



British Aphasiology Society

Welcome to the BAS Summer 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.

Call to BAS Members!

This is a message for members who have not yet updated their subscription payments. **Please note the new rates as shown below!** Many members have updated their subscriptions. This is a plea to those who have not done so to **act now!** We also now have a new bank account with online facilities. The change in payment therefore also entails changing the account into which the money is paid. 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.

International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference 2016

The conference programme for the **17th International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference**, hosted by City University London, 14-16 December 2016 is now available: <http://www.city.ac.uk/iarc-2016/programme> . The programme includes: 71 posters, 20 platform presentations, 10 lightning talks, 9 roundtables, 5 keynotes,

and 2 workshops. Several different types of tickets are available: 3 day and 1 day, Individual and Team Share. Delegates save 10% by booking before 16th September. The conference dinner (not included in ticket, purchase separately @ £35) will be held on Thursday evening 15 December at the iconic St Pancras Renaissance Hotel. Individuals and clinical teams are encouraged to book early to avoid disappointment.

Do you need funding to attend conferences or other events?

The BAS 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:

- Shared humour in aphasia groups: “They should be called cheer groups”.
- International patterns of the public awareness of aphasia.
- Do particular design features assist people with aphasia to comprehend text? An exploratory study.
- Comparing multi-modality and constraint-induced treatment for aphasia: a preliminary investigation of generalisation to discourse.

Initiatives in Aphasia Seed Fund: this year's successful applicants

Each year the British Aphasiology Society funds 'Initiatives in Aphasia' – a scheme that aims to support UK based activities that involve and benefit people with aphasia and their family members/carers. These activities may be led by or organised with the involvement of people with aphasia. 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.

This year there were two successful applicants:

Gill Pearl, Bury Speakeasy, is delighted to have won a 2016 BAS IASF grant with colleagues from Aphasia United, to support a UK conference for people with aphasia. The conference is scheduled to take place in March 2017. For more information, see the Aphasia United webpage (<http://www.aphasiaunited.org/about-us/>)

Dr Madeline Cruice, Senior Lecturer City University London, is delighted to have won a 2016 BAS IASF grant with colleagues Wallace, Worrall, Rose and Le Dorze. The purpose of the grant is two-fold: (1) to support dissemination of research findings from Sarah Wallace's studies to the UK research participants with aphasia, and to aphasia researchers; and (2) to gain consensus from aphasia researchers on a Core Outcome Set (COS) in aphasia treatment research. Dissemination and consensus events will take place in December 2016. Sarah Wallace, PhD candidate from the University of Queensland, has led the Improving Research Outcome Measurement in Aphasia (ROMA) study (see <http://www.cometinitiative.org/studies/details/287>). ROMA has a strong focus on stakeholder consultation. In total, 39 people with aphasia and 29 family members from 7 countries, 318 aphasia clinicians/managers from 23 countries, and 80 researchers from 10 countries, have participated in the Phase 1 studies. Publications are available: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27345867> or

Congratulations to both Gill and Madeleine, and we look forward to reading more about their projects next summer, when their summary reports will be featured on the BAS website.

For more information about the BAS Seed Fund, including previously funded projects and how to apply, please click [here](#)

News from Speakability

June was Aphasia Awareness Month – with a new campaign for 2016.

Right across the UK, Speakability Aphasia Self-Help Groups and supporters visited local retail outlets to hand out our newly designed postcards to help raise awareness of aphasia and to offer a few tips for better communication.

Speakability would appreciate your support to continue this awareness by sharing the postcard with staff in shops, banks, cafes or any other customer facing role. You can order free postcards [here](#)

Speakability has a new webpage at www.stroke.org.uk/aphasia and will continue to use **#aphasia** on social media.

Please also consider adding your signature to the ***New Era for Stroke*** petition at <https://www.stroke.org.uk/what-we-do/our-campaigns/new-era-stroke>

Melanie Derbyshire.



News from the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia

- redesign for Software Finder website.

The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia's **Aphasia Software Finder** is a free to use website. Its main aim is to help people with aphasia, and aphasia professionals, find apps and software in the English language that can help with aphasia therapy. In light of developments in IT and in response to user feedback, the website has undergone a major redesign making it more powerful and easier to use. The changes include:

- * You can now search for Aphasia apps *and* software together, using the same search function. The results show both apps and software.
- * The analysis and summaries show which devices and platforms the apps and software run, including computers, tablets, smartphones; Android and/or IOS.
- * More categories have been added to the General Apps & Software section to make searches more specific. 'General' apps and software are not designed specifically for people with aphasia, but they can make life easier for some with communication difficulties.
- * The website has been redesigned to be responsive which leads to a much better experience when exploring the website on mobile devices such as tablets and

smartphones.

* Research articles about aphasia therapy and computers are easier to find.

The Aphasia Software Finder will continue to be regularly updated with new resources to continue to meet the needs of its many users. Please visit:

<http://www.aphasiasoftwarefinder.org> . All feedback is welcomed.

- **Robin Tavistock Award 2016 presented to Professor Marian Brady**

The Trustees are delighted to announce that **Professor Marian Brady** is the 2016 recipient of The Robin Tavistock Award.

This award is named after Robin Tavistock, the 14th Duke of Bedford who founded The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia. It is presented annually to a person, or group, who is inspirational and has made a significant contribution to the field of aphasia.

Professor Brady's work covers a wide range of post stroke rehabilitation issues but it is aphasia, with its devastating consequences, that has been an important driving force behind her work. This Award is specifically to recognise all that Marian has achieved, and is still achieving, in the field of aphasia.

