Message from the President
Edy Strand, Ph.D., BC-ANCDS

Hello to friends and colleagues. It is an honor and a privilege to begin my term as president of ANCDS. The mission of this organization is to promote quality service to persons with neurologic communication disorders. We approach this through the development of training guidelines and standards of practice, by providing the means to certify clinical specialists in neurogenic communication disorders, by promoting state of the art education of practitioners, and the exchange of information and ideas among our membership and by providing leadership in the development of clinical expertise. I am deeply committed to the goals and activities of ANCDS and am happy to be able to serve the organization as we take on new challenges.

Many exciting things are happening in our organization. In 2009 the executive board, with the help of Alex Johnson and Lee Ann Golper, as well as input from the membership, developed and ratified a strategic plan which lays out specific goals and activities for ANCDS for 2009-2014. Please take a moment to review the strategic plan on the ANCDS website and consider how you might be involved, whether it be in big or small ways. The potential of this organization is great, but we need all of us to take an active role. One of our current goals is to study the current board certification process and provide recommendations for possible changes in that process. We thank Caroline Royal-Evans for her work in heading the ad hoc committee and for those members who completed the survey, providing valuable input regarding membership and certification.

We had a terrific annual meeting at Temple University in Philadelphia in November. Thanks to Linda Shuster and Michele Page Sinotte, and to the Education & Standards, and Meetings, committees for their hard work in organizing the program, and the luncheon. There was a record turnout for our meeting this year. The election results were announced: Michael Kimbarow has been elected President Elect and Patrick Coppens and Katie Ross were elected members at large. We thank Peggy Blake and Diane Kendall for service as they rotate off the board. The highlight of the luncheon was the acknowledgment of the dedication and service to ANCDS by Kevin Kearns who was awarded Honors of ANCDS.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the President of ANCDS. I look forward to a busy, stimulating and productive year.
ANCDS Welcomes New Members & Committee Members

The ANCDS membership is now comprised of Full members, Associate members, and Life members. Ten new ANCDS members have joined since the publication of the last newsletter. We welcome these new members!

Full Members
Lisa Connor – St. Louis, MO
Diana Orbelo – Rochester, MN
Colleen Karow – Albany, NY
Robert Goldfarb – New York, NY
Leslie Mahler – Kingston, RI

Associate members
Sibyl Crisostomo – Barrigada, Guam
Melissa Elwell – Billings, MT
Sophia Farrie – Portland, OR
Rebekah Quimby – Willimantic, CT
Barbara Rende – Boulder, CO

We are also pleased to announce that the ANCDS Membership Committee has restructured, and that new members have recently joined. This includes:

- Dr. Catherine Off – California State University, Northridge, Ca.
- Dr. Adele Raade – Raade Communication Connections, Reading, Ma.
- Dr. Sarah Wallace - Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa.

We are also honored to have added Dr. Patrick Coppens, Plattsburgh, NY, who was assigned by the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association’s Educational Board (EB) to serve as an ad hoc member of the Membership Committee.

We welcome the fresh energy and ideas of these four new members whose first task will be to develop ways of integrating students into the ANCDS, based on feedback from the 2010 ANCDS Membership Survey. For the survey, a majority (81%) of the respondents agreed that the ANCDS should play an active role in training students to become future leaders in neurogenic communication disorders. 77% of the respondents felt that students would be more likely to join the ANCDS after degree completion if the membership fee (Associate or Full) was lower during the first year after degree completion, as it is when NSSLHA student members become ASHA members. A majority of members who work with students (71%) indicated that they would be more inclined to encourage students to become ANCDS members if there was a separate student membership category rather than just the general Associate membership category (used for both students and professionals) that is currently in existence. 62% of the respondents indicated that if a new category of membership is created for students within the ANCDS, then students should have representation on some of the ANCDS committees. The ANCDS Membership Committee will use this membership input to generate ideas for recommendations to the ANCDS Board about student involvement in the organization.

