54th Clinical Aphasiology Conference 2025

Conference Abstracts

Updated May 20, 2025

Wednesday May 28
NIDCD Research Symposium

NIDCD Research Symposium in Clinical Aphasiology (RSCA): Keynote Lecture
"Sociocultural Considerations in the Cognitive Assessment of American Indians and Alaska Natives"
Steven Verney, PhD, Professor of Psychology at the University of New Mexico
American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) peoples experience disproportionately high physical, educational, and mental health inequities relative to the general U.S. population. Cognitive assessments have been developed for and normed on the White majority population, yet valid assessments are urgently needed for Natives. This presentation will offer an overview of the vast AI/AN cultural diversity and the multiple sociocultural considerations that may affect the appropriateness and usefulness of cognitive assessment including education, culture, socioeconomic factors, and socialization factors. Research highlighting sociocultural factors in a large sample of older American Indians will be presented. Guidelines for clinical practice and recommendations for research will also be offered.

NIDCD Research Symposium in Clinical Aphasiology (RSCA): Invited Speaker
"Aphasia rehabilitation for Spanish speakers with aphasia: Insights from the US, Peru, and Colombia"
Yina Quique, PhD, Assistant professor University of New Mexico (UNM)
The consequences of aphasia are magnified in Spanish speakers due to 1) a lack of research that accounts for linguistic and cultural differences (e.g., over 85% of worldwide aphasia research has focused on English speakers) and 2) barriers to healthcare access. Further, there is a lack of aphasia rehabilitation research that accounts for the lived experiences of Spanish speakers with aphasia in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), where stroke is the leading cause of disability for people under 70. First, this talk will focus on the pilot results of an adaptive software-based treatment for Spanish speakers with aphasia in the US and Colombia. This work seeks to increase the evidence base for this population and increase access to care via open-source software. Then, the talk will explore usual aphasia rehabilitation care in Peru and Colombia from the perspectives of SLPs working in these countries.

Platform Session 1: Advancing Treatment Methods I

"Developing a theory of aphasia and its recovery using large language models"
Nichol Castro[1] & Sameer Ashaie[2]
[1]University at Buffalo
[2]Shirley Ryan AbilityLab
Advancing precision rehabilitation of aphasia requires a formal theory of aphasia and its recovery that specifies key variables and their causal relationships. Current approaches are limited in analyzing the multitude of variables and causal relationships important for rehabilitation. Here, large language models (LLMs) were used to identify key variables and construct causal networks for the topics "aphasia diagnosis" and "aphasia recovery". The results demonstrate what variables to target in rehabilitation. Further, the LLM-derived causal networks align with prior causal networks based on empirical data, demonstrating the utility of LLMs in theory development and precision rehabilitation.

"PICTURE-IT: A first look at the randomized crossover treatment trial for aphasia"
Melissa D. Stockbridge[1], Lindsey Kelly[1], Michael Colavito[1], Ashley Raman[1], Argye Hillis[1]
[1]Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Prior studies have highlighted the importance of the right hemisphere in recovery from aphasia due to left hemisphere stroke. We developed a therapy that engages right hemisphere-dominant visuospatial skills and pragmatics to target nouns and verbs within utterances, "PICTURE IT." The aim of this randomized crossover pilot study was to see if some participants improve more with PICTURE IT compared to an established lexical approach. Average improvements in communication skills were similar across treatments, order, and subacute vs chronic, but individuals often responded better to one or the other. Future studies will identify reasons patients respond better to one treatment or the other.

"ECoLoGiC-Tx: treatment outcomes and fidelity for participants with aphasia and their clinicians"
Marion Leaman[1], Lisa A. Edmonds[2], Jacob J. Oleson[3], Kristine N. Williams [1]
[1]University of Kansas Medical Center
[2]Teachers College, Columbia University
[3]University of Iowa
This follow-up study investigated the impact of ECoLoGiC Treatment on ten people with moderate and severe aphasia, and evaluated feasibility/fidelity of treatment delivery by clinicians. 9/10 participants showed significant improvement in aphasia severity, on test batteries, patient/family-reported outcomes, and in spontaneous conversation and monologue, with excellent maintenance. Clinicians delivered treatment with high fidelity (mean: 97.5%), with a student clinician's fidelity paralleling that of experienced speech-language pathologists. Robust findings on treatment impact and clinical deliverability provide a strong foundation for implementation of ECoLoGiC Treatment in the field.

Platform Session 2: Understanding and Analyzing Discourse

"Discourse planning and production in post-stroke aphasia: The role of executive function on pauses and clauses"
Gayle DeDe[1], Christos Salis[2], Arpita Bose[3]
[1]Temple University
[2]Newcastle University
[3]University of Reading
People with aphasia have executive functioning (EF) difficulties in addition to discourse production difficulties, yet studies utilising real-time measures and EF difficulties are restricted to only two. In 16 people with mixed aphasia and EF severities, we studied the role of EF on discourse production through linguistic and temporal analyses of pauses elicited from Cinderella narrations. People with better EF paused more before they produced semantically complete clauses and paused more between rather than within clauses. People with worse EF, paused more within rather than between sentences, suggesting more attempts to repair clauses (successfully or unsuccessfully).

"Connected speech derived language measures for distinguishing PPA variants in Spanish-speaking individuals" *JEDI (NIDCD RSCA Fellow)
Andrew Collins[1], Lokesha Pugalenthi[2], Sonia-Karin Marqués Kiderle[1], Camille Wagner Rodríguez[1], Jan Christian Holst Chaires[1], Júlia Filella Mercé[3], Whendy Avila Motta[1], Ana Elisa Quiñonez[1], Maya L. Henry[1], Ignacio Illán-Gala[3], Juan Fortea Ormaechea[3], Alberto Lleo Bisa[3], Stephanie M. Grasso[1], Miguel Angel Santos Santos[3]
[1]University of Texas at Austin
[2]Rice University
[3]institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques Sant Pau

Primary progressive aphasia (PPA) is a neurodegenerative syndrome marked by gradual speech and/or language decline. The diagnosis of PPA and its subtypes is a lengthy process, but automatically-derived linguistic measures may offer a practical approach to identification. Picture descriptions were analyzed

using traditional and novel linguistic measures in Spanish speakers. Findings aligned with prior work showing the expected pattern of language deficits in connected speech across variants. Novel measures designed to leverage unique features of Spanish morphosyntax showed sensitivity in differentiating variants and further characterize the manifestation of PPA in Spanish speakers.

Poster Session 1 (NIDCD RSCA)

1.

"Training SLP graduate students to lead aphasia conversation groups: Outcomes and feedback"

Brandi BeCoats[1], Heather Dial[1], Lynn Maher[1]

[1]University of Houston

Effective training is critical to enhance novice facilitators competence in leading aphasia conversation groups. Facilitators must learn to avoid behaviors that negatively impact people with aphasia's participation in group conversations and skillfully employ behaviors that promote participation. This study evaluates novice SLP graduate student clinician's performance and feedback on a training program designed to improve facilitator performance that included instruction on evidence-based effective facilitation, peer/self-assessments, and directed feedback. Improvements to the training program based on student feedback will also be discussed.

2.

"Dissociations between semantic and phonological working memory in primary progressive aphasia"

Kathleen Bradbury-John[1], Guillem Olivé[2], Sonia Marqués-Kiderle[3], Camille Wagner Rodriguez[3], Antoni Rodríguez-Fornells[2], Júlia Filella-Mercè[4], Stephanie M. Grasso[3], Miguel Ángel Santos-Santos[4], Heather Dial[1]

[1]University of Houston

[2]L'Hospitalet de Llobregat

[3]University of Texas at Austin

Evidence from healthy controls (HC) and stroke-induced aphasia supports domain-specific systems for semantic and phonological working memory (WM). No study has explored these constructs in primary progressive aphasia (PPA). This study investigated Spanish-adapted category and rhyme probe tasks to assess semantic and phonological WM in HC, nonfluent (nfvPPA) and logopenic (lvPPA) PPA. HC showed no difference across tasks. Compared to HC, the nfvPPA group performed worse on rhyme probe but had intact category probe span, whereas the lvPPA group performed worse on both probe tasks. These findings support the dissociation between these WM systems and provide a potential diagnostic tool for PPA.

3.

"A study of variability in BATS story retelling performance using generalizability theory"

Alexis Doyle Connolly[1], Anna Liu[1], Pauline Stokes[1], Jacquie Kurland[1]

[1]University of Massachusetts Amherst

This study uses Generalizability Theory to identify sources of variability in performance on the Brief Assessment of Transactional Success (BATS). We analyzed data from BATS test development that scored story retells using main concept analysis. We estimated sources of error for three facets: storyteller, rater, and stimuli. Stimuli contributed meaningfully to variability in scores, whereas rater did not. We manipulated the number of stimuli and found that three were sufficient to achieve stable generalizability and index of dependability coefficients. Two stimuli, "Bicycle Boy" and "Ferguson", were too easy and difficult for most PWAs; we recommend using them selectively in future studies.

4.

"Comparing community-identified and federally funded rehabilitation priorities for stroke survivors with aphasia"

Mara Goodman[1] & William Evans[1]
[1]University of Pittsburgh

High-quality aphasia rehabilitation requires a strong evidence base informed by client perspectives. However, it is not clear if the current priorities of funded aphasia research fully align with self-identified community priorities. Community priorities were identified via a structured narrative literature review and compared to the primary outcomes of recent aphasia clinical trials. Results found that stroke survivors with aphasia prioritize functional rehabilitation. However, the majority of clinical trials describe impairment-focused primary outcomes. Findings highlight a potential disconnect in rehabilitation priorities, hindering the delivery of evidence-based person-centered care.

5.

"Examining large language models' ability to generate main concepts for discourse analysis" *

Ankita Gupta[1], Marisa Hudspeth[1], Polly Stokes[1], Brendan O'Connor[1], Jacquie Kurland[1]
[1]University Of Massachusetts Amherst

Several clinical tools have emerged to measure change in real-world communication among patients with aphasia using story retelling. However, for aphasic discourse analysis, these tools often require manual curation of main concepts (MCs) from a story, which limits their scalability. In this study, we investigate large language models' ability to generate reliable and concise lists of MCs for novel stories that can be reviewed by clinicians. Our results demonstrate that models can generate a concise list of relevant MCs for a story. Our approach can enable adaptation of assessment tools to personalized, culturally diverse stories, potentially revolutionizing aphasia intervention.

6.

"Multidimensional cognitive deficits in the aphasic and amnestic variants of Alzheimer's disease"

Shalom Henderson[1], James Rowe[2], Matthew Lambon[3]
[1]Boston University
[2]University of Cambridge
[3]Ralph University of Cambridge

There is ongoing debate about whether Alzheimer's disease (AD) phenotypes are distinct entities or represent positions within a graded multidimensional space. The severity of patients, granularity of testing, nature of the assessment, and differences in cross-sectional versus longitudinal study design make it difficult to draw definitive conclusions between the two hypotheses. In our two-part investigation, we examined the comparative distributions of cognitive performance in patients diagnosed with typical AD, logopenic variant of primary progressive aphasia (lvPPA), and posterior cortical atrophy (n = 413) and conducted a deep phenotype study of lvPPA compared with typical AD (n = 27).

7.