For a long time The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia has been aware of the importance of continually advancing standards of research within the aphasia world. It is difficult to overestimate the contribution Professor Brady has made to this. Not least by ensuring greater collaboration, promoting the adoption of robust methodologies and, most importantly, high quality evidence based research syntheses that will be recognised by all.

Through her persistent, patient and diligent pursuance in establishing a rigorous and strong evidence base with the Cochrane collaboration, she has influenced the provision of speech and language therapy services locally, nationally and internationally. This work has influenced the Royal College of Physicians Stroke Guidelines and has had an ongoing ripple effect in developing and improving aphasia research standards and priorities across the board.

There is not space to list here all that Marian has contributed to aphasia. However a recurring theme that sets her apart is her exceptional leadership. In particular her ability to draw people together and to provide a framework for collating, synthesising and disseminating research evidence, along with secondary data that can then be used to answer bigger questions.

As Chair of The Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists she established and supports a network of leading European multidisciplinary aphasia investigators. This has ensured that links between those working in rehabilitation, neurology, social science, linguistics and speech and language research have been forged, providing an opportunity for sharing ideas, information and establishing protocols for research. Without doubt the work Professor Brady is doing will continue to have

a positive impact for decades to come.

Since university, Marian's passion for aphasia has been a central motivation. It has, to a large extent, meant that whatever aspect of stroke is being researched, one of her priorities has always been to ensure that the person with aphasia is included and represented, when they are so often marginalised by the very nature of being aphasic.

When talking to people, both in this country and abroad, it is clear the deep respect with which Marian is held, and yet how self-effacing and gracious she is, generously mentoring and praising others – ensuring that everyone is valued.

Throughout all her work, integrity and humanity is evident.

It is for her outstanding contribution to the world of aphasia that Professor Marian Brady is being honoured with The Robin Tavistock Award 2016.

[BAS Student Prizes](#)

The BAS organises two annual student prizes - the **Student Essay/Case Report Prize** and the **Student Project Prize**. The deadline for applications has now passed and the winners will be announced in the autumn.

[News from Connect](#)

Connect is delivering services, supporting groups and running befriending scheme, offering bespoke training and support for people with aphasia following a stroke and any long term condition both in hospitals, homes and communities across England.

In Gloucestershire befriending is a key part of the service and there are also 12 activities and groups set up to support others who want to follow their passions and need a little support to do so. These activities range from Art drop-ins to healthy Foodies clubs and Walking groups. There is also a long tradition of delivering quality service across the whole of Cornwall and this includes 13 peer led Conversation groups, befriending in hospitals and homes, a Mental health support group, three diabetes support groups and a COPD support group. A walking Group and a Veterans Alzheimer's Café are also being established. Joint partnerships with relevant organisations help to secure these and ongoing activities and continue to bring much needed support and activities to people living with all kinds of long term conditions in a growing world of austerity and change. In London the service is home to the outreach team setting up conversation partner schemes and support Bristol, Sheffield, Exeter, Bromley and Northampton. Peer leaders have been involved with Awareness raising, fundraising events, Leeds produced a short film about the group, recruitment of new peer leaders, Stroke Assembly and Connect For

A Day events. Two peer leaders have recently become Trustees. Connect has a long reach and also delivers services in Wandsworth, Rotherham and Brighton and will continue to grow their output, offer support, information and advice to health professionals, community members and anyone with a lifelong condition for now and the foreseeable future.

Sally McVicker

Language-Light UX

A workshop called: 'Language-Light UX: Digital Design for People with Language Impairments' was held at City University on June 28th. The workshop was aimed at software designers with an interest in computer user experience (UX) and accessibility. Twenty people attended. Attendees were introduced to the subject of aphasia by four experts with aphasia - who beautifully conveyed the challenges they face in accessing digital content. After this, a set of Interaction Design Guidelines for Aphasia were presented. The guidelines were developed over the past 6 years during projects undertaken by a multi-disciplinary team of SLT and Human Computer Interaction (HCI) researchers at City University that involved more than 60 people with aphasia. During the workshop, the designers used the Aphasia Walkthrough Evaluation (AWE) method to examine the aphasia accessibility of an existing website, and then took part in a 'design jam', aided by the aphasia experts. Feedback was extremely positive with many of the designers saying that they would definitely take the expertise gained into their future usability and accessibility practice. Tweets from the day can be found here <https://twitter.com/search?q=LanguageLightUX>. The guidelines will be published; updates will be shared by @cityuni_hcid and @abracabadger on Twitter.

CommuniCATE

The CommuniCATE aphasia therapy research project running at City University London is moving into its final year. Led by Dr Celia Woolf and Professor Jane Marshall, CommuniCATE is evaluating the use of mainly mainstream technologies such as voice recognition, word prediction, text-to-speech and Skype on devices including the Kindle Fire, iPad, and laptops. Participants choose between technologies to assist with writing, reading, speech or supported conversation and receive therapy delivered at City University London.

CommuniCATE are particularly keen to find more participants for the reading and writing strands to start therapy before the end of 2016. We can accept self-referrals as well as referrals from voluntary organisations and private SLTs. NHS SLTs can contact us to discuss how their clients can access the project. For details on how to refer please see <https://blogs.city.ac.uk/communicate/contact-us/>

The CommuniCATE team are also running a free workshop on how to support people with aphasia to use Skype, and ways to deliver therapy remotely. There will be two workshops on Wednesday 21st September. The first will be from 1:30 – 3pm with a later session from 4 – 5:30pm. Please register for tickets on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/using-skype-in-speech-and-language-therapy-focus-on-aphasia-tickets-26559114025>

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