2020...This has been a tough year for everyone on different levels. We all felt robbed of our freedom, of our usual routines and were forced to be creative enough to create new lifestyles, some of which were a surprisingly pleasant reveal. Besides being a year of challenges, this was also a year for new things. ASLP took the dare and embarked on various new projects, among which the various online events, a new Instagram page, and Let’s be Vivid.

We want to bid farewell to this 2020 which was a great teacher to us all.

We learnt to live in the now and appreciate the simplest things, we learnt that we will not be afraid of a hug and to show our emotions...we have had enough of virtual hugs I’m sure!

Let’s welcome 2021 with cheers and hope of new beginnings, let’s face the challenges ahead not with fear but with courage, let’s take care of each other, let’s not be too focused on ourselves forgetting our family and friends, let’s be sensitive to what others are going through, let’s literally step out of our comfort zone, put aside any rusty joints and embrace each other in a gesture of good will!

We created this short video which is reviewing ASLP through 2020 and we are sharing it with you. It’s a simple present from us to you all....a thank you for your support and a vision that together we can pull through anything.

We want to bid farewell to this 2020 which was a great teacher to us all.
Welcome 2021! Hope you all had a good start to this year which I am sure all of us are praying and hoping that it will bring us a breath of fresh air. As Daniela said, 2020 was a great teacher to us and certainly to the ASLP committee!

We lost count of the online meetings, phone calls and exchange of messages to be able to carry out our duties towards you, our members, and towards our organisation. In spite of all the challenges, we held no less than 12 CPD events and a Christmas social event, recorded a cover version to thank our own SLP frontliners and other frontliners in the beginning of the pandemic, took part in several TV and radio interviews to promote our profession, continued working on our big project KomunikAPP which will be launched this year, continued collaborating with Speech-Language Centre within the Health Ministry and the Communication Therapy Department within the University of Malta to work on the Specialist Training Register and Programme, collaborated with the Directorate for Allied Health Services on Allied Health Professions Day, continued to be actively involved in CPLOL, the European Speech and Language Therapy Association which will be seeing major and exciting changes this year, continued corresponding with various authorities on different matters concerning our profession and the list goes on! I would like to thank Dr Rita Micallef, Mr Rosario Mizzi, Dr Ritienne Grima and Dr Helen Grech for their willingness to collaborate with ASLP through their respective departments.

I feel honoured and privileged to be working with a team of wonderful women so individual thanks are in order! Thank you to our:
• vice-president Claudine who is also ethics officer and CPD officer (as well as time-keeper at all our events and meetings!)
• secretary Jessica M. for ensuring we are on top of our long list of things to do and sees to the constant influx of emails
• treasurer Sandra for taking care of all financial aspects
• public relations officer Daniela who took on her editorial role for our newsletter with total commitment
• KomunikAPP coordinator Martina GG, who continued to fulfill her role although busy with the beautiful arrival of baby Valentina

And thank you to the new additions of the committee who in spite of joining us in challenging times, instantly embarked with all their energy and are fulfilling their role to the full!

We are very happy to have you on board. A big thank you to my husband Andre’, my daughter Chiara as well as the families of all the committee members for bearing with us throughout our commitments and for their constant support.

A final thanks goes out to you, all our members, for supporting us throughout the year. We look forward to continue working together for our organisation, to increase awareness of our profession and ultimately to help us all be of more benefit to individuals with communication and swallowing disorders.

Norma Camilleri
ASLP is continuously evolving. Taking into consideration today's demands, ASLP is now embarking on a new social platform. From a website to a FB page and Twitter account, ASLP is now making its presence felt on #instagram! Two newly graduates, LISA ABELA and ERICA BONELLO, approached ASLP with their ideas and after a few video calls and brainstorming exercises, ASLP is proudly announcing a new branch #Studentspeechies.mt. The idea behind #Studentspeechies.mt is to provide ideas and support all those SLP students who are still trying to find a solid ground, but also to those established SLPs who may be struggling for new ideas to create and use in their practice. So follow us and let’s share and extend our knowledge.
I didn’t always know I wanted to be a Speech and Language Pathologist, but now that I am one, I can’t imagine myself in any other profession. I graduated with a First Class Honours B.Sc in Communication Therapy from the University of Malta in 2020. During my studies I was given the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience in numerous clinical, educational and medical settings in Malta. These experiences helped me discover my passion for working with a paediatric caseload. One day I hope to combine my love for technology with my passion for speech and language therapy by working in the field of assistive technology.

I teamed up with Erica to start the studentspeechies.mt Instagram account as a way to unite student SLPs and to give them a platform to reach out to other than university. The idea behind student speeches is to provide support, ideas and motivation for student SLPs as well as to create a link between student life and the life of a practicing SLP.

I graduated as a Speech and Language Pathologist earlier this year. I became drawn to this profession when I was around 14 years old, after witnessing a close relative experience life with aphasia, who eventually managed to overcome several communication barriers with the help of an SLP. Although I feel that a special interest towards acquired communication disorders has stemmed from this experience, I am also very interested in specific childhood disorders such as speech sound disorders and written language disorders. I aspire to be an advocate for individuals with communication difficulties and help diminish the communication barriers they must face on a daily basis.

Lisa and I teamed up to create studentspeechies.mt as during our time as students we often felt that there was a large gap between student SLPs and working SLPs. We hope through this page we can offer support to student SLPs as well as promote our profession by highlighting several speech and language issues, tips, and communication strategies.
The use of reward charts is a great way to keep children motivated and co-operative. The more we pay attention to and reinforce positive behaviours, the more likely we are to get more of them. Reward charts can be used for numerous reasons such as to track behaviour, to work on a new skill, as a chore schedule and lots more!

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**INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE**

“Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations”

Unknown