"Treating noun retrieval impairment in the logopenic variant of primary progressive aphasia"

Fatima Jebahi[1] & Aneta Kielar[1]
[1]The University of Arizona

The logopenic variant of primary progressive aphasia (lvPPA) is characterized by lexical retrieval deficits, with nouns affected more severely than verbs. This study evaluated a multimodal intervention combining elements from Verb Network Strengthening Treatment, structured cueing hierarchies, and orthographic homework to enhance noun retrieval in lvPPA. Three participants completed an ABA multiple baseline study targeting incorrectly named nouns. Significant gains were observed for trained nouns and generalized to untrained nouns. This intervention leveraged verb-noun relationships and structured cueing to improve lexical retrieval, providing a promising treatment approach for lvPPA.

8.
"Development and validation of the Animated Aphasia Test (AAT) for assessing sentence production Deficits in Aphasia"
Zeinab Khoshhal Mollasaraei[1], William Matchin[1], Gregory Hickok[2], Dirk B. den Ouden[1], Julius Fridriksson[1]
[1]University of South Carolina
[2]University of California, Irvine
This study introduces a novel test addressing sentence production deficits in aphasia, progressing from object naming to action naming and active/passive sentence production, comprehension, and repetition using consistent lexical items. It efficiently identifies breakdowns, is quick to administer, easy to score, and minimizes extralinguistic prompts. Animated scenes enhance ecological validity for action naming. Results from 15 subjects demonstrated strong construct validity (e.g., correlations with WAB and NAVS tasks) and excellent reliability (α = 0.97). Performance variability across tasks highlights its diagnostic value, making it a practical tool for research and clinical settings.

9.
"Ethnoracial and linguistic disparities in speech-language intervention for primary progressive aphasia" *JEDI
Rylee Manning [1], Maria F. Quiñones Vieta [1], Wenfu Bao [1], Lucas Ansín Gómez [2], Jo-Ali Acosta [1], Jessica de Leon[3], Júlia Filella Mercè [4], Estefanía García Hernandez [4], Karla P. Gutiérrez Sánchez [5], Jan C. Holst Chaires[1], Sonia K. Marqués-Kiderle [1], Jordi Matías-Guiu [2], Núria Montagut Colomer [6], Camille A. Wagner Rodríguez [1], Miguel A. Santos Santos [4], Maya L. Henry [1], Stephanie M. Grasso [1]
[1]University of Texas at Austin
[2]Universidad Complutense de Madrid
[3]University of California, San Francisco
[4]Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques Sant Pau
[5]Instituto Nacional de Neurología y Neurocirugía Manuel Velasco Suárez
[6]Hospital Clínic de Barcelona
Evidence increasingly documents the benefits of speech-language intervention for primary progressive aphasia (PPA) and primary progressive apraxia of speech (PPAOS). This project extends and updates a prior systematic review to analyze participant demographics related to ethnoracial and linguistic diversity, as well as eligibility criteria utilized in current intervention studies. Results highlight a lack of diversity, with most participants being English-speaking and White. These findings emphasize the need for inclusive research practices to ensure interventions for PPA and PPAOS are effective and accessible for diverse populations.

10.
"Core lexicon analysis of a storytelling task in Korean-speaking individuals with aphasia" *JEDI
Jimin Park[1], Sujin Choi[1], So Eun Kim[1], Hana Kim[2], Jee Eun Sung[1]
[1]Ewha Womans University
[2]University of South Florida
This study developed core lexicon checklists for nouns and verbs from a storytelling task in Korean across three age groups and applied the lists of core nouns and verbs to people with and without aphasia. Results revealed that persons with aphasia (PWA) produced significantly lower core verbs compared to cognitively healthy adults, with core verbs identified as a key predictor of aphasia quotient. This finding suggests that morpho-syntactic demands of verbs hinder PWA from producing core verbs in storytelling tasks. Our findings align with previous research on English-speaking PWA, demonstrating the clinical utility of core verb checklists in assessing overall aphasia severity.

11.

"Agrammatic features at the discourse-level in people with different aphasia types"
Soomin Kim[1], Adam Jacks[1], Katarina Haley[1]
[1]University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Using discourse samples, agrammatic features were compared across people with different aphasia types and people without stroke. Transcripts of 49 participants' Cinderella stories were analyzed for mean length of utterance in morphemes (MLUm), proportion of verbs to total words (verb percentage), and grammatical morpheme (GM) omissions. While MLUm and verb percentage did not differentiate clinical groups from the controls, GM omissions did but were not unique to Broca's aphasia. Verb inflection omissions were particularly common. The results suggest that GMs provide valuable diagnostic information for linguistic discourse analyses of aphasia.

12.
"Discourse task effects on verb production in mild cognitive impairment"
Eunseop Lee[1], Hyejin Park[2], Eun Jin Paek[1]
[1]The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
[2]University of Mississippi
Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to dementia often manifests early through semantic deficits. Verbs, categorized by semantic weight as light or heavy, may provide deeper insights into these cognitive-linguistic impairments. We compared light and heavy verb production between individuals with MCI and healthy older adults across discourse contexts. Significant group effects were found for the frequency of light verbs, but not heavy verbs or ratio of both verb types. Task effects, particularly in narrative tasks like Cinderella, elicited higher verb production. Theoretical and clinical implications will be discussed regarding the impact of discourse contexts on language performance in MCI.

13.
"Movie-viewing reveals novel patterns of emotional and visual processing in post-stroke aphasia"
Manuel Marte[1]
[1]Sargent College, Boston University
This study investigated naturalistic processing during movie-watching in 35 persons with chronic post-stroke aphasia (PWA) and 50 healthy controls (HC) using continuous emotional valence ratings, eye-tracking, and movie-specific language tasks. PWA showed distinct patterns of emotional reactivity and visual attention during movie-watching. The complexity of moment-to-moment emotional ratings decreased with increasing aphasia severity. Indices derived from the movie-watching paradigm alone robustly differentiated PWA from controls, suggesting that movie-viewing paradigms may enhance our understanding of real-world communication challenges in aphasia.

14.
"Behavioral changes resulting from the treatment of error awareness"
Daniel Salomon[1], Shannon Mauszycki[2], Julie Wambaugh[1]
[1]University of Utah
[2]Independent
A novel treatment of error awareness (EA) was administered to two persons with aphasia and co-occurring apraxia of speech (A-AOS), with a baseline EA level below 70%. Treatment aimed to improve EA by increasing awareness of biofeedback during single-word production. The outcome measures were EA and word production accuracy. Other behaviors, such as self-corrections, were observed and codified as well. Both participants saw very large treatment effects in EA and production accuracy for treated items. Reports from the participants' spouses indicated the generalization of skills in day-to-day life.

15.
"Shortened naming stimulus exposure time reveals temporal processing impairments in aphasia"

Matthew Sayers[1], Jamie Reilly[2], Nadine Martin[2]
[1]Shirley Ryan AbilityLab
[2]Temple University
Including response delays in language tasks can alter accuracy in people with aphasia: some improve, some worsen, and some show no change. Patterns also diverge within individuals depending on the language task (i.e., naming vs. repetition). We shortened naming picture exposure time to be comparable with spoken words in repetition to investigate the effects of stimulus duration on accuracy in delay conditions. While this manipulation did not reduce diverging effects of response delay on naming and repetition, it did result in general reductions in accuracy and revealed more temporal processing impairments. We discuss visual semantic activation's role in the time course of word retrieval.

16.
"The impact of declarative memory on word retrieval in aphasia"
Anna Serrichio[1] & Chaleece Sandberg[1]
[1]Penn State University
Declarative and procedural memory support different aspects of language. Declarative memory, which is reliant on the hippocampus and supports word form-meaning associations, may be crucial for word retrieval in aphasia. Here, we examined memory performance, treatment naming outcomes, and hippocampal volume and resting-state connectivity in 18 people with aphasia (PWA) following a word naming treatment. Although declarative memory performance was not significantly linked to hippocampal metrics or naming outcomes, exploratory analyses revealed that it predicted performance on the Western Aphasia Battery (WAB). This highlights the role of declarative memory in language abilities in PWA.

17.
"Cross-cultural differences in animal fluency between Korean- and English-speaking individuals with Alzheimer's disease" *JEDI
Junyoung Shin[1,] Adolfo García[2], Michael Scimeca[3], Swathi Kiran[3], Jee Eun Sung[1]
[1]Ewha Womans University
[2]Universidad de San Andrés
[3]Sargent College, Boston University
This study examined cross-cultural differences in animal fluency between Korean- and English-speakers with Alzheimer's disease (AD) focusing on culture-agnostic and culture-specific (Asian zodiac animals) categories. Korean participants produced more zodiac animals, with larger zodiac animal clusters and more zodiac switches than English speakers. The number of zodiac switches was the strongest predictor of general cognitive function for the Korean group. Results suggest that while animals are considered universal categories in semantic fluency tasks, they may yield differential strategies, with culture-specific categories offering distinct clinical insights into cognitive decline in AD.

18.
"Lexical drivers of silent reading comprehension deficits in acquired alexia"
Candace van der Stelt[1], Sarah Wallace[1], Elizabeth Madden[2], Michael Walsh Dickey[1]
[1]University of Pittsburgh
[2]Florida State University
Alexia diagnoses are based on error patterns in reading aloud. However, alexia produces deficits in both reading aloud and silent reading comprehension, and the latter is more relevant to daily life. Yet, mechanisms of breakdown in silent reading are poorly understood. Understanding silent reading comprehension deficits is vital for identification of appropriate interventions that promote reacquisition of functional reading performance. This study examines mechanisms of silent reading difficulty at the

lexical level in individuals with alexia as a group and within alexia subtypes. We found that words with weak semantic representations result in lower silent reading comprehension accuracy.

Thursday May 29
CAC Invited Keynote Address

"From concept to impact: Building behavioral interventions that work"
Laura N. Gitlin, Ph.D., FGSA, FAAN, Distinguished University Professor and Dean Emerita of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, Drexel University; Founding Executive Director, The AgeWell Collaboratory; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing
This talk provides an overview of intervention science and its relationship to implementation science. Highlighted are considerations for developing and evaluating impactful interventions that optimize clinical relevance and implementation potential. Emphasized is the iterative developmental process, importance of having a theory-base and testing mechanisms of action (why an intervention works), engaging end-users and other interested partners and understanding the context in which an intervention will be implemented if effective. Tools for developing an intervention are also presented along with a case example, the Adult Day Service Plus trial, to demonstrate these main points and the long iterative road to implementation.

Platform Presentations 3: Advancing Treatment Research

"Guideline adherence in post-stroke aphasia and related disorders: examining post-acute service utilization"
Robert Cavanaugh[1], Casey Tilton[2], Elizabeth Mormer[3]
[1]MGH Institute of Health Professions
[2]Northeastern University
[3]University of Pittsburgh
Evidence-based guidelines for speech-language therapy following stroke specify early therapy initiation, but post-acute service utilization is not well described. We examined predictors of post-acute speech-language pathology (SLP) service utilization among stroke survivors with aphasia, dysarthria, and/or dysphagia using U.S. claims data. Only 44% received SLP services across conditions, with greater utilization associated with male gender, stroke severity, and several comorbidities. These findings highlight significant gaps in care delivery, systematic disparities in utilization, and the need for condition-specific approaches to improving post-stroke rehabilitation care access.

"What if it was a buzzword? Implementation science in neurogenic communication disorders"
Natalie Douglas[1]
[1]University of Louisiana Lafayette
Reflecting on 8 studies addressing neurogenic communication disorders, this session revisits lessons learned to inform future research. Key themes include grounding interventions in lived realities, embedding equity as a foundational principle, balancing fidelity with adaptability, and challenging linear approaches to implementation. Attendees will gain insights and strategies to align research with the needs of complex care settings while fostering sustainable improvements in care delivery.