For more information about activities relating to the Membership Committee, direct correspondence to: wallacgn@ucmail.uc.edu, Gloriajean Wallace, Ph.D., Membership Committee Chairperson.
Robert “Bob” Brookshire passed away at his home in Sedona, Arizona on March 22nd, 2011. With his death, the field has lost a valued leader and trusted friend. Born and raised in South Dakota, Bob embodied the values of simplicity, humility, and integrity. His impact on the field was profound.

For all but five years of his professional life he served as a professor of communication disorders at the University of Minnesota where he received his doctorate in 1965, and as Director of Communication Disorders at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. In those positions he was a wise and supportive teacher, advisor, and mentor to students who entered into clinical and research careers and through whom Bob’s influence continues to serve the field. His students and fellow clinicians and researchers remember his meticulous attention to detail and his ability to step back from the data and envision the wider picture.

In addition to a wealth of research publications, primarily in the area of aphasia, he was the author of Introduction to Neurogenic Communication Disorders (1970), now in its 8th edition, one of the most authoritative and widely used introductory text books on the topic. A clear, concise writer, he was also at work on a science writing textbook. For over 20 years, he and his wife and collaborator, Linda Nicholas, conducted funded research on language comprehension in aphasia, culminating in a published test, the Discourse Comprehension Test (1993). He was associate editor for numerous peer-reviewed journals, providing authors with the benefit of his insightful critiques.

His professional contributions extended well beyond research and mentorship. He was the editor, publisher, and production manager of the Clinical Aphasiology Conference Proceedings from 1975 to 1987, a task he took on voluntarily. The Proceedings provided a platform for new and seasoned investigators alike to share and preserve their findings, and it stands today as an archive of critical importance, documenting early and continuing advances in our understanding of neurogenic communication disorders. A founding member of ANCDS, Bob received the Honors of the Academy in 1993 for his numerous contributions to the Academy, the field, and the profession.

A conscientious steward of the environment, he was never happier than when he was hiking and communing with the natural wonders around him. Bob was a generous friend—a quiet, humble man of gentle humor, intellectual drive, humanity and heart. He will be profoundly missed.

Submitted by Penelope S. Myers, Ph.D. psduffy@charter.net
The theme of the meeting this year was apraxia across the lifespan. Our speakers included Dr. Edythe Strand from the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Larry Shriberg from the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Julie Wambaugh from the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System and University of Utah, and Dr. Richard Peach from Rush University. Dr. Shriberg began the session with a talk entitled “Diagnostic Marker Research in Childhood Apraxia of Speech.” He described the search for both genomic and diagnostic markers of CAS, with a focus in this presentation on diagnostic markers. Dr. Shriberg discussed the Madison Speech Assessment Protocol, its administration and the information that it yields for the differential diagnosis of CAS from speech delay.

Dr. Shriberg was followed by Dr. Strand, whose talk was entitled “Treatment Approaches for Childhood Apraxia of Speech.” Dr. Strand discussed the evidence base with regard to treatment for AOS. She noted that most of the studies to date have involved single subject designs, thus they are mostly Level III evidence and do not fare well in systematic reviews. However, although the evidence base is limited, there are generally accepted practices that clinicians can follow. Dr. Strand then reviewed a variety of approaches, including Dynamic Temporal and Tactile Cueing for Speech Motor Learning (DTTC), which is based on integral stimulation. She concluded with a summary that indicated that the current evidence supports integral stimulation-type approaches which emphasize the use of auditory, visual and tactile cueing.

Dr. Strand began the afternoon session with a talk entitled “Differential Diagnosis of Acute and Progressive Apraxia of Speech in Adults.” She described the history of the use of the term AOS, and provided a definition of the disorder as well as a symptom list. She also described methods for differential diagnosis. Dr. Strand finished the session by describing progressive AOS.

