



Welcome to the BAS Spring Newsletter 2015.

The newsletter aims to bring you updates about what is happening within BAS and in the wider aphasia community. We welcome news and information from around the UK and the world.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **British Aphasiology Society Biennial International Conference 2015 to be held at University College, London**

The 2015 BAS conference will be held at UCL from **9-11 September, at Senate House.**

Keynote speakers are:

**Suzanne Beeke** - Conversation partner training.

**Lisa Edmonds** - Verb therapy for aphasia.

**David Howard** - Semantic feature analysis therapy in naming.

**Jane Marshall** - Use of technology in aphasia therapy.

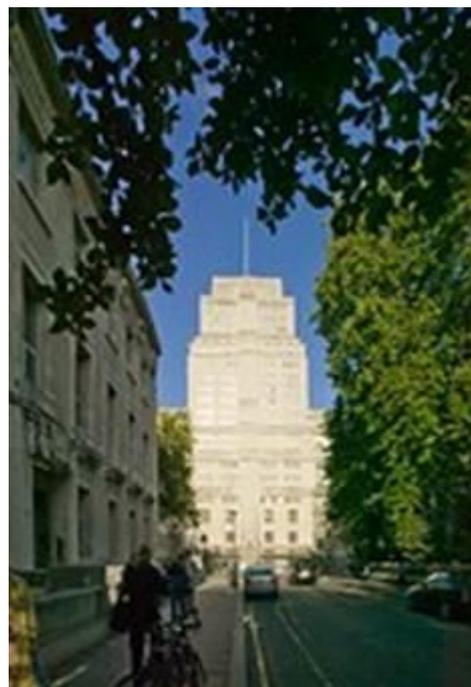
**Cathy Price** - Predicting language outcome and recovery after stroke.

**Jason Warren** - Primary progressive aphasia.

**Abstracts are invited** from any area of language and related impairments arising from stroke, neurodegeneration or brain trauma and should be submitted electronically no later than 2 April 2015.

For more information

visit <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/pals/study/cpd/cpd-courses/bas2015/>



**Looking for funding to attend?** Don't forget the BAS Conference Support Fund. You don't have to be a BAS member at the time of applying, but you will need to join as part of the process of registering for the event. The deadline for applications

is **4 June 2015** at midnight (GMT+1). The application form will be available on the BAS website in due course. Visit [Support Fund](#) for more information. For general enquiries about the conference please contact [bas-2015@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:bas-2015@ucl.ac.uk) Follow us on Twitter! @BAS2015UCL

## Research Update Meeting in Edinburgh, on Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> 2015

**“Progressive aphasia and other non-vascular aphasias”** (followed by drinks reception). You don't need to be actively involved in research to attend – everyone welcome. Click [here](#) for more information.

To book a place please contact the **Edinburgh Aphasia Interest Group:**[edinburghaig@gmail.com](mailto:edinburghaig@gmail.com)

Cost : BAS member: £5; Non-BAS member: £5 + membership fee

Payment : Cheques should be made payable to “The University of Edinburgh” (post) or cash (on the day)

## Initiatives in Aphasia Seed Fund

This year's Initiatives in Aphasia Seed Fund deadline will be **Friday 1st May 2015, at 5pm**. Applicants can apply for up to £1000, to support activities that involve and benefit people with aphasia and their family members/carers. Examples include: support for events, new initiatives in aphasia, focus groups, or pilot research. Activities may be led by or organised with the involvement of people with aphasia. You can read more about the IASF [here](#)

The completed IASF projects funded in 2013 are all now available to view on the BAS website. Three projects were funded in 2013. Two of these projects (Cat Andrew, 'drawing my world', and Ruth Herbert, Sheffield communication support group), submitted their final reports as videos. The final project, Carolyn Bruce 'What's Cooking', submitted their final report as a poster. You can see each of these, and more information about each of the projects [here](#)

## Meet the BAS Committee...

There have been a number of changes to the committee over the past 12 months, with some longstanding members stepping down, and new volunteers stepping up. To find out more about the group of therapists, academics and researchers who help run BAS, and their roles, please click [here](#)

## BAS Student Prizes

The BAS organises two annual student prizes. The closing date for receipt of submissions is **17th July 2015**.