Audrey Holland Memorial Platform Presentations 4

"Conversation treatment outcomes for individuals with mild profiles of aphasia"

Gayle DeDe[1], Elizabeth Hoover[2], Gretchen Szabo [3], Francine Kohen[1], Sarah Vitale[2], Nicholas McCloskey[1]
[1]Temple University
[2]Boston University
[3]Adler Aphasia Center
This study examined whether goal-directed group conversation treatment benefits individuals with mild aphasia (IwMiA) and how to optimize the treatment for this population. IwMiA (n=88) were quasi-randomly assigned to large treatment group (6-8 participants), dyad treatment group (2 participants), or a delayed-treatment/control group. Large groups were either mixed or homogeneous with respect to aphasia severity of other group members. Treatment was one hour, twice weekly, for 10 weeks. IwMiA benefited from conversation treatment administered in both dyad and large group settings, but there was evidence that mixed groups offered greater benefits than homogenous groups for IwMiA on naming.

"Examining reliability, concurrent and face validity of 'the wall question' as a standalone measure of quality of life"
Esther Kim[1], Jamie Azios[2], Shannan Love[3], Melodie T. Chan[4], Katie Strong[5], Shumway Elyse[4], Nina Simmons-Mackie[4], Aura Kagan[4]
[1]University of Alberta
[2]University of Louisiana at Lafayette
[3]University of Alberta
[4]Aphasia Institute
[5]Central Michigan University
The Wall Question is a single question from The Assessment for Living with Aphasia (ALA), depicting aphasia as a 'wall' and designed to gain insight into the impact of aphasia on one's life. The purpose of this study was to examine the reliability and validity of The Wall Question as a standalone measure of quality of life. Fifty-five people with aphasia (PWA) across North America participated in this study. The Wall Question demonstrated good test-retest validity and correlated with two other instruments measuring similar constructs. PWA considered multiple factors related to the impact aphasia had on their life when answering the Wall Question.

Poster Session 2

1.
"Picture-specific effects on cross-linguistic comparisons in aphasia" *JEDI
Yae Rin Yoo[1], JiminPark[1], Jee Eun Sung[1]
[1]Ewha Womans University
This study examined cross-linguistic differences between Korean- and English-speaking people with aphasia (PWA) in two picture description tasks (Cat Rescue, Refused Umbrella), focusing on nouns, predicates, and their pairings in sentences. In Cat Rescue, English-PWA more frequently produced get down, pairing with fireman (agent) and cat (theme), while Korean-PWA more frequently used climb up, pairing with cat (agent). In Refused Umbrella, both groups described the rainy scene using rain as a noun or predicate. The findings suggest that the Cat Rescue may be less culturally familiar for Korean-PWA, emphasizing the need to consider cultural familiarity with picture stimuli in assessments.

2.
"Decoding bilingual reading impairment: A cross-linguistic perspective on alexia and aphasia" *JEDI
Michael Scimeca[1] & Swathi Kiran[1]
[1]Sargent College, Boston University
Reading impairment remains understudied in bilingual aphasia, with limited evidence-based resources for evaluating alexia in Spanish-English bilinguals with aphasia (BWA). This study investigated the

relationships between pre- and post-stroke reading abilities and the potential role of language background in predicting post-stroke reading impairment. Results revealed pervasive declines in reading ability post-stroke with the magnitude of impairment linked to spoken language performance. Demographic factors, but not language background, predicted impairment patterns. Findings highlight the need for comprehensive reading assessments to explore cross-linguistic patterns in bilingual alexia.

3.
"Navigating texting with aphasia"
Jaime B Lee[1], Jamie Azios[2], Mary McMahon[2]
[1]University of Utah
[2]University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Texting is an increasingly important rehabilitation target; however, little is known about texting with aphasia. This study aims to uncover how people with aphasia (PWA) and their partners navigate texting as a communication modality and how texting changes during recovery. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 11 PWA and their texting partners. Thematic analysis revealed that PWA and their partners operated in a dynamic texting environment that was negotiated over time. Three major themes serving as explanatory mechanisms for understanding how the texting environment was created, maintained, and shifted over time will be discussed.

4.
"Language transcription and analysis web service"
Davida Fromm[1], Houjun Liu[2], Brian MacWhinney[1]
[1]Carnegie Mellon University
[2]Stanford University
A new web service hosted by TalkBank allows for free, fast, and easy automated transcription and morphosyntactic analysis to facilitate discourse analysis by clinicians. Users can choose media files from their computer and indicate the speakers' language and number of speakers. Depending on the sample length, transcription takes from one to several minutes. Users can also choose transcripts to be analyzed (in seconds) to get part-of-speech and grammatical feature information as well as grammatical relations between words. Transcripts are generated in CHAT format and can be analyzed further using a wide range of CLAN commands.

5.
"People with severe aphasias' perspectives on practices in aphasia groups"
Eleanor Gulick[1] & Brent Archer[2]
[1]University of Wyoming
[2]Bowling Green State University
This study explores the perceptions of people with severe aphasia (PWSA) regarding how aphasia groups should function in order to support their membership and involvement in groups given the impact of their severe aphasia. We used qualitative content analysis to identify critical features of groups based on our interviews of five PWSA. Findings highlight two key areas, group makeup and group interaction dynamics, as key factors in the experience for PWSA. Within these high-level categories, we identified specific decisions and behaviors important to PWSA. These insights offer actionable guidance for facilitators and inform future research to support tailored group delivery.

6.
"Multimodal communication in progressive aphasia: A mixed methods experience sampling study"
Gary Robinaugh[1], Carly Millanski[2], Rachel Tessmer[3], Lisa D. Wauters[2], Stephanie M. Grasso[2], María González-Howard[2], Maya L. Henry[2]
[1]University of Northern Colorado

[2]*University of Texas at Austin*
[3]*VA Pittsburgh*
As speech-language abilities decline, people with PPA may benefit from use of multimodal communication. However, everyday use of communication modalities remains underexplored. We used Experience Sampling Method (ESM) to characterize multimodal communication in five dyads (PPA participants and partners). Participants completed interviews and repeated phone surveys assessing use of 13 modalities. ESM was feasible, but acceptability was influenced by severity of deficits. Results showed diverse modality use, with speech the most frequently used. Thematic analysis highlighted the utility of non-speech modalities. ESM offers potential for characterizing everyday communication behaviors in PPA.

7.
"Underreported variables in AOS treatment studies: Implications for inclusive research" *JEDI
Lauren Bislick[1], Rene Utianski[2], Katarina Haley[3], Kate Nealon[4], Charlotte Purcell[5], Adam Buchwald[6], Julie Wambaugh[7], Rachel Johnson[8]
[1]*University of Central Florida*
[2]*Mayo Clinic*
[3]*University of North Carolina*
[4]*Montclair State University*
[5]*University of South Florida*
[6]*New York University*
[7]*University of Utah*
[8]*Old Dominion University*
Evidence suggests that patient demographics, such as race and ethnicity, may impact outcomes in stroke survivors with communication disorders. To date, however, no studies have addressed the representation of acquired apraxia of speech (AOS) treatment research or examined the impact of these variables on treatment outcomes. The purpose of this study was to examine the proportion of published studies designed to investigate treatment outcomes in adults with AOS that reported the age, sex, race/ethnicity, and language diversity of the participants. While recent studies consistently report participant age and sex, a smaller proportion report participant race/ethnicity and language diversity.

8.
"Motor imagery for enhancing treatment efficacy in apraxia of speech"
Lauren Bislick[1], Stephanie Eaton[1], Julie Wambaugh[2]
[1]*University of Central Florida*
[2]*University of Utah*
Individuals with post-stroke apraxia of speech (AOS) benefit from behavioral intervention but need extensive practice for lasting change. Barriers like cost and access often lead to care discontinuation, especially for the economically disadvantaged. Motor imagery, thought to enhance motor learning by engaging neural networks supporting motor execution, may offer a cost-effective way to supplement therapy and bolster treatment effects. This mixed methods study aims to evaluate: (1) the acceptability and feasibility of the motor imagery protocol and (2) determine the efficacy of motor imagery practice with speech therapy, compared to speech therapy alone in persons with AOS and aphasia.

9.
"Language recovery patterns in bilingual Spanish English adults with aphasia" *JEDI
Monica Hough[1], Jeannine Lederman[1], Isabella Martinez[1], Karina De La Rosa[1], Angelina Stafford[1]
[1]*Florida International University*
The purpose of this pilot study was to examine linguistic patterns of five bilingual Spanish English adults with aphasia. The Boston Diagnostic Aphasia Examination (BDAE) and Bilingual Aphasia Test (BAT) were

administered to all participants in both languages. Data analysis focused on verbal output and auditory comprehension. The results revealed each participant showed unique patterns relative to the two languages, two modalities, and both assessments. Although all participants used their second language more frequently, English, prior to CVA, 3 participants performed better in their first language, Spanish, supporting Ribot's law, thus indicating initial recovery of the first language.

10.
"Validation of an action-related picture stimulus for evaluating discourse production in Korean speaking people with aphasia" *JEDI
Sujin Choi[1], Jimin Park[1], Sejin Oh[1], Jee Eun Sung[1]
[1]Ewha Womans University
Picture description tasks are commonly used to assess discourse production in people with aphasia(PWA). This study validates a new picture, designed to elicit action-related linguistic elements, against the existing standardized picture for Korean-speaking PWA. Results demonstrated concurrent validity, as the new picture was more effective in eliciting diverse linguistic elements. Notably, only the %CIU from the new picture significantly predicted aphasia severity. These findings highlight the importance of stimuli with rich semantic features and complex events in accurately assessing aphasia severity and emphasize the role of syntactic and semantic elements in aphasia evaluation.

11.
"Lexical diversity to identify aphasia from brief narrative monologues"
Katarina Haley[1], Soomin Kim[1], Connor Daughtridge[2], Mark Hirsch[2], Adam Jacks[1], Lorelei Johnson[2], Marcia Rodriguez[1]
[1]University of North Carolina
[2]Atrium Health, Carolinas Rehabilitation
Very mild aphasia is usually not detected on formal aphasia batteries. The purpose of this study was to determine whether two automated measures of lexical diversity, MATTR-5 and WIM, could distinguish mild aphasia in brief discourse samples. 173 left hemisphere stroke survivors and 112 neurotypical controls were given the Quick Aphasia Battery (QAB) and produced monologues in response to two picture-based prompts. The discourse was audio recorded, transcribed, and analyzed for lexical diversity. Both measures distinguished mild aphasia from neurotypical controls, but only WIM differentiated stroke survivors who scored above the QAB cutoff from neurotypical speakers.

12.
"Patient-reported functional communication in acute post-stroke aphasia: What can we glean?"
Isidora Diaz-Carr[1], Erin Meier[2], Melissa D. Stockbridge[1]
[1]Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
[2]Northeastern University, Bouvé College of Health Sciences
We sought to explore the utility of patient-reported functional communication in patients with mild aphasia. Patient responses to the ACOM were recorded acutely and analyzed against objective language measures to find correlations and determine the predictive value of the ACOM in chronic scores. It was found that the ACOM items mentioning events that can occur in the acute setting had the strongest correlations to objective language measures, as patients had the opportunity to assess their abilities, and ACOM items that did not show those strong correlations mentioned scenarios that were scarcely present in an acute setting. Acute ACOM scores were not found to help predict chronic scores.

