

British Aphasiology Society



NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2005

BAS ONE-DAY WINTER CONFERENCE

Monday 31st October

Northampton Suite, City University, London, UK

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

PROFESSOR JANE MARSHALL

The programme includes platform and poster presentations, together with a symposium. The day will close with a wine reception which will include a short address by Professor Sally Byng; this is an opportunity for BAS to mark her recent OBE award.

This FREE EVENT is open only to BAS members. Full programme and registration details will be available via the BAS website from 1st SEPTEMBER 2005. Registration will be on-line and places will be available on a first-come first-served basis from 1.9.05

Enquiries to Annette Cameron (Membership Secretary):
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Do you want to receive the BAS newsletter by e-mail?

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Please contact **Annette Cameron**, BAS Membership Secretary with your e-mail address
annette.cameron@nhs.net

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**Do you know anyone who speaks
more than one language?**



The Institute of Neurology is looking for volunteers to take part in a brain imaging study on bilingual aphasia who:

Are right handed

Speak more than one language

Have had a stroke

If interested, please contact Alice Grogan on: **020 7679 1095**, or by email at:
a.grogan@ucl.ac.uk

CHAIR'S QUALITY AWARDS WINNER

A Conversation Therapy scheme, run by the Speech and Language Therapy Department at St David's Hospital Cardiff, has won this year's first prize in the coveted Chair's Quality Awards, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust. The project came first out of a total of forty entrants. The scheme is aimed at increasing confidence and independence and provides support for people with aphasia to help them to communicate with each other and within the wider community. It ensures that participants can communicate within conversation through Total Communication. The scheme also involves volunteers with aphasia in the planning, organisation and running of their own services, in partnership with voluntary agencies and social services.

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 INVOLVES VOLUNTEERS WITH
 APHASIA IN THE PLANNING,
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 OF THEIR OWN SERVICES, IN
 PARTNERSHIP WITH
 VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND
 SOCIAL SERVICES.**”

Following short-listing for the award, Huw Young, volunteer, co-presented the project with Ruth Nieuwenhuis, SLT, to the Trust's Awards panel. He highlighted the importance for people with aphasia of being involved in service development and of working with service providers. Trust Chair, Simon Jones presented the award at this year's ceremony. He talked of the dramatic impact the scheme has on people's lives after the traumatic experience of stroke. He said:

“the work the Conversation Therapy group is carrying out is having a huge impact on the quality of life of stroke patients and is helping them manage their own symptoms, which then gives them greater mental strength and confidence. All involved in the scheme should congratulate themselves for the extremely successful and crucial service they provide.”

Ruth Nieuwenhuis, who leads the Conversation Therapy scheme, was not able to attend the presentation in person but thanked all those involved - the volunteers with aphasia, the Speech and Language Therapists, and members of the Stroke Association, and of Speakability.



Ruth Nieuwenhuis, Lecturer/Practitioner in Speech and Language Therapy and Jackie Davies, Speech and Language Therapist, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust

APHASIA REHABILITATION IN THE NHS

Intervention that makes a difference

2 day seminar

at

Northwick Park Hospital

10th and 11th November 2005

Topics include:

Models of Intervention;

Interventions for all settings: Acute, Rehab wards and Units, Outpatient and Community

Theory and Practice Case studies and discussion; Making therapy relevant

Therapy at single word and sentence level; Supported conversation in the acute setting

Conversation coaching; Consent and Capacity; Bilingualism and aphasia; AAC and computers

Use of music in aphasia; RCSLT Dysphasia guidelines; The user's perspective

Price: £200

For further information

Philippa Taylor, Chief Speech & Language Therapist, RRU, NPH on 020 8869 2807.

Philippa.taylor@nwlh.nhs.uk

Sue Fenwick Elliot, Chief Speech & Language Therapist (Acute), NPH on 020 8869 3643.

Sue.FenwickElliott@nwlh.nhs.uk 0208 869 3643

Bookings: Saiqa.parveen@nwlh.nhs.uk 0208 869 3801

Speakability (Action for Dysphasic Adults)



MARY LAW LECTURE 2005

This year's evening lecture will be given by Professor Sally Byng OBE and Alan Hewitt both of Connect – the communication disability network.

A vision for aphasia services in 2030:

Perspectives from people living and working with aphasia

15 th November	19.00 hrs	Manchester
22 nd November	19.00 hrs	Edinburgh
28 th November	19.15 hrs	London

Tickets: £15.00 Students (with proof of status): £5.00

For booking form and further details more details please contact Speakability

on **020 7261 9572**, e-mail: roz@speakability.org.uk or visit our website: www.speakability.org.uk.

12th International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference

4 – 6 June 2006

Novotel Hotel

SHEFFIELD, England

We are pleased to announce that, for the first time, the International Aphasia Conference will be held in the UK.

Seminars will include:

- Drugs, cognition, aphasia and rehabilitation
 - Neurobiology of aphasia
- Technology, rehabilitation and aphasia
- Social consequences and support

Therapeutic approaches

International speakers of renown will be included in the programme.

