

**BAS**

**British Aphasiology Society**

Welcome to the BAS Summer 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  
9-11 September 2015**

**Senate House, University College, London**

Book your place now - **early bird rate closes 31 July**

[www.ucl.ac.uk/pals/study/cpd/cpd-courses/bas2015](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/pals/study/cpd/cpd-courses/bas2015)

**Profiles of keynote speakers**

**Suzanne Beeke:** [Conversation partner training: what is it and does it work?](#)

Suzanne Beeke is a senior lecturer at University College London and a speech and language therapist. Her main research interest involves the application of Conversation Analysis (CA) to the study of communication disorders, particularly aphasia and dementia. With colleagues, she has designed and evaluated a conversation-based intervention for aphasia that uses CA principles to scaffold the development of strategy use in both conversation partners and people with aphasia. She led the study that developed Better Conversations with Aphasia, a free online resource to increase access to conversation therapy for SLTs, and people with aphasia and their families (<https://extend.ucl.ac.uk>), part of the wider Better Conversations Initiative based at UCL (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/betterconversations>). Developing



interests include the application of behaviour change research to identify the 'active ingredients' of conversation-based interventions.

**Lisa Edmonds: The Clinical and Theoretical Implications of Verb Network Strengthening Treatment (VNeST): What We have Learned So Far**

Lisa A. Edmonds, PhD, CCC-SLP is an Associate Professor in Communication Sciences and Disorders and Director of the Aphasia Rehabilitation and Bilingualism Research Lab at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York City. Dr. Edmonds conducts clinical research focused on the development and systematic evaluation of novel treatments for persons with monolingual and bilingual aphasia. In particular, Dr. Edmonds is interested in developing treatments (such as Verb Network Strengthening Treatment) that increase communicative success at the sentence and discourse levels and across spoken and written modalities. Additionally, her lab is investigating the efficacy of various aphasia assessment and treatments via teletherapy, computer use in persons with aphasia, and aspects of naming in Spanish/English bilinguals.



**David Howard: Semantic feature analysis therapy in naming**

David Howard has been a speech and language therapist and cognitive neuropsychologist for more than 40 years. He is an author of around 120 papers in refereed journals and a variety of books, book chapters and assessments. His primary research focus has been developing evidence-based treatment methods for people with aphasia that are tailored to the clients' needs and abilities.



### **Jane Marshall: Use of technology in aphasia therapy**

Jane qualified as a speech and language therapist in 1987. She worked in the aphasia unit of Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup before undertaking a PhD, which explored sentence processing impairments in aphasia. Her post-doctoral research has investigated numerous aspects of aphasia, including jargon aphasia, the use of non verbal modalities in aphasia, bilingual aphasia, and aphasia in users of British Sign Language. All her research places a strong emphasis on the clinical needs of people with aphasia and their remediation. Her current research is investigating technological applications in aphasia therapy. In 2007 Jane won the Robin Tavistock Award for her work in Aphasia, and in 2009 she was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. Jane is a member of the Division of Language and Communication Science at City University London.



### **Cathy Price: Predicting Language Outcome and Recovery after Stroke**

Cathy Price is an expert in the use of structural and functional brain imaging for understanding cognitive processing in the neurologically healthy and damaged brain. Her basic training was in Physiology and Psychology and she has a PhD in cognitive neuropsychology. Since 1997, she has been funded by the Wellcome Trust to build a functional anatomical model of auditory and visual word processing that will predict language outcome after brain damage. Currently, her focus is on the clinical translation of her science. In particular, she is developing a clinical tool that uses lesion site to predict the most likely outcome and recovery of language abilities after stroke.