13.
"Test-retest reliability of resting-state functional connectivity in aphasia"
Jeffrey P. Johnson[1], Michael Walsh Dickey[2], Jason W. Bohland[2], William D. Hula[1]
[1]VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

[2]*University of Pittsburgh*
Resting-state functional connectivity (RSFC) may be a useful method for studying aphasia, but its test-retest reliability in people with aphasia is unknown. We compared two sessions of RSFC data obtained 4 days apart in 14 participants and evaluated the reliability of connections in a whole-brain network, 15 cognitive and language subnetworks, and the left and right hemispheres. We also investigated relationships between reliability and scan duration, edge strength, edge length/distance, and network size. Results indicate that reliability is acceptable at longer scan durations and especially in known subnetworks; it has more complex or subtler relationships with other variables.

14.
"Semantic network analysis of verbal fluency advances understanding of aphasia word retrieval"
Catherine Pham[1], Nichol Castro[2], Jiyeon Lee[1]
[1]*Purdue University*
[2]*University at Buffalo*
This study applies network science to verbal fluency (VF) data to compare lexical retrieval patterns in persons with aphasia (PWAs) and neurologically healthy adults. By constructing and analyzing semantic networks, we highlight differences in lexical organization and retrieval between healthy older adults and PWAs, as well as fluent and nonfluent aphasia subgroups. Our findings demonstrate how network measures offer insights beyond traditional VF analyses utilized to score these tasks in clinical populations.

15.
"The effects of virtual reality on language production"
Si On Yoon[1], Hyejin Park[2], Eun Jin Paek[3], Hana Kim[4], Sunjung Thao[5], Sojung Kim[6], Hee Tae Jung[7]
[1]*New York University*
[2]*University of Mississippi*
[3]*The University of Tennessee Health Science Center*
[4]*University of South Florida*
[5]*University of Central Arkansas*
[6]*West Chester University*
[7]*Indiana University*
Storytelling tasks are commonly used to assess language in neurogenic disorders but often lack ecological validity. Virtual reality (VR) offers an engaging, immersive alternative but may impose cognitive demands that affect language production. This study compared storytelling in 2D pictures versus VR among younger and older adults. Older adults produced more utterances overall but showed reduced linguistic complexity (shorter mean length of utterance) in VR, indicating greater cognitive load. Findings highlight VR's potential to enhance language output while emphasizing the need for adaptive designs to balance cognitive demands and linguistic complexity, particularly in older adults.

16.
"Interaction effects of verbal short-term memory and naming in aphasia"
Courtney Jewell[1], Victoria Diedrichs[2], Natalie Freitag[1], Stacy Harnish[1]
[1]*Ohio State University*
[2]*Northwestern University*
This study aimed to explore how the integrity of verbal STM predicts the naming accuracy of definition stimuli. Controlling for auditory comprehension, verbal STM independently predicted definition naming accuracy. Our results also identified a significant negative interaction between verbal STM and morpheme count, meaning that people with higher verbal STM had greater difficulty naming definitions that contained more morphemes. We hypothesize this to be due to greater activation of lexical

competitors for individuals with stronger verbal STM integrity. Future studies should explore how verbal STM interacts with other cognitive processes to further our understanding of the language network.

17.
"A first look at the MASTERMIND assessment of naming"
Rene Utianski[1], Joseph Duffy[1], Leland Barnard[1], John Stricker[1], Ronald Petersen[1], David Jones[1], Hugo Botha[1]
[1]Mayo Clinic
In line with efforts to promote equitable access to neurologic diagnostics, our team developed MASTERMIND- the Mobile Assessment of Speech To Evaluate, Recognize, and Monitor Indicators of Neurologic health and Disease. One subtest is the MASTERMIND Assessment of Naming, which includes a random assignment of ten pictures from a list of 45 possible words of varied frequency. So far, this naming task has been remotely administered to 138 controls, 26 people with cognitive impairment, 15 with an isolated motor speech disorder, 8 with cognitive concerns, and 6 with aphasia. Accuracy, error patterns, and response times suggest this subtest is feasible to administer for patients with varying cognitive-communication difficulties.

18.
"Cause of death for patients who present with primary progressive apraxia of speech"
Rene Utianski[1]
[1]Mayo Clinic
Apraxia of speech (AOS), a motor speech disorder, can be the initial and sole manifestation of neurodegenerative disease, termed primary progressive apraxia of speech (PPAOS). This study explored causes of death in patients presenting with PPAOS. A retrospective review of 29 patients revealed 15 (52%) succumbed to deterioration from the disease, ten (34%) died from complications associated with dysphagia, three from a brain bleed due to a fall (10%), and one with medical aid in dying (3%). The findings are valuable for counseling and underscore the need for comprehensive care addressing swallowing impairments and systemic disease to prevent or delay causes of death.

19.
"Short-term test-retest dataset of discourse and gesture to inform individual variability"
Brielle Stark[1], Kent Meinert[1], Katelyn Urena[1], Grace Oeding[1], Davida Fromm[2], Brian MacWhinney[2]
[1]Indiana University
[2]Carnegie Mellon University
This dataset was collected to understand inter- and intra-subject variability in spoken language and co-speech gesture in persons with aphasia and older, cognitively healthy adults. Given there are known between- and within-person differences for spoken language across testing sessions and over time, and that language and gesture are outcomes of interest for treatment and longitudinal contexts where change is expected (e.g., improvement with treatment; potential decline over time), it is essential that we consider and interpret such fluctuations. This poster will introduce the study's rationale, methodology and design, and describe currently available data.

20.
"Overwhelmed but curious: Care-partner perspectives on education, resources, and coping after aphasia diagnosis"
Grace Terry[1], Jennifer Brello[1], Stacy Harnish[1]
[1]Ohio State University
Care-partners of people with aphasia (PWA) are faced with unique challenges, as their loved one's loss of communication may create specific barriers to expression, mutual understanding, and interaction (Simmons-Mackie et al., 2010). The present study aims to investigate the perspectives of care-partners of PWA via semi-structured focus groups. During analysis, themes arose from focus groups highlighting the importance of education, the challenging and rewarding aspects of being a care-partner to a PWA, and the power of a support system for care partners. First-hand accounts of care-partners may serve as a guide for clinicians, as well as an important call to action for future studies.

21.
"fMRI outcomes of intensive language action therapy for aphasia: A systematic review"
Anastasia Raymer[1], Helena Claus[1], Alyson Maroyka[1], Sophia McConnell[1]
[1]Old Dominion University
We conducted a systematic review of studies examining neural correlates of intensive language action therapy (ILAT; aka CILT). Following ILAT, left hemisphere activation increased in four cases and language change correlated with left activation increases in one group study. Right hemisphere activation increased in three case studies and one group study; ILAT correlated with right activation increases (one group study) and decreases (one group study). Varied patterns across studies relates in part to the considerable methodological differences employed. Both case and group studies benefit our understanding of neural correlates of ILAT.

22.
"I changed a lot as a human: Implementation of LPAA"
Christen Page[1]
[1]University of Kentucky
Principles of the Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA) within treatment enhance speech-language abilities, functional communication, and quality of life. This pilot study aims to support therapy aligned with LPAA by including perspectives from persons with aphasia (PWA). Focus groups with PWA as well as pre-post assessments revealed increases in confidence, functional communication, and quality of life following 2 semesters of therapy aligned with LPAA. Themes from focus groups align with the components of LPAA. Persons with aphasia also shared the pros and cons of therapy. Future research will investigate pedagogical techniques and explore LPAA implementation by practicing SLPs.

23.
"Comparing emotional facial expressions during discourse by people with and without aphasia"
Chloe Houghton[1], Tyson Harmon[1], Anna Norman[1], Deena Schwen Blackett[2]
[1]Brigham Young University
[2]University of Central Florida
This study investigated the differences in emotional facial expressivity between people with aphasia (PWA) and neurologically healthy control participants. Research assistants coded emotional facial expressions from previously collected personal narrative video samples according to valence, intensity, and duration utilizing a modified Facial Expression Coding System.1 PWA produced less intense negative facial expressions and female PWA produced less intense positive facial expressions than controls without aphasia. Findings suggest that PWA may allocate a larger amount of attentional energy towards language production, resulting in less intense emotional facial expressions.

24.
"Single-word retrieval and discourse ability in aphasia: Partial replication and expanded analysis of discourse"
Christie Carroll-Duhigg[1], Jessica Richardson[1], Sarah Grace Dalton[2], Yu Yu Hsiao[1]
[1]University of New Mexico
[2]University of Georgia
Aphasia assessment and therapy often targets simpler language skills like naming, but successful discourse involves more than just finding the right word - it also requires message clarity, sequencing, and coherence. This study examines how single-word retrieval relates to discourse ability and conducts a confirmatory factor analysis of discourse, focusing on main concept analysis, sequencing, story grammar, and core lexicon as indicators. Results show that single-word retrieval accounts for 46% of the variance in discourse ability. Further details and future research directions will be discussed during the presentation.

25.
"Impact of linguistic and temporal processing complexity on word retrieval in aphasia"
Jessica Obermeyer[1], Robert Wiley[1], Julie Schlesinger[2], Matthew Sayers[3], Nadine Martin[2]
[1]University of North Carolina Greensboro
[2]Temple University
[3]Shirley Ryan AbilityLab
Word retrieval requires activation of semantic, lexical and phonological information which has to be maintained over the time course required to retrieve and produce a word. For some people with aphasia, activation may be weak or transmitted slowly while others may have difficulty maintaining activation for long enough to produce a word. This process can be impacted by linguistic characteristics of the word being retrieved. In this study, we examine the modulating effect of two components of linguistic complexity (long vs. short words and high vs. low frequency words) on temporal processing impairments as measured by a naming task with an immediate and delayed (5-sec) condition.

26.
"EEG delta-beta coupling as a marker of sentence comprehension in aphasia"
M. Blake Rafferty[1], Andrew Bowers[2], Ana Happle[1], Edward C. Brown[3]
[1]New Mexico State University
[2]University of Arkansas
[3]The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Disruptions to the comprehension of multiword linguistic units (i.e., phrases, sentences, etc.) are ubiquitous in post-stroke aphasia. In this study, we investigated whether phase-amplitude coupling (PAC), a neural index of the online integration of structural encoding and linguistic predictions, may contribute to these disruptions. To test this, we recorded EEG from 9 adults with chronic aphasia and 9 controls while they completed a sentence-picture matching task. Results show a significant relationship between PAC and task performance for the adults with aphasia, suggesting that difficulties integrating language structure and statistical information may underlie disrupted comprehension.

27.
"Towards the neurocognitive mechanisms underpinning Semantic Feature Analysis"
Alexander Swiderski[1], Jeffrey P. Johnson[2], Jason W. Bohland[1], Michael Walsh Dickey[1], William D. Hula[2]
[1]University of Pittsburgh
[2]VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
Semantic Feature Analysis improves word production in people with aphasia (PWA), likely through spreading activation of semantic concepts. Using fMRI and Representational Similarity Analysis (RSA), we examined neural correlates of semantic feature generation in five PWA and five healthy adults. Neural dissimilarity matrices were compared to taxonomic, distributional, and experiential semantic models. While no single model consistently predicted neural patterns, distributional and experiential models showed stronger correlations. Results highlight variability in neural representation and suggest exploring links between RSA patterns, lesions, and behavior.

28.
"Feasibility of a novel combined treatment for apraxia of speech"
Claire Jensen[1] & Dallin Bailey[1]
[1]Brigham Young University
Apraxia of speech (AOS) is a motor speech disorder that commonly co-occurs with aphasia. Successful treatments to date have included treatments targeting segmental production and syllable timing, but no treatment has combined the two approaches. In this multiple baseline single subject treatment study, a novel combined treatment was applied in two phases to a participant with chronic AOS and aphasia. The treatment was associated with improvements in sound production accuracy, suggesting that the treatment is feasible, and that further replications and research are needed.

