



British Aphasiology Society

Welcome to the BAS Spring Newsletter 2016.

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.

BAS Research Update Meeting 2016

The next Research Update Meeting will be held in the Renold Building at the University of Manchester on April 28th from 11am - 4pm. A full programme will be released shortly – please watch the BAS website for further details.

BAS Therapy Symposium

BAS members will be aware that, historically, the BAS has offered a biennial conference, with a Therapy Symposium event taking place in the intervening non-conference year. Following feedback from members, and discussion after this year's very successful BAS conference in London, the decision has been taken not to hold a Therapy Symposium event in the autumn of 2016, but to postpone this until 2017. This will allow members to support the International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference (see below) if they wish. The committee recognises that many members are finding accessing funding for training and events increasingly difficult, and that we need to be aware of other aphasia-focussed events that are taking place during the year in the UK.

The next BAS Conference will therefore be held in 2018.

International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference 2016

City University, London is to host the 17th International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference which will take place from **Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th December 2016** at the University Building, Northampton Square, London. The conference brings together researchers and clinical specialists in Speech-Language Pathology, Linguistics, Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation Medicine, dedicated to aphasia rehabilitation, from all around the world.

There will be different presentation formats including platform presentations, round table discussions, poster presentations, workshops, and lightning talks. The deadline for submissions is **22nd April 2016**.

For more information please go to the [IARC conference website](#); you can also follow on Twitter: [@IARC2016](#)

Do you need funding to attend conferences or other events?

The BAS Conference Support Fund deadline for 2016 is **Wednesday 1st June 2016** at midnight.

The Conference Support Fund offers two types of support:

BAS Events Grants : Applicants to this fund do not have to be BAS members at the time of application, but **will be required to join** as part of the process of registering for the event.

Non-BAS Events Grants : Applicants to this fund **must have been BAS members for at least 1 year** at the time of application.

Student members of BAS are eligible to apply. Overseas members may only apply to attend UK conferences.

Click [here](#) to find out more information.

(Please note that if you are successful in gaining funding from BAS to attend an event, the funds need to be claimed within one month of attending the event).

Research Round-up

Please follow the link to the BAS website for a summary of **abstracts of recently published aphasia research**. Click [here](#) to find out about:

- ❖ Comparing multi-modality and constraint-induced treatment for aphasia: a preliminary investigation of generalisation to discourse
- ❖ The participants' perspective: how biographic–narrative intervention influences identity negotiation and quality of life in aphasia
- ❖ Candidacy for conversation partner training in aphasia: findings from a Dutch implementation study
- ❖ How to constrain and maintain a lexicon for the treatment of progressive semantic naming deficits: Principles of item selection for formal semantic therapy

- ❖ Supporting communication for people with aphasia in stroke rehabilitation: transfer of training in a multidisciplinary stroke team
- ❖ Auditory masking effects on speech fluency in apraxia of speech and aphasia: Comparison to altered auditory feedback
- ❖ Insights into early language recovery: from basic principles to practical applications

Initiatives in Aphasia Seed Fund

The British Aphasiology Society would like to fund Initiatives in Aphasia – UK based activities that involve and benefit people with aphasia and their family members/carers. Some examples might be: support for events, new initiatives in aphasia, focus groups, or pilot research. Such activities may be led by or organised with the involvement of people with aphasia, and will meet one or more of the following aims:

- ❖ to promote knowledge of aphasia
- ❖ to promote knowledge of aphasia treatment, and make its evidence base accessible
- ❖ to promote and draw upon the expertise of people with aphasia
- ❖ to share, discuss and collaborate on research with people with aphasia and their family members/carers

Seed funding of up to £1000 is available per application, and can be used to supplement other research/knowledge exchange funding that the applicants have already secured.

For information on how to apply, and to see examples of previously successful Initiatives in Aphasia Seed Fund projects please click [here](#)

The deadline for this year's fund is **29th April 2016**.

SUPERB RCT at City University

A team led by Dr Katerina Hilari at City University London have won the Stroke Association 2015 'Priority Programme Award – Psychological consequences of Stroke' (£490,662). The title of the project is 'Adjustment post stroke and aphasia: SUpporting wellbeing through PEer Befriending (SUPERB trial) and it is a phase II randomised controlled trial. The project will run for 3.5 years starting in June 2016 and will deliver on four work packages: a development phase, which will run in the first year of the project and will involve consultations with people with aphasia on aspects of the project, and piloting the intervention; the RCT, which will compare

usual care to usual care + peer befriending; a qualitative study; and an economic evaluation.

Katerina is the PI and the team includes external collaborators from Connect the communication disability network (Dr Sally McVicker), Kings Clinical Trials Unit (Dr Kimberley Goldsmith) and the University of Nottingham (Dr Shirley Thomas); and other partners from City: Professor Jane Marshall and Dr Sarah Northcott (Language and Communication Science), Professor Alan Simpson (Mental Health) and Dr Chris Flood (Mental Health and Health Economics).

Interested in getting involved or finding out more? Contact k.hilari@city.ac.uk , and/ or follow project updates on Katerina's Twitter feed @KaterinaHilari

News from Connect



As the Lottery project enters its 4th year, we have 10 outreach sites set up, with the last site recently launched in Exeter. We additionally have two other pilot sites and a third, soon to be in Bromley. In addition to our current service in Wandsworth, we have set up a carer

to carer befriending scheme. We are currently commissioning an interim qualitative evaluation of our Health and Social Care Volunteering Project (Department of Health), looking at barriers and facilitators to peer support.

This project has enabled us to work in Gloucestershire and Cornwall to embed our peer support model within localities reaching people with aphasia and wider communication disability. So we are interested to look at peer support more widely across the communication spectrum.

