

PREFACE

For many years researchers and writers have considered aphasia from etiological and taxonomical viewpoints, attempting to shed light on this unique disorder and its characteristics. One group, the clinicians, has been faced with the job of rehabilitation of the patient with aphasia. These clinicians have been the group that sits across the table from the patient and deals with patients' ongoing communication needs and deficits. A natural outgrowth of that activity has been the development of research and interaction that goes beyond description of the disorder and is aimed toward helping the clinician to assist the patient to communicate better.

Clinicians have seen a need to share treatment ideas and treatment research and consequently, *Clinical Aphasiology*, Volume 19 attempts to meet that need. The papers contained in this volume have all been subjected to review by prominent clinician-researchers. All of the chapters were first presented at the Clinical Aphasiology Conference in June 1989, and each of those presentations was then subjected to additional critical review. Of the papers presented, 28 were selected by the Editorial Board for inclusion herein.

Clinical aphasiologists have developed research paradigms that allow for determination and description of aphasia treatment and efficacy. Clinical aphasiologists continue to struggle with these issues, and the papers included in Part I of this volume reflect that continuing effort, raise questions, and suggest solutions to these problems. Part II reflects the continuing questions relating structure to function while Parts III and IV demonstrate methodologies for describing the behavioral deficits of patients with aphasia. Part V demonstrates efforts made to better evaluate aphasic patient deficits while Part VI, the largest section of this volume, is devoted to treatment for aphasia. Finally, the last part addresses the associated problem of apraxia of speech.

This volume covers a lot of territory. It is aimed toward clinicians and researchers who are interested in *treating* aphasic patients.

Out there in the real world, the need exists to "do a better job" for our patients. This volume reflects the thoughts and efforts of clinician-researchers who work toward meeting that need. It reflects the continuing attempt to learn more and to share what has been learned, while providing a basis for improving the efforts made in the future. All clinicians will know that "this book's for you."

T.E.P.