29.
"The effects of teleMCT+DG on people with severe nonfluent aphasia"
Hyejin Park[1], Emily Ward[1], Elizabeth Burklow[1], Sarah Wallace[2]
[1]University of Mississippi
[2]University of Pittsburgh
Multimodal Communication Treatment (MCT) can aid people with nonfluent aphasia in compensating for spoken production impairments. To maximize the ecological validity and generalization to real-life communication, we included a discourse tasks and group interactions on telepractice (teleMCT+DG). The study evaluated its effects on accuracy and modality changes after teleMCT+DG when communicating objects at word and discourse levels for two people with nonfluent (NF) aphasia. The results showed improvement on nonverbal communication modalities but not verbal modality, and more improvement with accuracy for the more severe NF aphasia.

30.
"Replacing do and go: Changes in verb use following ECoLoGiC treatment"
Christa Akers[1] & Marion Leaman[2]
[1]Kean University
[2]University of Kansas Medical Center
Verbs are essential for discourse production and verb retrieval deficits may restrict what is shared during conversation. Semantic verb type analysis categorizes verbs by their intended meaning and can be useful for exploring how individuals with aphasia (IWA) share events, thoughts, and feelings during conversation. ECoLoGiC Treatment is designed to improve the everyday conversational language abilities of IWA. Though ECoLoGiC-Tx does not specifically target verb use, this study explores if treatment changed the frequency and/or types of verbs used during spontaneous conversation. Results indicate that ECoLoGiC-Tx may change the quantity and diversity of verbs used during conversation.

31.
"Establishing the effects of ECoLoGiC treatment adapted for bilingual people with aphasia"
Yael Neumann[1], Marion Leaman[2], Aviva Lerman[3]
[1]Queens College, CUNY
[2]University of Kansas Medical Center
[3]Hadassah Academic College
This study assessed whether an established conversation treatment, ECoLoGiC-Treatment, adapted for bilinguals, can be effective for bilingual people with aphasia (PWA). Two bilingual men, P1 (Hebrew-English, moderate Broca) and P2 (Yiddish-English, mild Anomic), participated in this quasi-experimental, pre-test/post-test single-subject design study, with a six-week follow-up session. Both PWA demonstrated generalization of language improvements across formal test measures, functional communication, and P/FROMs. Gains were maintained at a six-week follow-up. Importantly, improvements were observed across languages and modalities, even on tasks that were not directly targeted in therapy.

Platform Presentations 5: Theatrical improvisation

"Applied improvisation for people with aphasia: Theory, practice, research, joy"
Brooke Hallowell
Theatrical improvisation, or *improv*, has tremendous potential to enhance social, communicative, emotional, and holistic life participation for people with aphasia. Following a brief introduction to improv, we will review the theoretical support and empirical evidence for the influence of improv on social, communicative, emotional, and holistic outcomes. Illustrative examples of people with aphasia and other challenges engaged in diverse in-person and online improv formats will be shared. Finally, we will review frameworks, outcomes, and measures to guide further study in this area. This session will be followed by an interactive experience for CAC participants along with local community members with aphasia.

Friday May 30
Platform Presentations 6: Treatment and Inner speech

"Self-reported inner speech predicts naming treatment outcomes: A single-subject design study"
Mackenzie Fama[1], Haley Anderson[1], Erin Anne Cardman[1], Joelle Cohen[1], Charlotte Kaltenbach[1], Carly Dacanay[1], Alyssa Ranieri[1], Leora Cherney[2]
[1]The George Washington University
[2]Shirley Ryan AbilityLab
Prior research (and patient report) suggests that individuals with aphasia can often retrieve words internally even when they cannot say them aloud. Here, we tested whether this experience of "successful inner speech" can predict learning during a cueing-based naming treatment. In 4 of 5 participants in this single-subject design study, treatment was more effective for words that were reported as successful inner speech items prior to treatment, compared to words reported as unsuccessful inner speech. The participant that did not show the expected effect had the most severe aphasia. These findings suggest that self-reported inner speech is meaningful and may be useful for treatment planning.

"Improvements in inner speech facilitate treated naming outcomes in chronic aphasia"

Brielle Stark[1], Julianne Alexander[1], Emma Stockrahm[1], Reagan Taylor[1], Peyton Nielsen[1], Bailey Barron[1], Prit Kaur[1]
[1]Indiana University
This study investigated whether inner speech facilitated treated naming recovery in aphasia. N=19 with chronic aphasia participated in three pre-treatment naming sessions, nine treatment sessions, and three post-treatment naming sessions. 30 individualized items ("Treated30") were trained using semantic feature analysis. On average, there was a ~59% naming improvement. In a series of mixed models, baseline inner speech, inner speech across the study (which improved by ~40% after treatment), aphasia severity, and interactions, were significant in predicting correct naming post-therapy. Findings suggest that baseline inner speech and, most significantly, improvement in inner speech.

Roundtables

1.
"Acute care aphasia assessment & intervention: Applying the FOURC acute care model"
Alissa Potocnik[1], Melinda Corwin[2], Katarina Haley[3]
[1]Lee's Summit Medical Center
[2]Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
[3]University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Speech-language pathologists in the acute care hospital setting face many challenges and must prioritize assessment and intervention goals in the relatively short time that they spend with patients who have aphasia. This roundtable discussion will focus on a collaborative project designed to learn from and with practicing acute care SLPs regarding best practices for assessing and applying a specific set of assessment principles and goals to patients with aphasia. Using the acute care FOURC model as a foundation, we conducted implementation-focused research to explore its feasibility and application in a hospital setting.

2.
"Aphasia Resource Collaboration Hub (ARCH) update - expanding the network"
Julie Schlesinger[1], Angelique Cauthorn[1], Nadine Martin[1], Gayle DeDe[1], Monica Coran Kuns[2], Leslie Vnenchak[3], Roberta Brooks[4], Branch Coslett[3]
[1]Temple University
[2]Good Shepherd Penn Partners
[3]University of Pennsylvania
[4]Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania
The Aphasia Resource Collaboration Hub (ARCH) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of resources for aphasia, a language disorder that can occur after stroke. We are a network of people with aphasia, care partners, speech-language pathologists, aphasia researchers, support group staff, and others. Our goal is to have members of the aphasia community learn about research, accessing clinical care and finding support services. We do this through online newsletters, a website, virtual education meetings, and an annual in-person conference. We aim to continue reaching more people, especially clinicians. We will present ARCH's format as a model for other communities.

3.
"Best practice recommendations for conducting survey research with people with aphasia"
Christie Carroll-Duhigg[1] & Jessica Richardson[1]
[1]University of New Mexico
Aphasia is associated with worse health outcomes and greater disease burden for individuals post-stroke; however, people with aphasia are often excluded from stroke research. Participation in survey research is particularly important, as findings are often used to identify and address drivers of health

disparities. Existing literature on disability-related inequity in survey research, application of Universal Design principles in surveys, impact of survey administration/response mode (e.g., online, paper, mixed), and questionnaire co-design with people with aphasia, were evaluated to generate a comprehensive list of guidelines for improving survey accessibility for people with aphasia.

4.
"Coding interactional gestures in aphasia research and treatment: Evaluating current approaches"
Julie Hengst[1], Suma Devanga[2], Mili Mathew[3]
[1]University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
[2]Rush University Medical Center
[3]Molloy University
To explore challenges of operationalizing gestures in aphasia research and treatment, we illustrate three approaches to multimodality and conversation. Two dominant approaches, ethnomethodology and psychology, largely define gestures as hand movements and focus on the co-speech relationship of gestures to language. A third approach, staging theory traces the orchestration of multiple resources (e.g., language, gesture, embodied activity) as participants build scenes within which language and actions have meaning. Using handouts, discussion focuses on comparing data examples illustrating these approaches and how each approach might help us support multimodal communication with our clients.

5.
"Collaborating with learning health systems to generate evidence and advance aphasia rehabilitation"
Robert Cavanaugh[1], Megan Schliep[1], Jennifer Oshita[2], Natalie Douglas[3]
[1]MGH Institute of Health Professions
[2]New York University
[3]University of Louisiana Lafayette
Learning Health Systems leverage internal data and external evidence to improve care quality. While this approach facilitates rapid translation of findings into practice and enhances care quality, safety, and affordability, it remains rare in rehabilitation, particularly in speech-language pathology and aphasiology. Drawing from the Learning Health Systems Rehabilitation Research Network (LeaRRn) scholars program, this roundtable discusses potential for embedded learning health systems research in aphasia rehabilitation and aims to encourage future research partnerships between aphasia researchers and potential healthcare system partners.

6.
"Communication difficulties across the frontotemporal dementia spectrum: The lived experience"
Gabriela Meade[1], Bob Reinecker[2], Carrie Milliard[2], Rene Utianski[1]
[1]Mayo Clinic
[2]FTD Disorders Registry
Improving speech-language therapy for people with neurodegenerative diseases necessitates better understanding their lived experience so that interventions can be tailored accordingly. Here, we present survey responses from people with the language-, motor-, behavioral-predominant forms of frontotemporal dementia. Irrespective of diagnosis, a high proportion of people reported early difficulties with speech and language and identified changes to communication as a treatment priority. These data lend preliminary insight into the communication difficulties experienced by these individuals, supporting early involvement of speech-language pathologists on their interdisciplinary care teams.

7.
"Diagnostic strategies and tools for acquired apraxia of speech"
Charlotte Purcell[1], Kate Nealon[2], Lauren Bislick[3], Rene Utiansk[4], Julie Wambaugh[5], Rachel Johnson[6], Katarina Haley[7]

[1]*University of South Florida*
[2]*Montclair State University*
[3]*University of Central Florida*
[4]*Mayo Clinic*
[5]*University of Utah*
[6]*Old Dominion University*
[7]*University of North Carolina Chapel Hill*
The lack of consistency or consensus across research related to AOS impacts the ability to compare intervention outcomes directly. The aim of this roundtable presentation is to introduce and further develop a framework to support clinicians and researchers conducting a diagnostic evaluation, including guidelines to take a thorough case history, manage current accepted diagnostic characteristics, and review diagnostic assessment tools available for describing AOS. This discussion would introduce the criteria identified through a larger effort for systematic review, and ask discussion members to identify necessary materials to implement the criteria in diagnostic opportunities.

8.
"Factors influencing accuracy and reliability of AOS diagnosis"
Kate Nealon[1] & Lauren Bislick[2]
[1]*Montclair State University*
[2]*University of Central Florida*
Diagnosing AOS can be challenging secondary to co-occurrence with aphasia as well as variability of clinician education and training. Results of a mixed-method study exploring SLPs differential diagnoses of AOS revealed a lack of inter-rater reliability between SLPs when using the same measures (Apraxia of Speech Rating Scale) and stimuli (Western Aphasia Battery-Revised) for diagnosis. Additionally, reliance on characteristics not differentially diagnostic of AOS (i.e., groping) was noted. Roundtable will focus on exploring attendees perspectives on improving clinical education surrounding AOS diagnosis at both the graduate curriculum and continuing education levels.

9.
"Integrating social determinants of health to advance aphasia care for African Americans" *JEDI
Bijoyaa Mohapatra[1] & Biraj Bhattarai[1]
[1]*Louisiana State University*
Aphasia disproportionately impacts African American communities, who face higher stroke prevalence, greater aphasia severity, and systemic healthcare inequities. Social determinants of health (SDOH) such as socioeconomic status, healthcare access, and geographic location exacerbate barriers to recovery. This paper proposes the Comprehensive African American Aphasia Outcome model, a holistic framework integrating SDOH into aphasia care to address inequities. Key strategies include advancing health equity through socioeconomic interventions, creating health-conscious communities, optimizing stroke recovery with tailored approaches, and empowering recovery via culturally responsive strategies.