Ella Berstein-Ellis visited Connect in December with much mutual sharing. She was keen to promote the Aphasia Access organization, which shares education materials produced in the US: www.aphasiaaccess.org

The London centre continues its programme of exhibitions, with a photography exhibition held in March and a young artists' exhibition at the end of May. Connect continues to run a healthy training programme with two new opportunities available. We have a successful 'How to run peer led groups' course run twice in March with great feedback. From July this year, the Accessible Information Standard is going to be a mandatory, legal requirement to ensure that all NHS information, services and work is accessible to all. Connect will be providing accessibility workshops to understand what is required and to enable providers to meet those standards. Working with our trainers with aphasia, we can offer advice to organisations looking to implement the Standard. Please contact Helen Mann for more information helenmann@ukconnect.org

[Update on EVA Park – virtual world for people with aphasia](#)

In February 2016 researchers from City University London hosted an Open Day at Woburn Safari Park for an audience of 70 people, most of whom were speech and language therapists, stroke survivors or their family members.

Eva Park is a virtual island created with funding from the Stroke Association, for people with aphasia. Eva Park is accessed over the internet and contains a number of locations such as houses, restaurants and a hair salon, where people with aphasia can meet and practice their language skills.

Professor Jane Marshall, from the Division of Language and Communication Sciences, opened the day with an account of City's recent research project which evaluated a therapy delivered in Eva Park with 20 people who have aphasia. Results showed excellent uptake of therapy with significant benefits on a test of everyday communication. Users' views were also overwhelmingly positive.

You can read more about the dissemination event by clicking [here](#) and follow what the team are up to on Twitter [@EVAphasia](#)

News from the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia



The Trustees wish to congratulate the recipients of The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia UK Student Prizes for the academic year 2014-2015:

Birmingham City University – *Elsie Lightbody*; Cardiff Metropolitan University – *Stephanie Bailey & Alexander Conroy*; City London University – *Louise Rodgers & Nasrin Ahmed*; DeMontfort University Leicester – *Tracy Cotton & Paige Newton*; Leeds Metropolitan University – *Natalie Walton*; Manchester Metropolitan University – *Abigail Tanner*; Newcastle University – *Sarah Woodman & Kirsty Spalding*; University College London – *Philippa Clay & Nichola Briggs*; University College London Special Prize, *Brendan Dunlop*; University of East Anglia – *Rachel Phillips*; University of Essex – *Claire Lyon*; University of Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church University – *Christina Stephenson*; University of Reading – *Michelle Shepherd*; University of St Mark & St John – *Hayley Groves*; University of Sheffield – *Emily Charnock & Claire Swaffield*; University of Strathclyde – *Laura McCallum*; University of Ulster – *Amy Finlay*.

The Trust also gives prizes to the universities with speech and language therapy courses in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Ireland.

For more information please go to the TTA website. www.aphasiatavistocktrust.org

The Trust would like to keep in touch with all the recipients of The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia student prize winners.

We would like to invite all student prize winners to send us an up to date email address for our records. Please send an email to Sylvia Hemming, the administrator at tavistocktrust@btconnect.com.

The Trust would like to send the prize winners information from time to time and we would also welcome updates about your career and achievements.

Progressive Aphasia

PPA (a type of dementia) is a progressive language impairment. It is often diagnosed when people are in their 50s and 60s. Speech and language therapy services provided to this group are variable and anecdotally therapists report using many different approaches in managing this group.

Last summer Anna Volkmer was awarded an NIHR Doctoral Research Fellowship to complete a PhD at UCL, supervised by Dr Suzanne Beeke and Dr Aimee Spector. The research will focus on refining and piloting an intervention for people with primary progressive aphasia (PPA).

The first stage of the research was to conduct a survey of current speech and language therapy practices across the UK.

You can follow the project on twitter @volkmer_anna or <https://annavolkmersbigphdadventure.wordpress.com>.

Or email at: a.volkmer.15@ucl.ac.uk

RCP stroke guideline fifth edition 2016: public consultation

The Royal College of Physicians' Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party is working on the fifth edition of the *National Clinical Guideline for Stroke*, which will be published at the end of September 2016. Because the invaluable contributions from peer reviewers helped previous editions achieve such a high quality, you are invited to contribute your experience and interest in stroke to this edition.

Full information on how to contribute is contained in the letter to peer reviewers which should be read before reading the guidelines and providing feedback. There is a form to complete with any comments and feedback, and the consultation can be viewed [here](#) on the Royal College of Physicians website. The deadline for completion is **22nd April 2016**.

BAS Student Prizes

The BAS organises two annual student prizes.

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. The closing date for applications is **15th July 2016**.

[Call to BAS Members!](#)

This is a message for members who have not yet updated their subscription payments. We hope that you are enjoying the benefits of membership of the BAS. You may be aware that your membership fee has remained unchanged for several years. However, the BAS Committee, after much deliberation, felt that a moderate increase in the membership fee was justified for the year ended 31st March 2016 and beyond. This has coincided with our decision to open a new bank account which has online facilities.

We have been making efforts to contact members to request new standing orders for membership, and cancellation of existing ones, but this is often not easy as people's details frequently change. This is another call to members to update their subscription payments to the new rates:

Standard Rate for UK members:

- Standing order - £18
- Cheque or other one-off payment - £24

Concessionary rate for people with aphasia, students and non-UK based members:

- Standing order - £12
- Cheque or other one-off payment - £15

To access the membership form, and the new standing order form please click [here](#)

Please also ensure that you cancel your existing standing order to avoid further payments at the old rate into our old bank account and to ensure that existing standing orders do not prevent us from setting up new ones.

Read previous newsletters and find out more about the British Aphasiology Society at www.bas.org.uk

If you have any items for future newsletters please contact us on newsletter@bas.org.uk