The second afternoon session was presented by Dr. Julie Wambaugh and was entitled, “Treatment for Acquired Apraxia of Speech: Updates and Current Issues.” Dr. Wambaugh described the development of the ANCDS AOS Treatment Guidelines, which were based on evidence through 2003. These guidelines were published in the Journal of Medical Speech-Language Pathology and are available on the ANCDS website: (http://www.ancds.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9&Itemid=9#Acquired%20Apraxia%20of%20Speech). She then provided a list and a discussion of AOS treatment studies that have been completed since 2003. Dr. Wambaugh noted that the guidelines will be updated based on evidence obtained since 2003.

The day ended with a very interesting Neurologic Grand Rounds case presentation by Dr. Richard Peach. He described a woman with a progressive AOS along with aphasia. He discussed how the disordered speech and language characteristics changed over time. He also addressed issues of management for these types of patients. Slide for all of the presentations are available on the ANCDS website at this url:


Submitted by Linda Shuster, Ph.D., Chair, Education and Standards Committee.
The ANCDS Annual Business Meeting was held at Temple University on November 17, 2010 immediately preceding the ANCDS Scientific and Educational Meeting. Following are the highlights of the meeting:

**Treasurer’s report:** ANCDS remains fiscally sound this year; happily there will be no dues increase for 2011. ASHA Special Interest Division 2 was thanked for its support during 2010.

**Nominations Committee:** Carl Coelho (Chair) announced the following winners of the 2010 elections: Michael Kimbarow as President Elect; Patrick Coppens and Katie Ross as members-at-large.

**Meeting Committee and Local Arrangements:** Michele Sinotte (Chair) reported that 100 people registered for the ANCDS scientific meeting.

**Professional Affairs and Practice Guidelines Committee:** Stacie Raymer (Chair) reported on the accomplishments of the practice guidelines writing committees as follows: Apraxia of Speech committee (Julie Wambaugh, Chair) has an article in press and is beginning to update the systematic review of AOS treatments. The Dysarthria committee (Kathy Yorkston, Chair) has an article in review. Dementia committee (Michelle Bourgeois, Chair) has collaborated with ASHA on guidelines regarding cognitive stimulation in dementia and a manuscript is in preparation. Stacie noted that the committee has found that working with ASHA has been excellent due to the vast available resources for completing reviews. TBI committee (Mary Kennedy, Chair) has two additional cognitive rehabilitation areas under review. Aphasia committee (Pagie Beeson, Chair) continues to work on a manuscript that they hope to submit in spring 2011. In addition, several ANCDS papers are now listed by DARE (Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects) and others are under consideration. DARE is part of the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at University of York, UK.

**Education and Standards Committee:** Linda Shuster (Chair) reported that the 2010 Scientific and Educational meeting presentations address Apraxia of Speech with presenters Lawrence Shriberg, Edythe Strand, Julie Wambaugh and Richard Peach.

**Website Committee:** Don Freed (Chair) reported that the new professional webmaster has re-organized the website. Data are being collected indicating excellent website usage such as 3,000 to 4,000 unique hits per month.

**Newsletter Committee:** Mikyong Kim (Co-Chair) reported that she and Co-Chair Sandy Starch are rotating off the committee and new chairs will be Melissa Duff and Pradeep Ramanathan.

**Publications Committee:** Leonard LaPointe (Chair) reported that the *Journal of Medical Speech-
*Language Pathology* continues to serve as the official publication of ANCDS and that they look forward to publishing additional EBP reviews.

**Scientific Affairs Committee:** Neila Donovan (Chair) introduced herself as the new chair, asked for committee volunteers and stated that she will review the strategic plan to identify how the committee might pursue relevant goals and projects.

**Certification Board:** Kathleen Youse (Chair) thanked members Barbara Shadden, Anthony Salvatore, Nancy Alarcon, Katie Ross, Jack Thomas, Steve Belanger and Sucheta Kamath for their hard work on this committee. She reported that there are 4 people moving through the certification process: 3 have passed the exam and 1 is approved to schedule the exam. Five new committee members will begin in 2011.