10.
"Motivation and motor learning in acquired apraxia of speech treatment"
Rachel Johnson[1] & Katarina Haley[2]
[1]*Old Dominion University*
[2]*University of North Carolina*
For many stroke survivors, apraxia of speech (AOS) is a chronic motor speech disorder that negatively affects their ability to participate in life activities and decreases communication confidence resulting in some degree of social isolation. The aim of this roundtable is to share the results of two independent studies evaluating the therapeutic effect and feasibility of novel approaches for AOS treatment designed

to support learner's autonomy, competence, and external focus of attention. An issue that will be addressed is the need for AOS interventions that support communication confidence

11.
"Person-centered outcomes in primary progressive aphasia: Insights from the Communication Bridge Trials"
Angela Roberts[1], Ollie Fegter[2], Emily Cummings[3], Matthew Bona[3], Alfred Rademaker[3], Eric Polley[3], Emily Rogalski[3]
[1]Western University
[2]Northwestern University
[3]University of Chicago
Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) impacts communication and social participation, requiring tailored interventions. The Communication Bridge™ program utilizes dyadic, telehealth-based communication participation strategies alongside Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS). The CB2 and CB3 clinical trials incorporate GAS to inform intervention targets and assess individualized outcomes. This roundtable will examine the use of GAS in PPA, focusing on its feasibility, reliability, and integration with other participation measures. Discussions will emphasize outcome assessment for progressive conditions, improving person-centred care, and defining significant gains in neurodegenerative conditions.

12.
"Virtual reality in dementia and mild cognitive impairment: Insights from current research"
Eun Jin Paek[1], Hyejin Park[2], Hana Kim[3], Si On Yoon[4], Eunseop Lee[1], Erica Babb[5], Lilly Drane[2], Hee Tae Jung[5]
[1]University of Tennessee Health Science Center
[2]University of Mississippi
[3]University of South Florida
[4]New York University
[5]Indiana University
Dementia is a growing public health challenge that demands innovative interventions. Virtual reality (VR) offers immersive, interactive environments for assessment, intervention, and caregiver education. This session will highlight VR's applications in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of dementia, drawing on evidence from recent studies. We will explore VR technologies of varying immersion levels and examine VR-based therapy outcomes for Alzheimer's disease and mild cognitive impairment. Finally, we will address broader applications of VR, discuss ethical concerns, and identify potential barriers to implementation.

Saturday May 31
Platform Presentations 7: Developments in Naming Assessment

"Cross-walking commonly used picture naming tests for aphasia"
William Hula[1], Kristen Nunn[1], Alexander Swiderski[2], Hannele Nicholson[3], Stacey Steel[4], Cheralyn Ranjan[1], Miranda Babiak[1], Gerasimos Fergadiotis[4]
[1]VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
[2]University of Pittsburgh
[3]VA Minneapolis Healthcare System
[4]Portland State University
Confrontation naming tests are widely used in clinical practice and research, but their scores cannot be directly compared due to differences in item number, difficulty, and standardization samples. This study cross-walks scores for five naming tests: The Boston Naming Test, Philadelphia Naming Test, Test of

Adolescent/Adult Word Finding, Comprehensive Aphasia Test, and Western Aphasia Battery. Naming responses from 121 individuals with aphasia were analyzed using item response theory models. The data supported key model assumptions allowing score conversion tables to be generated. These tools enhance clinical and research utility, improving comparability and communication across contexts.

"Systematic probe list generation for measuring treatment outcomes and generalization in anomia"
Mara Goodman[1], Candace van der Stelt[1], Robert Cavanaugh[2], William Evans[1]
[1]University of Pittsburgh
[2]MGH Institute of Health Professions, Northeastern University
Generalization of treatment effects remains a challenge in anomia research. We developed a systematic, computer-based algorithm to generate individualized and reproducible probe lists for noun-naming interventions. The algorithm leverages a database of 951 picturable nouns normed for item difficulty and discourse salience to produce balanced stimuli measurable in functional contexts. An anti-clustering method ensures high between-cluster similarity while accounting for individual severity levels. This approach enhances reproducibility, reduces experimenter burden, and allows for systematic measurement of generalization, addressing critical gaps in anomia research.

"Comparing Boston Naming Test performance between English and Korean speakers with aphasia" *JEDI
Jee Eun Sung[1], Junyoung Shin[1], Michael Scimeca[2], Adolfo García[3], Swathi Kiran[2]
[1]Ewha Womans University
[2]Sargent College, Boston University
[3]Universidad de San Andrés
This study compared the Korean-Boston Naming Test (K-BNT) and the English-BNT (E-BNT), focusing on structural properties (psycholinguistic variables and item order) and outcomes in persons with aphasia. While overall structural properties were comparable, cluster analyses revealed differences. Three clusters were identified for each group, but their contributions varied between the BNT versions. A culturally salient cluster from the K-BNT showed the strongest association with aphasia severity in Korean speakers, while no equivalent clusters were identified in the E-BNT. These findings highlight the importance of considering cultural and linguistic aspects in naming assessment for aphasia.

Platform Presentations 8: Advancing Treatment Methods II

"Meta-analysis of Bilingual Abstract Semantic Associative Network Training (BAbSANT) efficacy" *JEDI
Chaleece Sandberg[1], Teresa Gray[2], Parisa Osfoori[1], Michael Walsh Dickey[3]
[1]Penn State University
[2]San Francisco State University
[3]University of Pittsburgh
Bilingual Abstract Semantic Associative Network Training (BAbSANT) was created to address growing disparities in aphasia care for bilingual individuals with aphasia (BPWA). We examined both within- and cross-language effects of BAbSANT with published and unpublished data from 15 BPWA treated in 6 different languages, using interrupted time series models. Within-language, we replicated results of AbSANT, with large direct training and modest generalization effects, beyond the effect of exposure. However, we did not find cross-linguistic generalization (improvements for translations of directly trained and untrained words) that surpassed the effect of exposure. Possible reasons are discussed.

"Lessons learned by using artificial intelligence (AI) to develop scripts for conversational practice "
Edie Babbitt[1], Kunal Shah[1], R. James Cotton[1], Jessie Ronayne[1]
[1]Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

Early theories such as Semantic Network Activation (SNA), suggest that semantic memory is a network of nodes, with activation spreading to related concepts, explaining phenomena like priming. Aphasia scripting treatment targets word-finding in conversations, but historically does not leverage SNA or priming principles. This study explored use of AI/LLMs (e.g., ChatGPT) to generate semantically connected conversational scripts. A prototype web app created tailored scripts efficiently, reducing SLP effort. Iterative prompts improved script quality, cohesion, complexity, and semantic relatedness. Future research will compare AI- and SLP-generated scripts for feasibility and effectiveness.

Platform Presentations 9: Theoretical Perspectives

"Theory of mind deficits in people with post-stroke aphasia: Prevalence and links to aphasia severity and brain health"

Maria Varkanitsa[1], Jadelyn Kurtz[1], Swathi Kiran[1]
[1]Sargent College, Boston University

Theory of Mind (ToM) deficits are well-documented in right-hemisphere stroke but remain understudied in post-stroke aphasia (PWA). This study examined ToM impairments in 44 PWA using nonverbal belief reasoning tasks and explored associations with aphasia severity and brain health. ToM deficits were observed in 22–36% of participants but were not related to aphasia severity. However, increased enlarged perivascular spaces in the basal ganglia (EPVS-BG) correlated with poorer ToM performance. These findings suggest that ToM deficits in PWA may stem from broader cerebrovascular pathology rather than language impairment alone.

"Harnessing RTSS to navigate the theoretical foundations of complex aphasia interventions"

Suma Devanga[1] & Julie Hengst[2]
[1]Rush University Medical Center
[2]University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

The Rehabilitation Treatment Specification System (RTSS) provides a structured framework for specifying treatment mechanisms, but applying it to complex interventions, such as aphasia treatments, poses challenges. This paper critically examines these challenges and demonstrates how the RTSS can be adapted for the Collaborative Referencing Intervention (CRI), a complex aphasia treatment targeting collaborative communication processes. By adapting RTSS to account for the dynamic, situated nature of the CRI, we illustrate how RTSS offers a flexible and valuable framework for specifying the treatment components and mechanisms of action, addressing the complexities of interventions as well.

Poster Session 3

1.

"Deliverables from a working group on generative AI in aphasia management"

Dallin Bailey[1], Javad Anjum[2], Hyejin Park[3], Erin Carpenter[4], Chitrali Mamlekar[5], Jacquie Kurland[6]
[1]Brigham Young University
[2]University of Georgia
[3]University of Mississippi
[4]Boston University
[5]Misericordia University
[6]University of Massachusetts Amherst

Generative artificial intelligence (genAI) systems have continued to develop sophistication, creating novel content that closely mimics the complexity and creativity of human-generated material. While there are opportunities to leverage genAI solutions in aphasia management, there are also inherent challenges which prevent wider application. A working group emerging from a roundtable discussion at

the 53rd Clinical Aphasiology Conference is engaged in preparing deliverable resources for both clinicians and researchers considering genAI in aphasia management. These resources include a refined SWOT analysis, discussion of ethical guidelines, and a framework for practical recommendations.

2.

"Preserved partner-specific audience design in multiparty conversation in people with Parkinson's disease"

Si On Yoon[1], Mallory Woepking[2], Andrea Zeng[2], Nandakumar Narayanan[2], Jean Gordon[3]
[1]New York University
[2]University of Iowa
[3]University of Rhode Island

Speakers adapt language based on a partner's knowledge, known as audience design. This study examined whether persons with Parkinson's disease (PwPD) show partner-specific audience design. In two experiments, participants described abstract images to partners with varying knowledge. Exp1 used virtual interactions with two partners sequentially one at a time; Exp2 involved in-person interactions with two partners simultaneously. PwPD produced shorter and more definite expressions for knowledgeable partners compared to new partners. Exploratory analyses suggest reduced word production in virtual settings in PD. Findings highlight how PwPD adapt language in complex social interactions.

3.

"The long-term test-retest reliability of core nouns from a novel discourse battery"

William Evans[1], Qi (Yukki) Li[2], Robert Cavanaugh[3], Brielle Stark[4], Michael Walsh Dickey[1], Sarah Wallace[1]
[1]University of Pittsburgh
[2]Vanderbilt University Medical Center
[3]MGH Institute of Health Professions
[4]University of Indiana

Core Lexicon Analysis (CLA) is a promising, clinically practical approach for evaluating response generalization from treatment to discourse, but its long-term test-retest reliability has not been evaluated. We developed 26 novel complex scene and narrative discourse items, normed them with 31 non-brain injured participants, developed CLA core noun lists for each item, and evaluated long-term test-retest reliability by having 15 participants complete the battery a second time ≈3-6 months later. Test-retest reliability was characterized as poor to moderate in this context. Materials will be shared and findings and implications will be discussed.

4.

"Qualitative participant experiences from an ACT for Aphasia pilot study"

June Bracken[1], Alyssa Kelly[1], Tyson Harmon[2], Eric Meyer[1], Elizabeth Skidmore[1], Rebecca Hunting Pompon[3], Rachael Hass[1], Eva Xiao[1], William Evans[1]
[1]University of Pittsburgh
[2]Brigham Young University
[3]University of Delaware

Mental health difficulties are prevalent among stroke survivors with aphasia (SSwA). However, there is a limited evidence base for effective interventions targeting these difficulties in SSwA. Evans et al. developed a novel counseling intervention combining Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) with communication strategy training. Qualitative analysis of post-treatment interviews using focused coding was utilized to characterize participants' perspectives, resulting in 190 unique codes and 4 main themes: Impressions and Feedback, Perceived Impacts, Barriers and Facilitators to Participation, and Intervention-Related Experiences. Findings and implications will be discussed.