**Student Essay/Case Report Prize** -£150 will be awarded for the best essay or case report on any topic relating to acquired aphasia. Entrants should be undergraduate or postgraduate students (Masters level). The prize will be divided on the basis of £100 to the winning student and £50 to his/her educational establishment.

**Student Project Prize** - £300 will be awarded for the best student project on any topic relating to acquired aphasia. The prize will be divided £200 to the winning student and £100 to his/her educational establishment. The project or dissertation should have been submitted as part of the normal examination procedure in the final year of an undergraduate or postgraduate course (Masters level). Please click [here](#) for more information and to download application forms.

## **News from Connect, the Communication Disability Network**

Connect has opened a Leeds drop-in for people with aphasia.

Connect's growing network of drop-ins and befriending schemes for people living with aphasia now includes new, twice-monthly drop-in sessions in Leeds, where people with aphasia are encouraged to socialise, relax, meet new friends and rebuild confidence.

With sessions 'peer-led' by people with aphasia, and supported by Connect-trained volunteers, Leeds drop-in is the seventh of ten opportunities funded by the Big Lottery. Bristol, Plymouth and a third yet to be decided location will open in the year ahead.

The need for a Leeds drop-in was agreed in autumn 2014, when Connect brought together people with aphasia, Leeds SLTs, representatives from the city's universities, and other third sector organisations to discuss how best to help people in the area with aphasia.

If you would like to find out more about drop-ins click [here](#)

Or to make a referral, please contact [helenmann@ukconnect.org](mailto:helenmann@ukconnect.org)

## **NEW: Acquired Communication Disorders Masters Programme at the University of Sheffield**

Readers of the BAS Newsletter may be interested to know of a new Masters-level programme in Acquired Communication Disorders which has started this year in the Department of Human Communication Sciences, University of Sheffield.

The Acquired Communication Disorders postgraduate programme is designed for speech and language therapists, linguists, psychologists or others with an interest or relevant background in acquired communication disorders such as aphasia, dysarthria and the communication difficulties secondary to dementia or traumatic brain injury. The programme provides students with an up-to-date understanding of the main impairment-focused and functional-focused theoretical and clinical issues

and approaches in this field and the implications of these findings for clinical intervention.

The programme is offered on a full-time or part-time basis and can be carried out by distance learning.

There are a range of clinical observation opportunities with speech and language therapy clients made available through the Department of Human Communication Sciences. The programme provides research training and is a good basis for an MPhil/PhD. The department is recognised by the ESRC as a research training outlet. Students can begin with the PG Certificate in Acquired Communication Disorders and transfer to the PG Diploma or MSc.

More information about the Acquired Communication Disorders programme is available at [http://www.shef.ac.uk/hcs/prospective\\_pg/taught/acd](http://www.shef.ac.uk/hcs/prospective_pg/taught/acd)

NB This programme does not provide a professionally accredited qualification in speech and language therapy.

Ray Wilkinson

Acquired Communication Disorders Programme Coordinator

[ray.wilkinson@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:ray.wilkinson@sheffield.ac.uk)

## **News from the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia**

The TTA Small Grants Scheme, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, continues to give grants to individual, groups and carers of people with aphasia. The budget for the small grants is up to £1,000 a month. Applications are reviewed by two trustees at the end of every month.

We do not give grants to fund travel, computers, laptops, notebooks or tablets but we do fund aphasia software, communication aids, projects and many other things. We ask applicants to make a contribution towards their small grant and this has enabled us to fund more small grants. If the contribution is gift aided it increases the value by 25p for every £1 donated.

If you wish to discuss an application before submitting it, please feel free to contact the administrator, Sylvia Hemming: 01525 290 002 or email [tavistocktrust@btconnect.com](mailto:tavistocktrust@btconnect.com). You can read more about the small grants on the [Tavistock Trust website](#)

## **Outcomes measures for rehabilitation and aphasia**

There have been a number of recent publications and groups exploring how best to select outcome measures.