**Honors Committee:** Anita Halper (Chair) reported that the Honors of ANCDS would be announced at the luncheon. Subsequently Kevin Kearns received the Honors of ANCDS at the annual luncheon.

**Membership Committee:** Mary Kennedy reported for Gloriajean Wallace (Chair) that as of November, 2010 there were 10 new full members and 34 new associate members (totaling 44 new members). The total membership stands at 243 (compared to 236 last year) and 5 lifetime members.

**Ad hoc Certification Study Committee:** Caroline Royal-Evans (Chair) reported that the committee is in the process of reviewing the certification process. An online survey was sent to the membership; results of the survey will help the committee formulate recommendations. A key issue will be identifying the value of certification to potential members. Other issues include the need for updating of the test with the help of a test and measurement specialist. In addition the committee is reviewing the requirements for full membership; presently full membership requires a Doctorate or a Masters degree plus certification.

**Old Business**
Mary Kennedy reviewed the goals of the ANCDS Strategic Plan that was ratified last year and reviewed numerous accomplishments towards goals this year.

**New Business**
President Kennedy reported that the following by-laws amendments were approved by the Executive Board. Since by-laws changes are required for the amendments, an electronic ballot will be sent to the membership for the general membership vote. The Executive Board (EB) voted:

- to change presidential terms to a 1-1-1 year sequence from a 2-2-2 year sequence.
- to change ad hoc website and ad hoc newsletter committees to the status of standing committees.
• to change the roles and responsibilities of members-at-large to include serving as liaison to ANCDS committees at the discretion of the President.
• to change the time period required for membership ballots regarding proposed by-laws amendments from 30 days to 14 days since balloting is now done electronically.

Other new business was addressed as follows:
• The EB approved appointment of Carl Coelho for the unexpired 1 year term of Treasurer. The current Treasurer, Michael Kimbarow, will be assuming the role of President-Elect.
• A policy and procedure for posting and distributing announcements for jobs, conferences and calls for papers via the ANCDS website, newsletter and listserv will be developed and distributed.
• The ANCDS committee procedure manual is being updated.
• The following ASHA awards were reported: Michelle Bourgeois, Julie Wambaugh & Constance Qualls were selected as ASHA Fellows; Marilyn Newhoff received the Honors of ASHA. Melissa Duff was awarded an Early Career Contributions in Research Award. In addition there are 32 ASHA presentations being given by ANCDS members.
• President Kennedy encouraged members to get involved in ANCDS and called for volunteers for committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Simmons-Mackie, Ph.D., BC-ANCDS
ANCDS Secretary

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please note that the date for the ANCDS Scientific meeting this year will be Wednesday, November 16, 2011 and that we will have our Executive Board and Committee Chairs meeting on Tuesday evening (November 12). Please reserve the dates in your calendars.
The members of the 2010 Honors Committee, Joan Arvedson, Gail Ramsberger, Kristie Spencer, and Jack Thomas join me in recognizing an individual who has made significant contributions to advancing the discipline and profession of neurological communications disorders and the mission of ANCDS. This person is known as an extremely capable designer of research protocols. The work of this individual has had a profound influence in helping define our science and our approach to aphasia treatment research. This individual has also made an impressive mark as a scholar, clinician, teacher and administrator.

