

BAS British Aphasiology Society

Welcome to the BAS Winter 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.

Feedback from the BAS Conference

A very successful British Aphasiology Society Biennial International Conference was held on 9th-11th September 2015 at Senate House, University College, London, UK. Keynote speakers were: Suzanne Beeke, Lisa Edmonds, David Howard, Jane Marshall, Cathy Price and Jason Warren, and there were many fascinating and informative platform presentations and a range of excellent posters too, with contributions from the UK and around the world. Thanks to the UCL team for organizing and hosting, in the iconic setting of Senate House.

BAS was able to provide grants to a number of people, from the BAS Conference Support Fund, to enable them to attend the conference. Feedback was very positive and some reflections from one of the delegates supported by the Fund are set out below.



Rupert Leach, Honorary Research Assistant, UCL Institute of Neurology, and a person with aphasia writes:

“The conference was a great success and it is very interesting for me and the ‘patience’ point of view. I was worried if the talks were bit too academic but no, I understand the slides and the lectures and it was fun. I think the audience was very enthusiastic which help me to see wider picture about speech therapy and aphasia.

I was very interesting about session of technology and self-administered speech therapy. I think's the only way to get speech therapy after the NHS finished (normally

6-8 weeks) is online. There is more people surviving a stroke but there is so few speech therapist - add dementia, alzheimer and brain injures - it is impossible the job without speech therapy software.

I have a 2 suggestions which I hope its useful...

There is connection of games/medical software and speech therapy software. I was thing you could a rich games software maker to sponsor the event or just the exhibitions. The money raised can support a more initiatives, like the Aphasia Seed Fund.

More trials. I was looking the BAS site, the is not really a trials site. I know in the Tavistock Trust site the is a useful software called 'Aphasia Software Finder', we need a trials 'finder' at the BAS site. The is lots of trials for speech therapy and language, we can to collect the all results of the trials and for up coming trials.

Thank for the wonderful 3 days and I have learned so much."

So...are you considering attending a conference in 2016? Do you need financial support?

The **BAS Conference Support Fund** offers two types of support: **BAS Events Grants** and **Non-BAS Events Grants**. Overseas members may only apply to attend UK conferences. Support for non-BAS conferences is only available to people who have been BAS members for at least a year. Student members of BAS are eligible.

Funding is available whether or not you are presenting work, but priority is given to presenters. Awards can cover registration, accommodation, travel expenses and other essentials.

There will be two application deadlines in 2016: Friday 22 January at midnight, and Friday 10 June at midnight.

For more information and application forms, go to <http://www.bas.org.uk/index.php/bas-conference-support-fund/>

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. If you have suggestions

for topics for future meetings or your institution would be willing to host a meeting, please email research-in-progress@bas.org.uk

Our next meeting will be in Manchester in **Spring 2016** and more information will be available nearer the time on the website and via email to members.

BAS Initiatives in Aphasia Seed Fund

This year's Initiatives in Aphasia Seed Fund deadline will be **March 2016**, with more information to follow on the BAS website. Applicants can apply for up to £1000, to support activities that involve and benefit people with aphasia and their family members/carers. Examples include: support for events, new initiatives in aphasia, focus groups, or pilot research. Activities may be led by or organised with the involvement of people with aphasia. You can read more about the IASF and how to apply [here](#)

You can see more about projects from recent years who were successful in gaining funding [here](#)

Meet the BAS Committee...

There have been a number of changes to the committee over the past 12 months, with some longstanding members stepping down, and new volunteers stepping up. To find out more about the group of therapists, academics and researchers who help run BAS, and their roles, please click [here](#)

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 BAS is pleased to announce this year's student prize winners:

Project Prize winner is **Alexandra Hankin** (Supervisor - Dr. Lotte Meteyard, University of Reading) for her project 'The Effectiveness of Dialogue Training in Non-fluent Aphasia and Apraxia of Speech: A Case Study'

Essay Prize winner is **Anje Wessels** (Supervisor - Dr Carolyn Bruce, UCL) for her essay 'Recovery from aphasia is a function of many interacting factors'.