## Jason Warren : The progressive aphasia: beyond language

Jason Warren completed general neurology training as the Australasian Fellow to the National Hospital, Queen Square (FRACP 2000) and subsequently trained in cognitive neurology and dementia in the Dementia Research Centre at the Institute of Neurology. Following completion of a PhD in the functional imaging of the human auditory brain at the Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology (2005) he was awarded a Wellcome Intermediate Clinical Fellowship (2006) and subsequently a Wellcome Senior Clinical Fellowship (2010) based at the Dementia Research Centre. He is currently Professor of Neurology at UCL and jointly runs the Specialist Cognitive Disorders Clinic at the National Hospital. His research group uses complex sound as a paradigm to understand disordered information processing in neurodegenerative disease. Special interests include the progressive aphasia, auditory cognition in dementia and functional imaging of neurodegenerative diseases.



\*\*\*\*\*

## **LUNA Storytelling in Aphasia exhibition**

Between the 9th-13th June, the Mall Galleries in central London hosted an exhibition of art and film in support of people living with aphasia. Generously supported by the Mall Galleries Learning Centre, the event was organised as a showcase of the LUNA storytelling intervention research project, run by City University London staff and students. The week was inspired through partnership with The Elliott Art Group whose paintings, pastels and drawings were exhibited, with sales going to Connect and the Stroke Association. The LUNA film documentary and extracts from personal narratives in the project were screened twice during the week attracting much attention. The exhibition concluded with a drawing workshop led by Cat Andrew.

“LUNA: Language Underpins Narrative in Aphasia” was funded by BAS Initiatives in Aphasia Seed Fund in 2014 and addresses how the issue that whilst stories are the fabric of our lives, the opportunity to tell stories is significantly compromised

if someone has aphasia. Through LUNA, people with aphasia have explored telling personal narratives over a period of 8 weeks, working and reworking their stories with speech and language research students, under the guidance of the broader research team of Drs Madeline Cruice, Lucy Dipper, and Rachael-Anne Knight. Participating in LUNA has led to a range of benefits including more awareness of language and storytelling, as well as better mood and confidence. Go to <http://www.mallgalleries.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/luna> and <http://www.storieswithaphasia.moonfruit.com/news/4585499855> to find out more.

## **BAS Initiatives in Aphasia Seed Fund award 2015**

In the most recent round of Initiatives in Aphasia Seed Fund applications, an award was made to Jane Marshall at City University London, for her project, 'Speech and Language Therapy and Information Technology (SPLIT): Providing accessible opportunities for people with aphasia'. The project aims to develop a cost effective and accessible computer training course for people with aphasia. It is based on an original idea by Tess Lancashire, a stroke survivor with aphasia, and an earlier pilot project. The project will take place at City University London, and will use speech and language therapy students as support workers to provide individualised support for people with aphasia. Training materials will also be developed as a stand-alone resource for dissemination.

Updates on this project will be available via the BAS IASF pages. In the meantime, for more information about the SPLIT pilot project, please visit: <http://www.city.ac.uk/news/2015/february/helping-people-with-aphasia-engage-with-computers-and-it> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYEmYJlgzvI>

The next round of IASF applications will be in January 2016. The IASF page will be updated with more information nearer the time.

## **Research Round-up**

Please follow the link to the BAS website for a summary of abstracts of recently published aphasia research – click [here](#)

## **RUM: BAS Research Update Meeting**

Are you running a research project that you would like to discuss with peers?

Are you doing a PhD or MSc project related to aphasia?

Are you interested in hearing about current research in aphasia?

The BAS research update meeting is the ideal setting to hear about the latest aphasia research and to discuss your own ongoing research.

The next RUM will be held in the Spring of 2016. If you have any suggestions for topics or would like to host the meeting, please contact [newsletter@bas.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bas.org.uk)

## News from Speakability

In April 2015, national aphasia charity, Speakability joined forces with the Stroke Association. Together they have ambitious plans to ensure that more people living with aphasia receive vital support.

June 2015 saw Speakability launch their Aphasia Awareness Campaign, with June being 'Speak about Aphasia' month – the **#recognise aphasia** campaign. You can follow the campaign and other Speakability news on Twitter @SpeakabilityADA and @TheStrokeAssoc and tweet using #recogniseAphasia and #AphasiaAwareness.