Our 2010 ANCDS recipient of the Honors of the Association was among the insightful group of individuals who founded ANCDS and promoted its vision. This individual has:

- Served on countless ASHA, ANCDS and CAC boards and committees.
- Received extramural funding for over 14 grants and served as Associate Editor of AJSLP.
- Held positions in clinical and academic settings in Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts and New York.
- Received many honors and awards including Fellow of ASHA, “Hall of Fame” designation from the Association of Speech-Language Pathologists at the Department of Veteran Affairs, and Visiting Scholar for the Brain Rehabilitation Research Center at the University of Florida.
- Published over 50 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters, primarily in the area of aphasia treatment and single subject research designs.
- Co-wrote the seminal book in single subject experimental design.
- Served for eight years as a Faculty Affiliate of the Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology Doctoral Program at Harvard-MIT, Division of Health Sciences and Technology.
- Served for almost a decade as Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Institute of Health Professions.
And currently serves as Associate Vice President of Graduate Studies and Research at SUNY Fredonia, and Senior Research Associate at the Autism Language Program at Children’s Hospital of Boston.

Our Honors’ recipient is the consummate professional—knowledgeable, accessible, empathic, and committed to our profession. He is described by his colleagues as a true visionary. He is a valued and solid thinker who seeks to make a difference. His numerous aphasia treatment studies have served as excellent models for other investigators and have provided clinicians with valuable, evidence-based information about effective therapy approaches. He serves as a role model to all of us.

We are so proud and pleased to present the 2010 Honors of the Academy of Neurological Communication Disorders and Sciences to our esteemed colleague Kevin P. Kearns.

Presented by Anita Halper, M.A., CCC-SLP, BC-ANCDS, Chair Honors Committee
As nominated by the ANCDS Honors Committee
and conferred by the ANCDS Executive Board
November 2010
Q: Dr. Waumbaugh, I thought I’d start this spotlight with some background. What first brought you to the field of Speech-Language Pathology?

My father brought speech-language pathology to my attention as a potential career when I was in high school. He was a school teacher as was most of my family— you name it, someone taught it (e.g., art, home economics, kindergarten, 3rd grade, 5th grade, 2nd grade, graphic arts, secondary English, library science). I had an interest in the field of education, but not necessarily classroom education. My father suggested that I talk with the speech-language pathologist who served the elementary school where he worked. I followed up with that suggestion and began to become interested in the field.

Around the same time, close friends of our family experienced a terrible tragedy. Their oldest daughter, who was a year younger than I, and whom I had known all my life, was in an automobile accident and experienced a severe head injury (along with other major bodily injury). She was in a coma for several months and her survival was questionable. However, her parents were aggressive in providing the best possible healthcare for her and she survived. Early in her recovery, her speech-language-pathologist played a large role, which was greatly appreciated by her parents (who had experienced much frustration with various healthcare providers). Their reports of this SLP’s efforts reinforced my interest in speech-language pathology.

So, I decided to “try” speech-language pathology as a major in college. I went to Indiana University of Pennsylvania for my bachelor’s degree and was never tempted to change majors. After working for a year and a half, I went to Penn State for my Master’s.

Q: I understand that you have had a somewhat different career path from the norm. Can you tell us about that? Did you start out as a clinician or an academic, and where did that take you?

A: I started out as a clinician. I worked for one and a half years in elementary schools in Pennsylvania after getting my bachelor’s degree and then for two years in the schools in West Virginia after getting my master’s degree. At that time, I realized that I needed/wanted to get a Ph.D. to gain a more in-depth understanding of communication disorders and to have more career options.

So, I went back to Penn State (where I had gotten my master’s degree) to start my doctoral program. I was interested in brain function and was interested in studying TBI...
(I had done an externship for my master's in a children's rehab hospital and that's where I started to have a greater interest in neurogenic disorders). However, while at Penn State, I began working with Cindy Thompson and because of her research, I focused on aphasia instead of TBI.

Also because of Cindy's area of expertise, I became very interested in treatment research and the use of single-subject experimental methods.

I took a job at the University of Montana while I was ABD. After a year and a half at Montana, while I was on a maternity leave, the department was slated for closing (in a year). My husband had not yet moved to Montana and was living in West Virginia. So, I chose to not return to Montana after my maternity leave and stayed in West Virginia.