5.
"Participant and care partner experiences with a multimodal communication treatment via telepractice (telemct+DG)"
Emily Ward[1], Elizabeth Burklow[1], Sarah Wallace[2], Lauren Migliara[1], Hyejin Park[1]
[1]University of Mississippi
[2]University of Pittsburgh
Multimodal Communication Treatment (MCT) aims to improve functional communication for people with aphasia (PWA) by teaching multimodalities of communication (e.g., gesture, draw, write). MCT modifications including discourse tasks, group, and telepractice (teleMCT+DG) were investigated. Yet, participants' perspectives on modifications are unknown. Interviews can identify perspectives and inform person-centered approaches. For this qualitative study, we gathered PWA's and care partners' perspectives of teleMCT+DG. Descriptive analysis revealed teleMCT+DG to be helpful and enjoyable, and modality use to be acceptable but challenging. Participants gave recommendations to enhance treatment.

6.
"Noun and verb accuracy following TMS and CILT in people with aphasia"
Julia Gabor[1], Heather Dial[2], Lynn Maher[2], Branch Coslett[3], Denise Harvey[3]
[1]Bryn Athyn College
[2]University of Houston
[3]University of Pennsylvania
This study examines the efficacy of active TMS combined with CILT in improving noun and verb accuracy in PWA compared to those receiving sham TMS and CILT. Generalized linear mixed effects regression model revealed that overall (1) TMS administered along with CILT showed better results than CILT alone, (2) with similar effects for noun and verb accuracy, but with (3) increased maintenance for noun vs. verb accuracy.

7.
"Test-retest reliability of core lexicon analysis"
Sarah Grace Dalton[1] & Brielle Stark[2]
[1]University of Georgia
[2]Indiana University
A critical feature determining whether a discourse measure is suitable for clinical practice is test-retest reliability. Therefore, we evaluated test-retest reliability of core lexicon analysis for healthy control participants (HCP) and individuals with aphasia (IWA) using intra-class correlations to identify the magnitude of differences in core lexicon scores for discourse samples collected ~1 week apart. While reliability varied, results showed that reliability was higher for IWA (good to excellent), than HCP (poor to good). Therefore, core lexicon may be a useful measure to track recovery or therapy outcomes in this population, although caution is warranted for use with healthy controls.

8.
"Semantic category type effects on verbal fluency performance in aphasia"
Solmyeong Seo[1], Jimin Park[1], Yae Rin Yoo[1], Jee Eun Sung[1]
[1]Ewha Womans University
This study examined the animacy effect on semantic verbal fluency (VF) tasks (animal, supermarket) in healthy controls (HC) and persons with aphasia (PWA). HC performed better on the animal-VF than supermarket-VF, suggesting that animate categories with richer shared features enhance lexical-semantic processing. However, PWA showed similar performance across tasks, indicating impaired lexical-semantic processing limits their use of richer semantic networks. Supermarket-VF predicted aphasia severity, suggesting categories with fewer shared features better capture language

impairments. These findings highlight the need for diverse semantic categories to understand semantic impairments in PWA.

9.
"A feasibility study of story retelling therapy"
Hyunsoo Yoo[1], Taylor Graves[1], Anna Harrington[1]
[1]Baylor University
The current study examined the feasibility of the Story Retelling Procedure (SRP) as a treatment tool for individuals with aphasia. Three stories from SRP-A were used as pre- and posttest measures, while nine stories from SRP-B/C/D served as treatment materials. Post-treatment results from SRP-A showed a 12% increase in Correct Information Units (CIUs) and an 81.25% increase in %IUs per minute, alongside a slight improvement in the WAB-R. Notably, the WAB-R improvement placed the client within the normal range, indicating they were no longer classified as having aphasia. For the nine treated stories (from SRP-B/C/D), there was an average 78.4% increase in CIUs.

10.
"Integrating response times into anomia assessment: A first step"
Mikala Fleegle[1], Marianne Casilio[1], Gerasimos Fergadiotis[1]
[1]Portland State University
Anomia tests provide valuable clinical and research insights but often overlook response times (RTs), despite their relevance in lexical access. This study evaluates the fit of RT data from 60 people with aphasia completing the Philadelphia Naming Test to an ex-Gaussian distribution, a key assumption for incorporating RTs into a multidimensional model of anomia. Using Bayesian hierarchical modeling, we accounted for participant and item variability and found the ex-Gaussian model adequately captured RT variability. These findings support the integration of RTs into accuracy and error-based models, offering a more holistic approach to understanding and tracking word retrieval deficits.

11.
"Perceived anxiety and stress in people with aphasia: A qualitative investigation"
Hannah Griffey[1], Jacqueline Laures-Gore[1], Michelle Hart[1], Rachael Harrington[1], Kenneth Rice[1]
[1]Georgia State University
Stress and anxiety are terms often used interchangeably despite their distinct neurobiological underpinnings. Although stress and anxiety are physiologically distinct, it is unclear if people with aphasia (PWA) conceptualize the two theoretical constructs differently. A better understanding of how PWA conceptualize stress and anxiety is an important first step in identifying and creating appropriate assessments and interventions for stress and anxiety in PWA. This qualitative investigation used a phenomenological framework to explore how PWA describe perceived stress and anxiety. Results indicate that PWA do identify perceived stress and anxiety differently.

12.
"Examining latent circumlocution ability as a diagnostic marker of aphasia and as an estimate of functional communication ability"
Victoria Tilton-Bolowsky[1], Ashley Raman[2], Argye Hillis[2]
[1]Teachers College, Columbia University
[2]Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
We examined latent circumlocution ability in acute stroke survivors with aphasia, acute stroke survivors without aphasia, and healthy controls. We compared the average number of descriptive features participants produced per object (20 objects total), as well as the types of descriptive features participants produced (e.g., physical features, category descriptors, etc.) between the three groups. Overall, results demonstrate that the groups differed in the amount and types of descriptive features

they produced, and that measuring latent circumlocution ability may be an informative diagnostic metric aphasia practitioners should consider quantifying and collecting with more regularity.

13.
"Engaging clinical partnerships to implement an adapted yoga program into clinical practice"
Lauren Bislick[1], Amy Engelhoven[2], Aimee Dietz[3], Karen Cornelius[4], E. Susan Duncan[5]
[1]University of Central Florida
[2]Western Kentucky University
[3]University of South Florida
[4]Yoga with Kare
[5]City University of New York
Recent work suggests that an adapted, aphasia-friendly yoga program can positively impact psychosocial outcomes in persons with chronic aphasia and physical impairment. Little is known about the impact of such practices during the subacute phase of recovery or the feasibility and sustainability of this program in an inpatient rehabilitation hospital. This study used focus groups and an interview guide with open-ended questions to examine the perspectives of clinical partners on the implementation of an adapted, aphasia-friendly yoga program during inpatient rehabilitation. Qualitative analysis uncovered themes pertaining to programmatic implementation and patient and family benefit.

14.
"Investigating semantic and phonological errors in inner speech"
Yin Sun[1] & Juhi Kidwai[1]
[1]Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Anomia is a hallmark symptom of aphasia. Individuals with anomia often report the ability to name words inside their head but are unable to produce them aloud. Previous studies have identified two distinct inner speech (IS) experiences: unsuccessful IS (uIS), where the correct word cannot be retrieved inside one's head, and successful IS (sIS), where the correct word is retrieved inside one's head but cannot be spoken aloud. This study aims to investigate the correlation between overt speech and inner speech with a focus on semantic and phonological errors in unsuccessful inner speech.

15.
"Strengthening connections: The impact of semantic association strength on treatment response during CILT"
Sudharshini Prasanna[1], Heather Dial[1], Lynn Maher[1], Branch Coslett[2], Denise Harvey[2]
[1]University of Houston
[2]University of Pennsylvania
This study focuses on the effects of noun-verb association strength (cosine similarity) on noun and verb retrieval in sentences using constraint-induced language therapy (CILT). A significant interaction between cosine similarity and timepoint was observed for verbs, indicating that cosine similarity is a critical facilitator of word retrieval. The improved performance points to the mitigating effects of CILT treatment and the usefulness of cosine similarity as a predictor of word retrieval. Because the strength of semantic association can influence word retrieval in sentences, clinicians could consider cosine similarity as a factor that can be exploited during sentence production treatment.

16.
"Cognitive mechanisms of action fluency in Parkinson's disease and aging"
Eunseop Lee[1], Si On Yoon[2], Eun Jin Paek[1]
[1]The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
[2]New York University

Action fluency (AF) task engages both linguistic processes and executive function (EF), and this study examined its cognitive mechanisms in healthy older adults and individuals with Parkinson's disease (PD). Thirty-one older adults, including those with and without PD, completed cognitive-linguistic assessments and verbal and nonverbal fluency tasks. Multiple regression analysis revealed that letter and design fluency significantly predicted AF, explaining 70% of the variance, whereas no other cognitive measures were significant predictors. Our findings underscore the importance of EF in AF and inform future research on cognitive-linguistic processes in neurodegenerative disorders.

17.

"Does a brief training help prepare SLPs and mental health professionals to address psychological well-being of people with aphasia?"

Deena Schwen Blackett[1], Dana Sydlowski[2], Janina Wilmskoetter[2], Lisa McTeague[2]
[1]University of Central Florida
[2]Medical University of South Carolina

There is an urgent need for greater access to mental health support among people with aphasia (PWA); however, speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and mental health professionals (MHPs) are often unprepared to meet this need in their respective roles. We examined whether a brief training could help prepare practicing SLPs and MHPs to support the psychosocial needs of PWA. SLPs and MHPs who participated in separate group virtual trainings led by an SLP and clinical psychologist completed pre-training and post-training surveys. Results showed the training may increase preparedness, confidence, and relevant knowledge among SLPs and MHPs for providing mental health support of PWA.

18.

"Linking white matter integrity and semantic distance in post-stroke verbal fluency"

Hayley Olson[1], Nagesh Adluru[1], Veena Nair[1], Jana Jones[1], Bruce Hermann[1], Dace Almane[1], Anna Przybelski[1], Haley Dresang[1], Vivek Prabhakaran[1]
[1]University of Wisconsin-Madison

Stroke may impact language, semantics, and executive function resulting in verbal fluency deficits. We examined semantic distance–a measure of relatedness between concepts–in verbal fluency across patients with stroke in left and right hemispheres and a control group, investigating the association with white matter microstructure. A total of n=46 (n=31 with stroke) participants who completed Category Fluency Animals Task were analyzed. Preliminary results show that stroke patients had larger semantic distances compared to controls. However, diffusion-weighted imaging metrics of microstructure did not correlate with semantic distance in traditional language tracts in this preliminary sample.

19.

"Speech-language pathologists' perception of social communication evaluation for adults with TBI"

Lindsey Byom[1] & Katarina Haley[2]
[1]Viterbo University
[2]University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

This study examined speech-language pathologists' (SLPs) approaches to assessing social communication of adults with TBI. Fifteen SLP from various clinical settings participated in interviews about their assessment goals, methods, and clinical reasoning. Content analysis indicated that SLPs recognized the importance of social communication for participation as well as the influence of cognitive functioning and participant and environmental factors on communication function. SLPs primarily used skilled observation to evaluate communication skills, the effects of cognitive impairment and to get to know their patients. Clinicians supplemented their observations with norm-referenced language.

