



British Aphasiology Society

Welcome to the BAS Winter Newsletter 2014.

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 2015](#)

The next BAS-RUM meeting will take place on **Friday 17th April 2015** at the **University of Edinburgh**.

The focus is '**Progressive aphasia and other non-vascular aphasias**'.

We invite speakers with on-going, recent or developing research in this area to submit abstracts. Submission deadlines for abstracts is **31st January 2015**.

Cost is £5 for BAS members; £5 plus membership fee for non-BAS members, and you don't need to be actively involved in research to attend – everyone welcome.

Click [here](#) for further details.

[Advance Notice! BAS Biennial International Conference 2015](#)

The next Conference will be held on **9-11 September 2015** at **University College, London**. Call for abstracts opens December 2014 with a deadline of 2 April 2015.

Keynote speakers include... **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)

For more information click [here](#). AND – you can follow us on *Twitter* @BAS2015UCL

Do you need funding to attend the Conference?

The BAS Conference Support Fund deadlines for 2015 will be 3 February and 4 June. Updated application forms will be available in January.

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.

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

Research Round-up

Click [here](#) to access the December update of details of some of the most current research literature related to the assessment and treatment of Aphasia, including ...

perspectives of trainers with aphasia in a UK Conversation Partner Scheme; text comprehension impairments in aphasia: a qualitative review of the literature on conversation therapy for aphasia; contextual Constraint Treatment for coarse coding deficit in adults with right hemisphere brain damage; multi-disciplinary team meetings in stroke rehabilitation: an observation study and conceptual framework; Speech-language therapists' process of including significant others in aphasia rehabilitation

BAS Student Prizes 2014

Each year the BAS awards two student prizes. The student essay or case report prize is for an essay or case report on any topic relating to acquired aphasia, with a prize of £150. The student project prize also takes its topic as acquired aphasia and attracts a £300 prize.

Congratulations go to this year's winners who are:

- **James McGoldrick**, from UCL, supervised by Carolyn Bruce for his project entitled '**Assessing the text-level reading skills of adults with aphasia**'
- **Fiona Robinson**, from University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, supervised by Janet Scott for her essay entitled '**Is there sufficient evidence to support the relationship between executive functioning and the functional**

use of AAC for people with aphasia? Examining the research evidence.'

For more information about the BAS student prizes and to download an application pack please click [here](#).

The closing date will be in June 2015.

BAS Annual General Meeting 2014

The BAS AGM was held this year at the Therapy Symposium in Birmingham. To read the Chair's report and the Treasurer's report , please click [here](#)

News from the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia

The Tavistock Trust for Aphasia is pleased to announce that short help videos are now on every relevant page of the Aphasia Software Finder website. This is a further move towards making it as aphasia friendly as possible - the design and content are based on the latest research about the requirements of people with aphasia. This website brings together, in one place, all software and apps in the English language that can help with therapy and in daily life. It is designed specifically for people with aphasia as well as professionals, but it is also proving useful for others with a variety of different communication needs. All the therapy software and apps are analysed by a specialist SLT and there are now well over 100 entries on the site. It is continually updated and new entries can easily be found via a "What's New" button. Click [here](#) to find out more about the Aphasia Software Finder website and and click on [Tavistock Trust](#) to find out more about the charity's work generally.

News from Speakability

Speakability's Chief Executive, Melanie Derbyshire was delighted to accept the invitation to make a presentation on the charity's Aphasia Self-Help Group Model at the Stroke Alliance for Europe Regional September Conference in Barcelona. This information was well received by delegates, many of whom were struggling with the challenge of meeting the long term needs of people with Aphasia within their own countries.

Speakability is looking for volunteers to help with the Helpline and Information Service based at the London office near Old Street tube. Training and support will be given. Please spread the word and ask any interested parties to contact Melanie on 0207 261 9572 or melanie@speakability.org.uk

News from Connect, the Communication Disability Network

Working together – Mutual support and community collaboration' - Connect and the Social Care Volunteering Fund.

Following on from Connect's success with the ongoing Big Lottery grant which supports individuals with aphasia, it is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant from the Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund.

The aim is to take Connect's tried and tested model of peer-to-peer support and to work in partnership with statutory, voluntary and community sectors to embed this as a model for people with wider long-term conditions to find wellbeing living within the community and re-connect with life.

The rationale being that if the Connect model of peer-to-peer support can enable individuals with communication difficulties to reconnect with life then it can do the same with other individuals, irrespective of condition.

Focussing on people's strengths, the project will establish local peer-to-peer support networks through mechanisms such as peer befriending, peer groups, community action, and peer training and talks to raise wider awareness and understanding.

It will further develop the established peer pathway which moves individuals from the initial receipt of support, to the position of drawing upon their strengths and skills to provide support for others, thereby becoming agents of change.

The project will be located in the South West: specifically, it targets Cornwall; and five council areas of Gloucestershire – Cotswold; Cheltenham; Gloucester; the Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury. The aim will be to disseminate and share practice across

the South West and beyond. Long term sustainability for the peer support networks established will be absolutely key.

For more information click [here](#) to visit Connect's website.

[News from the Stroke Association](#)

Stroke Association Priority Programme Awards

The Stroke Association are launching their Priority Programme Awards in two areas: haemorrhagic stroke and the psychological consequences of stroke. Awards are for up to £450k over a 3-5 year period. Deadline for applications has now been extended to **28th January, 5pm**. Click [here](#) for further details.

[Clinical Aphasiology Conference](#)

The Clinical Aphasiology Conference (CAC) has issued a call for papers for their 45th Annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference which will take place from 26th-31st May 2015 in California. See [here](#) for further details.

[Aphasia: spreading the Word](#)

A new updated website has been created by Chris Code and colleagues, which is dedicated to providing extensive data on international levels of public awareness of aphasia in a range of countries.

The information provided was prepared to be accessible by people with aphasia and their families, health care professionals and, importantly, the media and also provides advice and tips on raising awareness.

The site is hosted by the Centre for Clinical Neuropsychological Research (CCNR) site at the University of Exeter and can be found at

www.psychology.exeter.ac.uk/research/centres/ccnr/aphasia/people/

The authors encourage you to take some time to look at it to see how you can use the information in your own advocacy work, awareness raising and teaching, and to pass this information on to your colleagues, networks & social media sites.

[Launch of 'Aphasia Access'](#)

AphasiaAccess is an organization for professionals focused on meeting the unmet needs of people living with aphasia. AphasiaAccess was born out of clinician frustration with dwindling funding, constraints on services, and a desire for more meaningful outcomes for people with aphasia.

“Every now and then, a group of innovators, researchers, and program founders realize the outcomes they have measured and the services they have provided have profoundly improved the landscape of what is possible for the people they serve. The publication of the Life Participation Approaches to Aphasia (LPAA) offered a new paradigm. Aphasia centers and innovative clinical programs around North America began to embrace LPAA values. However, program leaders yearned for a coordinated mechanism for sharing information, solving challenges and helping new providers. AphasiaAccess is meeting this need.”

Find out more at www.aphasiaaccess.org .

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

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