I took a year off after my son was born and then Pat Doyle, at the VA in Pittsburgh, hired me to work on a grant that he and Cindy Thompson had just been awarded. I worked part-time at Pittsburgh for six years. During that time, in addition to assisting with Pat's projects, he mentored me in grant preparation. In order to expand the research focus of the Pittsburgh lab, I chose to begin AOS treatment research, rather than aphasia treatment research. After a few years, my first VA Rehab R&D merit review project was funded. This position was ideal for a working mother, because I continued to learn, conduct research, and was able to publish more than if I had been in an academic position (even being part-time).

While at Penn State, I began working with Cindy Thompson and because of her research, I focused on aphasia instead of TBI.

By the time my son was in kindergarten, I was ready to work full time again and was interested in getting back to academia. Because my husband and I had always liked the west, I applied for a position at the University of Utah. My interest in this university was due in large part to its being situated immediately adjacent to the VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System. The VA allowed me to transfer my grant from Pittsburgh to Salt Lake City. The Salt Lake City VA was very generous in providing lab space and the University of Utah worked with me with my schedule to allow me to have continued VA employment. The VA also facilitated the uninterrupted conduct of my research, by allowing some funds to remain in Pittsburgh; in this way the research SLPs working on my project could continue with the treatment research that was in progress.

I have been at the University of Utah and the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System since 1996. A few years ago, I received a VA Research Career Scientist Award. With that award, my VA salary was provided directly by the VA's Central Office for a period of 5 years (rather than being derived from my grants). With the award, I decided to redistribute my time between the University and the VA; this allowed me to have a mix of teaching, service, and research that was better for me. That is, most of my time is spent doing research, but I also teach graduate courses in Aphasia and Motor Speech Disorders.

So....that's where I am now.

Q: Dr. Waumbaugh, thank you for that very fascinating description of your “atypical” career path. It is very inspiring to see that you have found a way to balance an academic and research career with...
family and obviously very successfully. This is particularly important in our field with so many women. I think a lot of students stop at the M.A. level and don’t go on to a Ph.D. or academic/research position because they are afraid they won’t be able to create that balance. What are your thoughts about this, and do you have any advice for such individuals?

I think that you are exactly right in your perceptions. I think that academic positions are particularly challenging in terms of finding a balance. That is, although purely research positions are also challenging, there is probably more flexibility for balancing personal needs with work. Our staff in my lab include two Ph.D.’s and three Master’s research SLPs (all women). We have been able to arrange schedules and work loads to accommodate child birth, child care, major surgeries, family crises, etc. while maintaining a productive lab.

If master’s students are interested in pursuing a Ph.D., but do not want to delay starting a family, I would encourage them to pursue employment in a lab such as my own, prior to applying for a Ph.D.

Students may also consider pursuing a Ph.D. on a part-time basis (although not all programs have this option).

Also, I’d like to put in a “plug” for the VA’s programs for students and young researchers. I believe that many people are not aware of the excellent opportunities provided by the VA. The VA offers programs that include financial support for students prior to the awarding of a Ph.D. They also have an excellent Career Development Program for young scientists. Although one needs to develop relationships with VA researchers to serve as mentors to take advantage of the career development program, one needn’t be a VA employee initially to apply. The VA offers two different (and potentially sequential) Career Development Awards (CDAs) for new or relatively new Ph.D.’s that are designed to expand the awardee’s knowledge and skills and help them develop into an independent researcher capable of obtaining external funding.

Julie Wambaugh, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, is an associate professor at the University of Utah and a Research Career Scientist with the Salt Lake City VA Medical Center. She teaches courses related to adult neurogenic speech and language disorders. She is a member of the writing committee for the apraxia of speech treatment guidelines for the Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Science (ANCDS) and is the associate coordinator for ASHA’s Special Interest Group 2. Her research is focused on treatment for acquired apraxia of speech and aphasia. She is an ASHA Fellow.
ANCDS Committee Corner

ANCDS Board Certification Committee

The ANCDS Board Certification Committee is pleased to announce that we have four ANCDS members who are working their way through the certification process. Three have successfully passed the certification exam and are in the case study phase of the certification process. One exam has been scheduled for early summer. Congratulations and continued success to all of those who are working on Board Certification! We encourage members who are interested in Board Certification to contact ANCDS at info@ancds.org. Additional information regarding the board certification process can be found on the ANCDS website, www.ancds.org.

