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# Introduction to *AJSLP* Clinical Aphasiology Conference Supplement

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**T**he papers that appear in this supplement were based on presentations at the 25th annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference (CAC) that was held last June in Sunriver, Oregon. I am in my first year as Editor of the CAC Publication and am extremely excited that my inaugural publication for CAC is part of *AJSLP*. CAC is a wonderful conference where, each year, clinicians and researchers gather to present and discuss clinical aphasiology. That the 25th anniversary of the conference coincides with the appearance of the CAC publication as part of *AJSLP* is wonderful, indeed. A brief history of CAC and its publication by Bob Brookshire and Bruce Porch is included as the lead paper of the supplement. Suffice it to say that we are thrilled that CAC will be shared by the readership of this journal.

The papers in this supplement were rigorously peer reviewed using the same standards as *AJSLP*. A strict page limitation was imposed, and the time frame to review and revise papers for inclusion in this volume was only 3 months. The CAC Publication Board did an amazing and outstanding job of reviewing all papers and rereviewing some. The members of the board for this supplement are: Patrick Doyle, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Pittsburgh; Joseph Duffy, Mayo Clinic, Rochester; Linda Nicholas, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Minneapolis; Richard Peach, Rush Memorial Medical Center, Chicago; and Connie Tompkins, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh. We owe a special thanks to Marilyn Newhoff, Editor, *AJSLP*, for her support and assistance in the editorial process. She was an excellent mentor.

Following the Brookshire and Porch paper on the history of CAC are two papers that were part of a special session on neuroscience and aphasia treatment. Mick McNeil and his colleagues present an efficacy study on the use of a combined pharmacological and behavioral approach to aphasia treatment. Kristen Keefe, a

neuroscientist with a background in speech-language pathology, critically reviews data from animal studies of the brain that support aphasia treatment. These unique perspectives on the role of neuroscience and treatment of aphasia should provide food for thought and potentially useful information in developing rationales for treatment of our patients with aphasia.

The next five papers of the supplement all focus on treatment issues. Boyle and Coelho discuss a semantic-feature-based treatment, Fink and coworkers examine the utility of a syntax stimulation program, Freed and Marshall examine the effects of personalized cuing on naming performance, Lowell, Beeson, and Holland report on the efficacy of a semantic cuing procedure in aphasia, and Elman and Bernstein-Ellis present a position paper on different definitions of "functional" and how these may affect reimbursement for services.

The following three papers focus on connected speech in brain-injured subjects. Brookshire and Nicholas examine performance deviations in connected speech; Chapman and colleagues examine discourse measures as a means of detecting early Alzheimer's disease; and Doyle, Goda, and Spencer examine the informativeness of connected discourse in structured and conversational conditions. Each of these papers provide insights into aphasia and related disorders.

Following the papers on connected speech are a variety of studies that delve into the bases of neurogenic language disorders: Beeson, Holland, and Murray examine confrontation naming in aphasia; Wilkinson and colleagues present data on the spontaneous language use by patients with ALS; Clark and Robin describe a study in which they examined sense of effort by brain-damaged subjects during a lexical decision task and relate findings to resource allocation theories of aphasia; and Hasselkus, Rubin, and Newhoff

introduce a unique priming paradigm and report data on aging subjects and subjects with cognitive impairment. Then Hillis and colleagues examine cognitive changes in Alzheimer's disease; Kennedy, Yorkston, and Rogers discuss the self-monitoring abilities of subjects with traumatic brain injuries; Marshall and Freed present an interesting use of the Rebus Riddle task to examine lexical retrieval abilities in aphasia; Odell, Bonkoski, and Mello provide a detailed description of repetition performance of subjects with conduction aphasia; and Thorburn, Newhoff, and Rubin present data on the relations among the ability to visually analyze written language, pantomime, and iconographic symbols in aphasia.

The supplement ends with two papers in the area of apraxia of speech: Marquardt, Duffy, and Cannito present a detailed acoustic description of subjects with apraxia of speech and Broca's aphasia during the production of different word level stress patterns; and Wambaugh and her colleagues provide data on the spectral analysis of sound errors in subjects with apraxia of speech and aphasia.

I am so pleased to share a bit of the Clinical Aphasiology Conference with the readership of the Journal. Please enjoy the efforts and fine work of the authors represented in the supplement.

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