## News from Connect - the communication disability network

Our national network of drop-ins for people living with aphasia continues to grow. Connect opens in Bristol on 7 September, and plans are in hand for drop-ins in Sheffield and the London Borough of Bromley.

Connect has long championed peer-supported opportunities and these latest projects will also be led by people with aphasia, supported by Connect and by trained volunteers. Drop-ins are a great opportunity for people with aphasia to socialise, relax, meet new friends and rebuild confidence. To find out more, make a referral or discuss setting up an opportunity for people with aphasia, please contact [helenmann@ukconnect.org](mailto:helenmann@ukconnect.org)

Our framework of training, supervision and support for peer leaders is now being developed to help others with long-term conditions. In addition to Big Lottery-funded drop-ins, our work through the Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund in Cornwall and Gloucestershire is helping those living with other long-term conditions, including stroke and dementia. Read more [here](#) about our work commissioned by Gloucestershire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group.

Be the first to hear about Connect's growing range of peer-supported services, training events and new publications by signing up to the [free quarterly newsletter](#) for healthcare professionals

## The Aphasia Impact Questionnaire – a validated Patient Reported Outcome Measure for People with Aphasia

*Kate Swinburn, Eleanor Pearce-Willis, Leslie Smith, Madeline Cruice, Sally McVicker*

### *Summary:*

Connect set up a project to develop, test and validate a concise Patient Reported Outcome Measure (PROM) for use with People with Aphasia (PWA). Developed from the Communication Disability Profile<sup>1</sup> (the CDP), the Aphasia Impact Questionnaire (AIQ 19) was developed. It examines communication, participation and well-being *from the person's perspective*. The AIQ 19 was tested to examine construct validity, concurrent validity (measured against the BOSS-CD) and sensitivity. It was then used to explore how people with aphasia experienced their lives with aphasia before and after 6 months of contact from Connect. Qualitative information was gathered on the tool's acceptability and accessibility. Results showed good psychometric properties and sensitivity to change over time. These results concurred with the views of people with aphasia. They found the AIQ to be a tool that accurately represented their perception of aphasia and the changes over time. They also found the AIQ to be an attractive and friendly way of exploring the lived experience of aphasia. The newly developed AIQ 19 is a promising tool for use in clinical practice.

### *Methods & Procedures:*

A steering group of people with aphasia were recruited to facilitate developing a short outcome measure to be used in clinical practice across a number of environments. The focus of the project was to enable the person with aphasia, regardless of degree of expressive ability to communicate how life with aphasia felt for them. It was noted that the tool needed to be concise. A tool already exists, the CDP, that was co-produced with people with aphasia from constructs derived from qualitative interviewing relating to what aphasia means to people. The CDP is seen as a socially valid and psychometrically reliable tool (Best et al 2007 & 2010 Chue et al). It is deliberately detailed to encourage authentic engagement between the service user and provider. However in some clinical settings, its detailed analysis is not appropriate or possible. Therefore the steering group were shown the CDP and asked to identify a restricted number of the most salient questions within it. 19 items were chosen. Having identified these items, this new tool – the Aphasia Impact Questionnaire (the AIQ 19) was tested to gauge psychometric qualities and establish social validity. This was done by administering the AIQ under 3 conditions:

- i. **140** people with aphasia recruited from the community who were accessing services provided by Connect (enabling testing for internal consistency),

---

<sup>1</sup> The *Communication Disability Profile* Swinburn with Byng 2006 Connect Press

- ii. a subset of these 140 comprising **90** people were assessed before and after 6 months of intervention from Connect and
- iii. **30** people with chronic aphasia completed both the AIQ and a gold standard tool (the Burden of Stroke Scale – CD<sup>2</sup>).

