

Working with people with aphasia to create guidelines for teaching student SLTs about the condition.

Back in the autumn of 2023, Dyscover and UCL partnered up to run a MSc final year project.

BAS have funded my time as co supervisor on the project. Lead supervisor was Jennie Grassly, who coordinates the module 'Management of Communication Difficulties, Language and Cognition (acquired)' on the MSc programme at UCL.

The aim of the project was to produce guidance for educators to improve and enhance the way that they teach Speech and Language Therapy students about aphasia.

Over the course of the academic year, 3 student SLTs collaborated with 20 'co researchers' - 15 men and women who are living with aphasia and 5 family members of people with aphasia. All co researchers were members of Dyscover, a community aphasia organisation in Surrey (www.dyscover.org.uk)

Our students used the Nominal Group Technique to gather and collate the views of people with aphasia, their family members, and fellow students.



All stakeholders voted strongly in favour of involving people with aphasia and their family members in teaching student SLTs. There was agreement that students should meet several people with different types of aphasia, and that teaching should include both the practical and emotional impact on the lives of individuals and their families. Pre-recorded videos, online or in person teaching were all considered acceptable ways to deliver teaching.

We presented the project via a poster at the 2024 BAS International conference in September, which was well received by colleagues in the aphasia world.

I have also created a 7 minute aphasia friendly summary of the project.

Search You Tube 'People with aphasia teaching student Speech and Language Therapists', or click below.



<https://youtu.be/XeISJYKhgzE?feature=shared>

We are delighted that the guidelines resulting from this project are now being implemented and evaluated. Two more MSc students are using the guidelines to co create 5 aphasia teaching sessions at UCL with people who have aphasia. Surveys will be used to evaluate the impact on all stakeholders.

Rosemary Townsend Lead SLT, PPA service at Dyscover 19.11.24

