the image below, or visit our website: deerlodge.mb.ca/cdp



Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Indigenous Health

The Communication Devices Program is excited to consult with WRHA Indigenous Health, local experts and organizations in order to properly develop, distribute and encourage the use of needs based Communication Boards for use in medical settings in Indigenous Languages common in Manitoba. If you, or anyone you know would be interested in learning more about this project, please feel free to connect with the CDP at cdp@wrha.mb.ca. Miigwech, Thank you.