Additionally **10** of the repeated measures respondents completed a semi-structured interview to establish their views on the acceptability of both the AIQ and the BOSS-CD.

#### *Outcomes & Results:*

Results showed that newly developed AIQ had good internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha ranging from 0.76 to 0.92), and statistically significant concurrent validity ( $p < 0.001$ ). Repeated measures comparisons demonstrated statistically significant change in all domains (Communication  $p < 0.001$ , Participation  $p < 0.007$ , Emotional well being  $p = 0.000$ ). Results from the qualitative interviews showed that people with aphasia liked the AIQ. They found it more accessible than the BOSS –CD. Some commenting that they found the 'assessment' process similar to a supported conversation.

#### *Conclusions and further development:*

There are many validated and widely used assessments for use with people with aphasia, but few assess or report language and life with aphasia from the perspective of the person who lives with aphasia. The CDP does, but in some clinical environments, where time is pressured, there was a need for a shorter tool to explore what a person was feeling about life with aphasia. The AIQ 19 appears to have promise to be such a tool. Detailed reporting of the results described in this report are being prepared for submission for publication. It will be available directly from Connect by the end of the 2015 . Development, validation and research use is on-going.

<sup>1</sup> Burden of Stroke Scale – Communication Disability Doyle et al

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

The Trustees wish to congratulate the United Kingdom recipients of the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia Student Prizes for the academic year 2013-2014:

Birmingham City University – *Jean Armes*; Cardiff Metropolitan University – *Jane Canning*; City London University – *Emily Muir*; DeMontfort University Leicester – *Stephen Naylor*; Leeds Metropolitan University – *Paula Smyth*; Manchester Metropolitan University – *Karen Gymer*; Newcastle University – *Chloe Isherwood and*

---

*Stacey Martin; Queen Margaret University – Aisling O'Hagan and Melanie McCartney; University College London – Rachel Lee and Rosalind Thompson; University of East Anglia – Bethany Reay and Ellie Pass; University of Essex – Rebecca Beedles and Clare Jones; University of Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church University – Joshua Reynolds; University of Manchester – Belinda Buckley; University of Reading – Alexandra Hankin; University of St Mark & St John – Katy Fahy; University of Sheffield – Marie Abbott and Holly Reilly; University of Strathclyde – Kirsty Park; University of Ulster – Laura McCoy*

The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia also awards Student Prizes in Australia, Canada, Ireland and New Zealand. For more information please go to <http://www.aphasiatavistocktrust.org/aphasia/default/recipients.asp>

## **Australian Aphasia Rehabilitation Pathway and the 82 Aphasia Best Practice Statements**

A national Community of Practice of over 250 speech pathologists, researchers, consumers and policymakers in Australia has developed a framework consisting of eight areas of care in aphasia rehabilitation. This framework has provided the structure for the development of a care pathway containing aphasia rehabilitation best practice statements

82 best practice statements for aphasia rehabilitation post-stroke have now been featured in an open access BMJ article. The statements have also been incorporated into an online implementation tool, the Australian Aphasia Rehabilitation Pathway ([www.aphasiapathway.com.au](http://www.aphasiapathway.com.au)) which contains useful resources to help clinicians implement the statements.

Read about the development and validation of the 82 Aphasia Rehabilitation Best Practice Statements in the journal BMJOpen

<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/cgi/content/long/5/7/e007641>

## **RCSLT resources about aphasia/new page on website..**

## **International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference**

The next IARC takes place from **14 - 16 December 2016** and will be held at City University, London. Watch this space for more information...

## **BAS website**

The BAS website is currently undergoing a major transformation, and the new website will be available to members by the end of 2015. One aspect that we would like to develop is an area on the website where information about aphasia research can be gathered – especially about smaller studies/projects – so that interested researchers and clinicians around the UK and beyond can see what research is underway and make contact with each other.

We look forward to receiving your feedback on the new website, and any suggestions for what you would like to see featured or developed on it.

**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)**