Meet the Evidence-Based Aphasia Clinic (EBAC) Team

Sharon Holloran M.A, CCC-SLP, Lead Speech-language Pathologist for the EBAC has extensive clinical experience in the assessment and treatment of adults with neurogenic communication disorders. Sharon has worked in acute, sub-acute, outpatient and day treatment programs. She has business management expertise and is a published author in adult rehabilitation.

The Speech-Language Pathology staff at the Rehabilitation Institute collaborates to develop programs, collect data, implement new treatments and promote reliability in the delivery of care.

Robert Fucetola, Ph.D., ABPP-CN, Associate Professor of Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine, a neuropsychologist*, evaluates, treats and designs rehabilitation plans for patients with aphasia. He has developed innovative care paths for language treatment and published articles on aphasia following stroke.

Maurizio Corbetta, M.D., the Norman J. Stupp Professor of Neurology and Head of the Stroke and Brain Injury Rehabilitation Section at Washington University School of Medicine conducts research to understand how people recover after brain injury. Patients with stroke and aphasia are followed throughout their recovery with clinical, behavioral, anatomical and functional neuroimaging measures to track changes in their performance and in the brain. This knowledge is critical for developing future therapies of brain injury that are driven by sound neurobiological principles.

Fran Tucker, Ph.D.,CCC-SLP, Clinical Speech Pathologist, Program in Occupational Therapy at Washington University School of Medicine, consults with EBAC. Her experience includes clinical practice, teaching and research in aphasia. She coordinates the Aphasia Conversation Connection at Barnes-Jewish Extended Care, a community program for people with aphasia.

Lisa Tabor Connor, Ph.D. Assistant Professor in the Program in Occupational Therapy and Department of Radiology and Neurology at Washington University conducts research on aphasia recovery and how the brain changes during treatment to support aphasia recovery.

* HealthSouth provides access to independent private practice physicians, specializing in physical medicine and rehabilitation.
**Evidence-Based Aphasia Clinic (EBAC)**

Aphasia, pronounced (ah-fay-zha) is a communication disorder due to damage to the language centers and pathways of the brain. It is most often caused by a stroke, but can also result from head injury, tumors or neurological disease.

**People with aphasia can have difficulties:**
- Understanding speech
- Producing words and sentences
- Reading and writing
- Participating in everyday social activities

**Aphasia can:**
- Mask a person’s capabilities
- Interfere with a range of experiences
- Limit participation in many life events, relationships and work

The Evidence-Based Aphasia Clinic was established in 2001 to treat individuals with acute and chronic aphasia.

- Assessments and treatments are based upon the cognitive-neuropsychological models of language and the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Function, Disability and Health.
- Therapeutic approaches are holistic, integrative and aligned with the most current research

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**Purpose of the Evidence-Based Aphasia Clinic**

The purpose of our Evidence-Based Aphasia Clinic is to improve the client’s ability to communicate for a higher quality of life, using principles of evidence-based practice.

**The EBAC Brings Together:**

- The Latest Research
- Family & Caregivers
- People with Aphasia (with new onset, or long-standing)
- Speech Language Pathologists
- Aphasia Experts

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**What Is Exceptional About the Evidence-Based Aphasia Clinic?**

People with aphasia in treatment at the Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis benefit from these unique features:

**Treatment Care Paths are determined by:**
- Current needs and long-term goals of client and family
- Results of extensive neuropsychological evaluation of language
- Functional communication and non-verbal skill
- Most current research in aphasia treatment efficacy

**Progress is measured objectively via:**
- Use of single subject research design principles, with multiple layers of data collection
- Monthly comprehension and discourse probes
- Objective measures taken by non-biased, non-treating therapist
- Weekly and monthly probes:
  - Assess a treatment’s effectiveness regularly
  - Modify therapy when indicated
  - Track client and family/caregiver feedback

**Family and caregiver involvement is essential for our clients with aphasia**

**Goals are tailored to:**
- The personal communications needs of the client and family
- Home and community interests

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