Kathleen M. Youse, Ph.D. — Teachers College, Columbia University

Scientific Affairs Committee

Many members responded to the call for volunteers to serve on the Scientific Affairs Committee during the ANCDS Annual Meeting held at Temple University in November. The committee is made up of the chair and two committee members. For the next two years the Scientific Affairs Committee will include Neila Donovan, Louisiana State University, Chair, and Jennifer Horner, Ohio University and Michael de Riesthal, Vanderbilt University as members. For those of you who volunteered, we sincerely appreciate your willingness to play an active role in ANCDS. I hope we can call on you in the future should the Scientific Affairs Committee tackle projects that require more person-power than the committee members can manage. In addition, I have forwarded your names to the other committee chairs. In the past the Scientific Affairs Committee has played various roles in ANCDS. Our aim is to meet this spring to develop ideas that will align the outlined duties established for the committee with the ANCDS Strategic Plan. We expect to seek members’ input on some of the ideas we generate by summer.

Neila Donovan, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, ANCDS Scientific Affairs Chair (ndonovan@lsu.edu).
As the work of the ANCDS Practice Guidelines writing committees progresses, we are attempting to assure that all reviews are conducted using somewhat standardized, thorough methodologies. The science of systematic review and meta-analysis has continued to evolve since the inception of the ANCDS work. A method that has been viewed positively by the Agency for Health Research Quality is that suggested by Auperin and colleagues (1997) in the gastroenterology literature. In their review, they noted that an important element that should be included in a systematic review is an established protocol that guides the review process. This element is intended to avoid bias and assure that the systematic review is done in a thorough, rigorous manner leading to unbiased conclusions. Through all of the efforts of the ANCDS writing committees over the past decade, a standard protocol has not been implemented. As part of the updating of ANCDS policies and procedures documents in Fall 2010, the ANCDS steering committee approved this general checklist to serve as a guiding framework or protocol to be used in ANCDS practice guidelines work.

CHECKLIST:

1. Note in text of review that the ANCDS protocol was followed.

2. With your committee, identify clinical questions to be addressed by the systematic review.

3. Complete a thorough search of the literature, including several databases and hand-searches to identify relevant articles. Peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed sources should be searched. Describe this process in your methods.

4. Maintain a list of all trials analyzed for relevance to the clinical questions.

5. Describe the selection method for retaining trials for the review. At least two individuals review all titles and abstracts, blind to trial results. Provide a list of all retained trials in your review (table or reference list).

6. Maintain a log of all rejected trials and the reason for rejection. Note in the paper reasons for rejection of trials. Include a flow-chart as appropriate.

7. Note in your review how you controlled for publication bias by including unpublished trials or calculating the number of negative trials required to counter findings of this analysis.

continued next page ...
8. In trials retained for review, provide a description of patients, treatments, and diagnoses (often provided in tables).

9. Indicate criteria used to determine whether trials were similar enough to be pooled in the review and analyzed (if meta-analysis included).

10. Report types of trials included in the review (RCTs, within groups, SSDs, case studies).

11. Report methods to evaluate quality of trials included in the review. (e.g., AAN levels, PEDRO scale, SCED scale).

12. Note presence of intention-to-treat analysis as appropriate in RCTs.

13. In the discussion, note clinical impact of the overall findings.

14. In the discussion, note economic implications for the findings.

15. Note source of support for the review as ANCDS, VA, ASHA, ASHA Division 2, and any others as appropriate.

For meta-analyses also include if possible:

1. Description of the data extraction method, blinded to treatment group.

2. Inter-observer agreement on data extraction method.

3. Contact with trial investigators for unclear or missing data.

4. Note statistical methods, error probabilities, confidence intervals, test of homogeneity.

5. Note end-point quality.

Chairs of the practice guidelines writing committees are encouraged to follow this framework in developing their systematic reviews and meta-analyses. Other members of ANCDS who are involved in conducting reviews may want to follow this format or a similar one to assure a rigorous, unbiased review.