For further information, including details for abstract submission, please contact: info@trainingmadeeasy.co.uk or visit www.trainingmadeeasy.co.uk for up to date information

Families, Stroke and Aphasia:

Improving the Service



A one-day conference hosted by Connect – the communication disability network

Tuesday 8th November 2005 (Manchester)

Stroke impacts on the whole family - not just the person who has had the stroke. This conference focuses on the family's perspective. The programme offers practical ideas and increased knowledge relating to short and long-term family support services, evidence base for service to relatives, and end of life care needs for relatives of people who do not survive stroke.

Speakers include,:

Professor Lalit Kalra, Guy's, King's and St Thomas' School of Medicine, Professor Julia Addington-Hall, University of Southampton, Dr Chris McKeivitt, King's College London, Professor Sally Byng and the Connect therapy team, Elaine Roberts, The Stroke Association and relatives of people with stroke and aphasia

The conference is for anyone providing services to people who have had a stroke (speech and language therapists and assistants, speech and language therapy managers, Stroke Co-ordinators, nurses, OTs, physiotherapists, family support workers, psychologists, counsellors and rehabilitation staff)

For details email carolecross@ukconnect.org or ring Carole Cross tel: 020 7367 0846

Research Round-up

Exploring aphasia-friendly written formats

Written material is often inaccessible for people with aphasia. This study explores how various adaptations of written material can increase understanding in people with aphasia. This study also aimed to investigate if each single aspect of aphasia-friendly formatting (i.e., simplified vocabulary and syntax, large print, increased white space, and pictures) used in isolation would result in increased comprehension compared to control paragraphs. Other aims were to compare the effect of aphasia-friendly formatting with the effect of each single adaptation, and to investigate if the effects of aphasia-friendly formats were related to aphasia severity. Participants with mild to moderately severe aphasia (N = 9) read a battery of 90 paragraphs and selected the best word or phrase from a choice of four to complete each paragraph. Following analysis the study found that people with aphasia comprehended significantly more aphasia-friendly paragraphs than control paragraphs. They also comprehended significantly more paragraphs with each of the following single adaptations: simplified vocabulary and syntax, large print, and increased white space. Although people with aphasia tended to comprehend more paragraphs with pictures added than control paragraphs, this difference was not significant. No significant correlation between aphasia severity and the effect of aphasia-friendly formatting was found. This study supports the idea that aphasia-friendly formats increase the reading comprehension of people with aphasia, although it suggests that adding pictures, particularly Clip Art pictures, may not significantly improve the reading comprehension of people with aphasia.

Brennan, A., Worrall, L. and McKenna, K. (2005). The relationship between specific features of aphasia-friendly written material and comprehension of written material for people with aphasia: An exploratory study, *Aphasiology*, 19, pp. 693-711.

Treating verb retrieval and predicate argument structure

Verb retrieval and sentence production difficulties are both common features of aphasia. This study aimed to evaluate the outcome of intensive therapy for a client with aphasia. NS had multiple and interacting difficulties that resulted in problems in producing sentences. Therapy aimed to improve his sentence production by: (a) improving the retrieval of verbs, (b) increasing his awareness of the relationship between nouns and verbs, and (c) improving his production of one-, two-, and three-argument structures. A period of intensive therapy, based around a set of 48 self-selected verbs, was preceded and followed by detailed assessment of NS's single word and sentence production and comprehension. Therapy resulted in a significant improvement in NS's retrieval of the verbs involved in treatment but no generalisation to other verbs. His production of sentences showed more widespread changes. He produced more nouns within sentences, omitted fewer obligatory arguments, and produced a greater variety of argument structures in connected speech. Following treatment, verb retrieval difficulties were still evident but therapy resulted in a greater awareness of the need for a verb within a sentence and a strategy for producing the argument structure frame around that verb.

Webster, J. Morris, J. and Franklin, S. (2005). Effects of therapy targeted at verb retrieval and the realisation of the predicate argument structure: A case study, *Aphasiology*, 19, pp. 748-764.



EVENTS DIARY

British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine (BRSM) AGM

Royal Armouries, Leeds, UK

29 - 30 September 2005

For more information: <http://www.bsrn.co.uk/eventdiaries/ARC-Prog2005.pdf>

Headway Annual Conference

Stratford Moat House Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon

6th & 7th October 2005

Contact : 0115 9240800 or **email**: eventsandconferences@headway.org.uk

Different Strokes AGM & Conference

The Vermont Hotel, Newcastle

Saturday 8th October 2005

Cost: £20

Contact Different Strokes, 9 Canon Harnett Court, Wolverton Mill, Milton Keynes, MK12 5NF with a SAE. Bookings must be received by 1st October.

Multidisciplinary Aphasia Study Day

St. Mary's Hospital, Milton Road, Portsmouth

Wednesday 19th October 2005

Cost: £65 **Contact number** 02392 286147

Academy of Aphasia Annual Meeting

Royal Dutch Academy of Science, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

October 23-25, 2005

For more information: www.academyofaphasia.org

BAS SUPPORT FOR STUDY DAYS

Although BAS has no formal study days organized at present, the committee remains keen to support any individual or department interested in hosting a study day.

Contact Ruth Nieuwenhuis, BAS Study Day Coordinator at

ruth.nieuwenhuis@cardiffandvale.wales.nhs.uk.

with your ideas and for informal discussion and support. Any therapy-based topics are welcome!