Well done to both students.

Research Round-up

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

- Reading experiences and use of supports by people with chronic aphasia
- Decision-making, cognition, and aphasia: developing a foundation for future discussions and inquiry.
- How to constrain and maintain a lexicon for the treatment of progressive semantic naming deficits: Principles of item selection for formal semantic therapy.
- Assessment and treatment of short-term and working memory impairments in stroke aphasia: a practical tutorial.
- A systematic review of the impact of stroke on social support and social networks: associated factors and patterns of change.
- 'That doesn't translate': The role of evidence-based practice in disempowering speech pathologists in acute aphasia management.

News from Speakability

Melanie Derbyshire writes...

'the transition of Speakability as part of the Stroke Association is progressing well. A new Aphasia Advisory Committee has been formed to include people with aphasia alongside professionals who work with people who have aphasia (however caused). The Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee both have personal experience of stroke and aphasia.

We are working with SA regional staff to support existing Speakability Self-Help Groups and to develop new Speakability Groups in areas where long-term, self-led support is not yet available but where individuals have expressed they would like to start something.

Speakability representatives recently attended the General Assembly meeting of the Aphasia International Association (of which Speakability was a founder member). Janet Rockliffe who has personal experience of stroke and aphasia was appointed as a member of the AIA Board. The Association (AIA) is currently raising international awareness of Aphasia through its Word by Word campaign, launched in October. Keep up to date by following @speakabilityADA on twitter'

News from Connect, the Communication Disability Network

Sheffield drop-in for people with aphasia – now open...

Led by peer leaders with aphasia and supported by trained volunteers, Connect's Sheffield drop-in is now meeting every fortnight. Connect drop-ins are informal and friendly, and are a great opportunity for people with aphasia to meet in a warm and welcoming setting where they can regain confidence. To make a referral please contact helenmann@ukconnect.org Full details about this drop-in can be found [here](#). Do look at '[what's on in my area](#)' to read about Connect's work nationwide. Sheffield drop-in has been launched with funds from the Big Lottery

New! Wandsworth Carer to Carer Befriending scheme

This new befriending service is for those who are caring for someone with aphasia who would like to *share* their experiences, and also for those who would like to *meet* a carer. Full details are in the [Wandsworth carer to carer](#) leaflet. To make a referral please email info@ukconnect.org

Connect also provides a wide range of additional services across the London Borough of Wandsworth including conversation groups. Search 'Wandsworth' at www.ukconnect.org and follow the links.

Eva Park – virtual world for people with aphasia.

Researchers from the Division of Language and Communication Science and the Centre for Human-Computer Interaction Design (HCID) at City University London - with funding from the Stroke Association - have developed an online virtual world for people with aphasia called **EVA Park**. EVA Park is a tranquil and engaging place, with green spaces, wildlife and functional locations such as hairdressers and cafes.

City's new film enables you to see Eva Park in action and hear the views of its users. You can hear the personal stories of John and Lorraine, who face the daily frustrations of aphasia, and learn about how EVA Park made a difference to them. www.city.ac.uk/news/2015/november/city-academics-launch-new-eva-park-film/

Eva Park has also been featured in the Huffington Post – click on the link to see the article

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/lucy-maddox/speech-recovery-technology_b_8512246.html

International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference

The next IARC takes place from **14 - 16 December 2016** and will be held at City University, London. Click [here](#) for more information, including the keynote speakers.

RCSLT Aphasia resources

Members of the UK's Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists may be interested to know that the new Clinical Resources area is now available on their website. These webpages bring together information and resources on 24 clinical topics all in one place and include a section on aphasia. RCSLT members can find it at http://www.rcslt.org/clinical_resources/Topic_areas

Stroke Association grants

The Stroke Association is inviting grant applications for project grants in the field of stroke. The closing date for applications is 5pm Wednesday, 3rd February 2016. The grant will be awarded in July 2016. Project Grants cover the whole spectrum of stroke research - from prevention and risk factors, through to treatment and rehabilitation in a clinical setting and longer-term in the community. Click [here](#) to see the application information.

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 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 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 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.

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