20.
"Mixed Reality in Aphasia Rehabilitation (MiRAR): A preliminary clinical report"
Muhammed Intiaz[1], Apoorva Pauranik[2], Rajath Shenoy[1], Shivani Tiwari[1], Gopee Krishnan[1]
[1]Manipal Academy of Higher Education
[2]Pauranik Academy of Medical Education
The newly developed Mixed Reality in Aphasia Rehabilitation (MiRAR) program implements script training in simulated environments (e.g., Restaurant). This report presents the observations from two people with aphasia who underwent training in the MiRAR program and face-to-face traditional script training, respectively. The result of this study indicates that while script training is a practical approach for intervening in conversational abilities, the MiRAR program improvises such skills.

21.
"Evidence of physiological changes associated with single-session pre-frontal tDCS: A pilot study"
Hannah Rembrandt[1] & Ellyn Riley[1]
[1]Syracuse University
This study investigates the effect of single session transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) on attention and fatigue. Ten persons with aphasia participated in two data collection sessions consisting of a sustained attention task and a subjective fatigue rating scale both before and after tDCS paired with attention training. Attention was measured physiologically via electroencephalography (EEG) and pupillometry, and behaviorally via reaction time during the sustained attention task. Session condition (active or sham tDCS) order was randomized. Results revealed an effect of active tDCS on pupil dilation and task-based fatigue but no effect on either EEG or reaction time.

22.
"Automated analysis of narrative discourse to differentiate variants of primary progressive aphasia"
Katarina Haley[1], Maya L. Henry[2], Adam Jacks[1], Jessica Richardson[3], Stephanie M. Grasso[2], Christie Carroll-Duhigg[3], Marcia Rodriguez[1], Soomin Kim[1], Honey I. Hubbard[3]
[1]University of North Carolina
[2]University of Texas at Austin
[3]University of New Mexico
Behavioral criteria for primary progressive aphasia (PPA) subtypes include prominent anomia in semantic and logopenic variants and slow articulation in the nonfluent variant. This study aimed to identify clinically feasible discourse measures for these features. Monologues were elicited from 44 people with PPA and 25 neurotypical controls. Speaking rate and mean word frequency were estimated with custom online software and variants were classified by experienced clinicians as the reference standard. Results showed that both measures provide meaningful information for differential diagnosis.

23.
"Exploring caregivers' unmet needs in supporting individuals with aphasia"
Cassandra Bodi[1], Dianne Bennett[1], Lauren Bislick[1]
[1]University of Central Florida
In the U.S., approximately 6.5 million stroke survivors require caregiver assistance, many of whom face aphasia, apraxia of speech, and dysarthria. Caregivers of people with aphasia and co-occurring communication disorders experience emotional, relational, and mental health challenges, including social isolation, depression, and increased caregiving responsibilities. This study, conducted at the Aphasia House at the University of Central Florida, examines caregivers' perspectives on their needs and gaps in their journey with aphasia. Findings reveal significant emotional challenges, a lack of aphasia knowledge, and a need for mental health support.

24.

"Priming effects on temporal and lexical activation processes supporting naming in aphasia"
Jessica Obermeyer[1], Julie Schlesinger[2], LeeAnn McDowall[1], Robert Wiley[1], Nadine Martin[2]
[1]University of North Carolina at Greensboro
[2]Temple University
Lexical retrieval happens over a time course. Temporal processing deficits influence word retrieval and can be identified by adding a response delay to naming tasks. We developed a training paradigm with three priming conditions (Temporal Priming, Lexical Priming, and Temporal+Lexical Priming) and enrolled three people with aphasia. Results for each person showed proportion of maximum gain (%MG) was highest after the first week regardless of training condition. Preliminary data suggest that lexical priming resulted in higher %MG for trained items and temporal priming resulted in higher %MG for untrained items. Results show how priming can impact word retrieval in aphasia.

25.
"Exploring the key ingredients of yoga programming for people with aphasia"
Aimee Dietz[1], Michelle Hart[2], Amy, E.R. Engelhoven[3], Lauren Bislick[4], E. Susan Duncan[5], Matthew McCubbin[2], Karen Cornelius[6]
[1]University of South Florida
[2]Georgia State University
[3]Western Kentucky University
[4]University of Central Florida
[5]City University of New York
[6]Yoga with Kare
Researchers have outlined key ingredients of an adapted, aphasia-friendly yoga program, implemented by a yoga therapist. This study examined the feasibility and effects of a twice-week, 4-week yoga program on resilience, stress, sleep quality, pain, and quality of life administered by a speech-language pathologist and registered yoga teacher and explored the lived experiences of persons with aphasia (PW.A) Results suggest successful implementation by clinicians with less yoga teaching experience is feasible and that PWA can tolerate increased frequency. Areas of convergence from this mixed methods study included: increased resilience, feeling grounded, physical benefits, and dosing changes.

26.
"SLPs' perceptions of life participation therapy for persons with aphasia"
Christen Page[1] & Haley Mays[1]
[1]University of Kentucky
Individuals with aphasia prefer goals related to participation. However, speech-language pathologists write goals and implement treatment focused on speech-language impairments, with little attention toward life participation. This pilot study used qualitative methods to identify the active ingredients required to implement treatment aligned with life participation for persons with aphasia across the continuum of care. Findings revealed a difference in needs across settings but consistency with the importance of life participation and mental health, reduced awareness and access to life participation resources, collaborative support and obstacles, and the impact of insurance on assessment.

27.
"Progressive apraxia of speech subtypes from the patient perspective"
Gabriela Meade[1], Joseph Duffy[1], Heather Clark[1], Jennifer Whitwell[1], Keith Josephs[1], Rene Utianski[1]
[1]Mayo Clinic
The patient's description of their problem is an important component of any communication assessment. Here, we asked 20 people with progressive apraxia of speech (PAOS) how they perceived the changes to their speech. Clarity and rate were included as descriptors that align with the phonetic- and prosodic-predominant subtypes of PAOS and are accessible to patients. Nearly all patients endorsed

changes to both features. Whereas all phonetic-predominant patients identified clarity as the only or change, only half of the prosodic-predominant identified rate as the feature. The latter may be because clarity has a more direct impact on intelligibility and functional communication.

28.
"The impact of delayed auditory feedback in primary progressive apraxia of speech"
Rene Utianski[1], Joseph Duffy[1], Gabriela Meade[1], Ashley Bachman[1], Hugo Botha[1]
[1]Mayo Clinic
Primary progressive apraxia of speech (PPAOS) affects motor speech planning, with patients presenting with primary phonetic and/or prosodic speech difficulties. This study explored delayed auditory feedback (DAF) in four patients with PPAOS (3 prosodic, 1 phonetic). Three patients found DAF helpful. Quantitative measures suggest patients may go faster or slower with DAF, with differential effects across tasks between subtypes. The preliminary evidence suggests DAF may be a worthwhile treatment option for some patients with PPAOS. More data is needed to determine the optimum patient profile.

29.
"Personally relevant words in anomia treatment for aphasia: A scoping review"
Nichol Castro[1], Amy Vogel-Eyny[2], Mara Steinberg Lowe[3], Sameer Ashaie[4], Brooke Boxrud[4], Samantha Slattery[2]
[1]University at Buffalo
[2]CUNY Hunter College
[3]CUNY Queens College
[4]Shirley Ryan AbilityLab
Selecting personally relevant words for anomia treatment could lead to improvement on meaningful and impactful words to the client. This scoping review aimed to understand approaches to using personally relevant words in anomia treatment for individuals with post-stroke and progressive aphasia. Nine studies were examined. Defining personal relevance varies across studies, reflecting notions of familiarity and functionality. Personally relevant words were determined by the person with aphasia, included a variety of word classes, and stimuli (e.g., pictures) were frequently obtained from the person's home. We discuss the findings relative to development and implementation of anomia treatment.

Platform Presentations 10: Harnessing Neuromodulation

"Remotely supervised transcranial direct current stimulation paired with speech-language intervention"
Lisa D. Wauters[1], Zoe Ezzes[2], Carly Millanski[1], David P. Baquirin[3], Alexia Hampson[1], Rachel Tessmer[4], Aakash Angirekula[1], Rian Bogley[2], Hannah Cho[2], Honey I. Hubbard[5], Sofia Fabi[1,] Summer Fugere[1], Samantha Furnish[1], Buddhika Ratnasiri[6], Gary Robinaugh[7], Stephanie M. Grasso[1], Maria L. Mandelli[2], Zachary Miller[2], Maria L. Gorno-Tempini[2], Jessica Richardson[5], Maya L. Henry[1]
[1]University of Texas at Austin
[2]University of California San Francisco
[3]The University at Albany
[4]VA Pittsburgh
[5]University of New Mexico
[6]University of California Berkeley
[7]University of Northern Colorado
We piloted a trial protocol evaluating remotely supervised transcranial direct current stimulation (RS-tDCS) paired with speech-language tele-rehabilitation for primary progressive aphasia (PPA) and apraxia of speech (PPAOS). The study implemented a sham-controlled, double-blind crossover design in which

nine participants underwent lexical retrieval treatment (semantic, logopenic PPA) or script training (nonfluent/agrammatic PPA, PPAOS) in conjunction with active and sham stimulation. Results confirmed feasibility for all participants and the trial protocol was rated as acceptable. RS-tDCS holds promise as a feasible and acceptable means to deliver accessible neuromodulation in PPA/PPAOS.

"Polarity-specific changes in network dynamics induced by cerebellar tDCS in chronic post-stroke aphasia" (NIDCD RSCA Fellow)

Jamie Smith[1], Jamie Murter[1], Becky Lammers[1], Myra Sydnor[1], Micah Johnson[2], Zafer Keser[3], John Desmond[1], Argye Hillis[1], Rajani Sebastian[1]
[1]Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
[2]Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
[3]Mayo Clinic

This study examined the effects of cerebellar transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) combined with computerized aphasia therapy on resting-state functional connectivity (rsFC) in individuals with chronic aphasia. Thirteen individuals with aphasia were randomized to two intervention phases of 15 sessions of either anodal or cathodal cerebellar tDCS and 15 sessions of sham stimulation, with pre- and post-fMRI scans for each phase. Results showed increased rsFC between the right cerebellum and bilateral language regions, with greater effects from cathodal tDCS. These findings suggest cerebellar tDCS may aid language recovery by modulating cerebello-cerebral network connectivity.

Platform Presentations 11: Assessing Mild Aphasia

"Attention deficits in latent aphasia"

Emily Sebranek[1] & Arianna LaCroix[1]
[1]Purdue University

This study explored whether attention deficits are present in people with latent aphasia (PWLA) and, if so, how they compare to those with an aphasia diagnosis according to the Western Aphasia Battery-Revised. PWLA have attention deficits that are comparable to people with mild-moderate aphasia when participants are stratified by severity, and anomic and conduction aphasia (i.e., fluent aphasia) when stratified by type. These results align with a growing body of research demonstrating that PWLA have clinically significant deficits.

"BATS story retelling: A communication outcome measurement instrument sensitive to subclinical aphasia"

Jacquie Kurland[1], Anna Liu[1], Polly Stokes[1]
[1]University Of Massachusetts Amherst

Despite consensus on a core outcome set for improving research outcome measurement in aphasia (ROMA-1; ROMA-2), no clinically convenient, psychometrically robust instruments that can reliably and validly measure change in real-world communication, including in mild aphasia, have been adopted. The Brief Assessment of Transactional Success in conversation in aphasia (BATS) is sensitive to impairments in real-life language and communication use, such as story retelling, even in individuals with so-called latent, or very mild aphasia, including those deemed "not aphasic by Western Aphasia Battery [WAB]" [NABW].