

PREFACE

Change—it is a driving force and a continual challenge! Today, given pending reform and the evolving market forces of managed care, an integrated health care delivery system is a likely reality for the 21st century. Both patients and service providers may be integrated into health care networks. Ideally, as part of this process, efficiencies and savings would be passed on to patients through lower costs and reduced insurance premiums. In today's economic-health care environment, clinical aphasiologists will continue to be concerned not only about efficacious treatment for their patients who have acquired neurogenic communication disorders, but also about the issues of valid and reliable functional communication outcome measurement, consumer satisfaction, and management within the context of health care reform.

Since 1970, specialists in speech–language pathology have met at an annual conference to present their recent clinical investigations and to engage in discussion with colleagues having similar interests. *Clinical Aphasiology, Volume 23*, contains a collection of original papers presented at the 1993 Clinical Aphasiology Conference in Sedona, Arizona. A two-tiered peer-review system supports the standard of primary publication. First, conference proposals are blind-reviewed by a program committee and rated before conference presentation acceptance. Subsequently, after the conference, manuscripts are reviewed a second time by an editorial board before being accepted for publication in *Clinical Aphasiology*. Inclusion criteria for publication are: scientific and technical quality; clinical and theoretical significance; clarity, style, and format; and overall appropriateness for publication.

Volume 23 is divided into six sections that include consideration of different scientific, professional, and therapeutic issues relevant to communication rehabilitation of aphasic adults and individuals with right hemisphere dysfunction. It begins with Theoretical Perspectives and presents recent conceptualizations of the notion of selective impairment and of intention to treat, as well as several contributions to a growing scientific data base: psychosocial outcome of stroke, and response variability in naming and in successive speech repetitions among apraxic, aphasic, and dysarthric speakers. Part II, Research Perspectives, has two sections, Informed Consent and Qualitative Analysis; both continue the search for understanding, methodological alternatives, and communication competence in adult aphasia. Part III, devoted to Assessment and Prognosis, delineates the effects of word frequency on test performance, a method to quantify aphasic language production, and prediction for improvement by a commonly used aphasia battery. Part IV, Discourse and Proverbs, highlights assessment of higher level language performance in neurologically impaired and control

subjects. Part V presents contributions of the right hemisphere to processing concrete words, naming, and drawing inferences from emotional situations. The volume concludes with Part VI, Treatment of Individuals with Aphasia, in which the effects of cue origin, partner support, active versus passive prestimulation, and novel language system training are discussed.

As editor, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge those who have contributed to the development and completion of *Clinical Aphasiology, Volume 23*. For their scientific and technical expertise and their continuous support, I offer heartfelt thanks to each member of the Editorial Board: Jennifer Horner, Michael Kimbarow, Linda Nicholas, Richard Peach, and Connie Tompkins. Each member has spent countless hours evaluating the adequacy of each manuscript's rationale, design, procedures, data analysis, and conclusions, as well as commenting on each manuscript's organization and clarity of presentation. Thanks are also due to Tinney Kees Heath, who again volunteered time for technical editing; to Alan Grimes, PRO-ED Production Manager, who monitored Volume 23 throughout production; and to Debra Berman, PRO-ED, who provided detailed, thorough copy editing. This volume would not exist without the assistance of many unidentified individuals with neurogenic communication disorders, who willingly participate in and endure repeated clinical measurements, and of the clinician-researchers who provide treatment and the volume's content. Nor would it exist without the 1993 Clinical Aphasiology Conference and its officers: Felice L. Loverso, Conference Chairperson; Marilyn Selinger, Program Chairperson; Program Committee members Mary Boyle, Patrick Doyle, Mikael Kimelman, and John C. Rosenbek; Lee Ann Golper, Treasurer; and Pat Holtzapple, Local Arrangements Chairperson. To each of you, my thanks for a job well done!

M. L. L.