— Stacie Raymer, Ph.D., Practice Guidelines Committee chair

Dr. Hugh W. Buckingham will be retiring from LSU after 31 years.

Dr. Jacqueline Laures-Gore was awarded the Clinical Achievement Award by the Georgia Speech-Language-Hearing Association for her work with aphasia. The award was presented in February 2011.

Dr. Julie Hengst was awarded the 2011 University of Illinois Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagement for her work developing community-based enterprises to support individuals in chronic phases of disability.

Dr. HyangHee Kim at Yonsei University, Korea has been elected as a president (2011-2012) of the Korean Academy of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology(KASA).

Dr. Leanne Togher has been selected to give the first annual Dr. Mark Ylvisaker Honourary Lecture at the Fourth Annual Brainstorming Brain Injury Conference in May, 2011 in Toronto, Canada.

We would like to remind all certificate holders that the correct designator behind your names is **BC-ANCDS**. Please make sure you are using the correct designator in your email correspondences and business cards.


Pozzolo, A. & Pimentel, J. (2010; December). Reliability of the conversational interaction coding form when applied to natural conversation of individuals with aphasia. *Neurophysiology and Neurogenic Speech and Language Disorders*.


Continuing Education Events

May 2-3, 2011
Annual Interdisciplinary Brain Injury Course.
Sponsored by the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Visit www.ric.org/education or call 312-238-6042

May 25-26, 2001
Advanced Perspectives on Communication, ABI and Evidence-Based Practice.
Presented by Dr. Leanne Togher at the Fourth Annual Brainstorming Brain Injury Conference, Toronto, Canada
For more information, email: mail@osla.on.ca or call: 416-920-3676 or 1-800-718-6752

May 31-June 4, 2011
Clinical Aphasiology Conference
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Visit http://www.clinicalaphasiology.org/

June 9-10, 2011
Clinical Approaches for Managing Higher Cognitive Functions: Cognitive Control, Motor Planning, Motivation and Theory of Mind
Presented by Martha S. Burns, PhD, CCC-SLP
Sponsored by the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Visit www.ric.org/education or call 312-238-6042

June 23-24, 2011
Updates in Aphasia Rehabilitation for the Practicing Speech-Language Pathologist
Presented by Pelagie Beeson, PhD, CCC-SLP, Board Certified-ANCDS & Leora Cherney, PhD, CCC- SLP, Board Certified-ANCDS
Sponsored by the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Visit www.ric.org/education or call 312-238-6042

October 16-18, 2011
49th Annual Academy of Aphasia Meeting
Montreal, Canada.
Announcements from ASHA

2011 SLP Health Care Survey Being Fielded!

ASHA has mailed the biennial Health Care Survey to a large sample of SLPs in health care settings across the country. If you receive the survey, please fill it out and return it as soon as possible. Your compiled responses provide valuable information about trends in SLP health care practice.

To see results and trend reports from previous surveys, go to http://www.asha.org/research/memberdata/HealthcareSurvey09.htm.

Upcoming professional development from ASHA

- Executive Function Skills in Children and Adolescents: Assessment and Treatment Live web/telephone seminar on April 13; 1-3 p.m.
- Evidence-Based Intervention for Dementia Management On-demand web/telephone seminar
- Visit http://www.asha.org/ce/ASHA-courses/WebTeleSemIndex.htm for more information about these and other available and upcoming programs
# ANCDS Executive Board Members and Committee Chairs

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## Other Positions

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## Certification Board

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