Wallace et al (2014) reviewed 39 published therapy trials in aphasia and found 42 different outcome measures (the most popular being the Porch Index of

Communicative Abilities and the Token Test). With such variation in the use of outcome measures, the authors say systematic reviews, such as Cochrane Reviews, cannot effectively compare and summarise whether interventions are useful. An article was published in the RCLST bulletin in January 2015, detailing the preliminary results from a survey of outcome measures across Speech & Language Therapy. Gaye Powell, Amy Ward and Dominique Lowenthal reported on a meeting of the RCLST board of trustees following an appraisal of outcome measures. They found that Therapy Outcome Measures (TOMs) Core Scale were the best fit to the desired criteria for an outcome measure across SLT. They state that the use of TOMs will be a first step in collecting a set of valid and reliable outcome measures at a national level. This means that clinicians working with aphasia will also be encouraged to use the TOMs, if they are not doing so already.

It is necessary for those of us working with aphasia to have a core outcome set (COS), that is, a set of measures agreed upon and used routinely by researchers and clinicians. There is a current EU wide project – the Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists (CATs). This has a working group for Assessment and Outcome measures, as well as working groups for Prognosis and Predictors, Effectiveness and Reintegration. So far, the Assessment & Outcome Measures working group has selected the Comprehensive Aphasia Test, the Token Test and a functional assessment, the Communication in Daily Life Test (under development by another working group). It is still possible to join the CATs and be involved with the working groups, please visit [www.aphasiatrials.org](http://www.aphasiatrials.org)

Information/links/references:

Enderby, P., John, A. & Petheram, B. (2006) Therapy outcome measures for rehabilitation professionals, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. London Wiley.

Powell, G., Ward, A. & Lowenthal, D. (2015) TOMs: A 'best fit' tool. RCLST Bulletin January 2015, page 21.

Wallace SJ, et al. Measuring outcomes in aphasia research: A review of current practice and an agenda for standardization. Aphasiology 2014, 28 (10-12), 1364-1384.

Dr. Lotte Meteyard | University of Reading | UK



## **Big CACTUS computer therapy study**

The NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme has funded a randomised controlled trial to evaluate the cost and clinical effectiveness of aphasia therapy for people at least four months post stroke, independently using computer software at home for regular repetitive practice with feedback. The intervention under evaluation follows the StepbyStep approach to providing computer therapy which includes: the skills of a speech and language therapist to assess the participants' needs and tailor the software accordingly in terms of the types of therapy exercises required and the personal relevance of the target vocabulary; recommended daily

use of the StepbyStep software by the participant for a 6 month period; volunteer/SLT assistant support and feedback to the therapist. The Big CACTUS study, run from the University of Sheffield, aims to recruit 285 people with aphasia from across the UK. Participants are randomised to receiving computer therapy in addition to usual care, activity (puzzles)/attention (phone calls) control in addition to usual care or usual care alone. Twenty SLT departments across the UK are now participating in the study. We have now recruited the first 34 participants. Recruitment will continue until July 2016. The Big CACTUS team would like to thank The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia for providing additional financial support, Peter and Jane Mortley from Steps Consulting Ltd, and all of the therapists, assistants and volunteers across the country for supporting this ambitious study. For more information go to: [www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/sections/dts/ctru/bigcactus](http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/sections/dts/ctru/bigcactus)

### **Can BAS members help ? ... development of an app for post-stroke dysarthria**

The University of Sheffield is just about to commence a project to develop an app for articulation therapy for dysarthria post stroke using speech recognition therapy to provide feedback. We are looking for therapists who treat post stroke dysarthria to be involved in a user centred design process which would involve coming to Sheffield (expenses paid) 3 times over the course of the next 12 months. If you would be interested in being involved please contact Rebecca Palmerr.[l.palmer@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:l.palmer@sheffield.ac.uk)

**Read previous newsletters and find out more about the British Aphasiology Society at [www.britishaphasiologysociety.org.uk](http://www.britishaphasiologysociety.org.uk)**  
**If you have any items for future newsletters please contact us on [newsletter@bas.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bas.org.uk)**