Bordeaux: FNAF, GARB and AIA at the Science of Aphasia Conference

(By Marlène Janaudy, from RELAIS Lyon, a French person with aphasia and member of FNAF, invited by AIA, together with Jean-Marie Annoni and Clotilde Marteel)

The AIA General Assembly took place this year in Bordeaux, from 23 to 26 September 2026, during the Science of Aphasia scientific conference, which brings together researchers and healthcare professionals to discuss the latest advances in aphasia.



The AIA took part in the conference with a special symposium entitled "Living with Aphasia." People with aphasia from different countries, as well as from Bordeaux, came to share their experiences and personal stories.

This event was particularly enriching thanks to the personal accounts shared by Hanka Mayhew (United Kingdom, Ambassador for Say Aphasia and the AIA), Alexia Kountouri (Cyprus, President of the AIA), and Margot Turcat (France, writer and member of GARB).

These testimonies were followed by discussions around an important question: "How can we guide people with aphasia towards aphasia associations while respecting their own individual pace and readiness?"

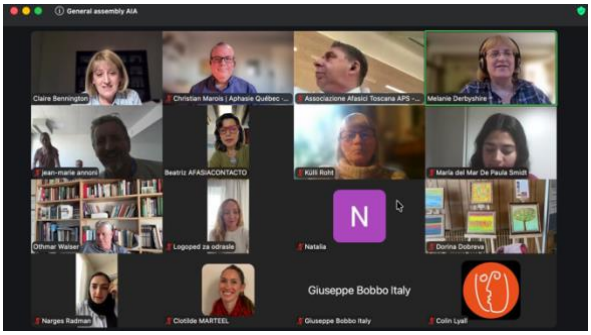


We also had the pleasure of meeting the Bordeaux association for people with aphasia and their caregivers, GARB, which is affiliated with FNAF, at its premises https://assogarb.wordpress.com We then visited the historic centre of Bordeaux and met its warm and welcoming residents.

Finally, we ended the day with a meal bringing together the symposium participants: researchers, people with aphasia, healthcare professionals, and others. It was a wonderful opportunity for discussion, connection and sharing, as we continue to move forward together.

The following day, the General Assembly of the AIA – Aphasia International Association, bringing together representatives from 14 countries, both in person and online, was equally informative and enriching.

Representatives from each country are united around the same cause: raising awareness of aphasia, combating isolation, developing musical skills, and preparing for International Aphasia Day on 20 October, among many other projects.



A Zoom meeting will be held on Friday, 27 November. On this occasion, representatives of the national associations will present, in three slides, an overview of their achievements and their upcoming projects.

These days in Bordeaux showed, once again, just how essential exchanges between people with aphasia, associations, healthcare professionals and researchers are in raising awareness of aphasia and moving forward together. A very special thank you to Professor Bertrand Glize for his warm welcome and for organising this symposium, which provided so many valuable opportunities to meet, exchange ideas and share experiences.

