An Update on our Treatment studies...

FINALLY... THE RECRUITMENT FOR TREATMENT STUDIES OFFICIALLY OPENED ON AUGUST 1. WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING THE FILES OF THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED INTEREST. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND WISH TO BE CONSIDERED, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

HERE IS SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDIES:

THE NEURAL BASIS OF LANGUAGE RECOVERY

This is a large scale study employing proven and effective language treatment protocols aimed at identifying the neural bases of language recovery in aphasia. We are recruiting aphasics—both acute (3-6 months post onset) and chronic (>6 months post onset)—with lexical and/or structural language deficits.

Participants will undergo language therapy in 1 of 2 treatment protocols (a) 2x/week or (b) 4x/week. Language improvement will be measured via neuro-imaging in addition to clinical measures.

There will be no charge for treatments and patients will be compensated for their participation.

EXAMINATIONS OF LANGUAGE PROCESSING IN APHASIA

We are conducting a large series of on-line (real-time) studies of language comprehension processes on all types of aphasias (also including R CVA-based disorders). These studies examine all aspects of the comprehension process from speech perception to lexical access to structural processing to discourse integration with behavioral and neuro-imaging techniques.

Exciting News for Dr. Love!

Dr. Tracy Love, Associate Director of the Aphasia Lab at UCSD, has recently been offered a faculty appointment by the School of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences at San Diego State University. Dr. Love will maintain her position as a Research Scientist here at UCSD and will continue to work at the Aphasia Lab here at UCSD as has been occurring all along.

In addition, she hopes to establish an Aphasia Lab on SDSU’s campus that will work jointly with this Lab. Although Dr. Love will be at SDSU more often when she is teaching, she will still be around at UCSD each and every week! Congratulations Dr. Love!
I wanted to write and tell all of you 'hi' and fill you in on my life. Things here are going very well. Our house is great, but the yard keeps us unbelievably busy- I had no idea how much work a house could be.

It has been hot lately, but a storm has moved in so it is cooling off. There are more bugs here than I have ever seen, but I have become the queen of bug spray and repellant.

We recently got a new addition to our family for Jolpin to play with. Her name is Sam and she is a hound dog. They both are doing well and love having a backyard to run in.

My work is fantastic. I am working at a hospital in primarily outpatient rehab. A majority of my patient’s are stroke survivors or people who were in car accidents. It is very interesting and I am learning a lot, but none of them compare to any of you.

I hope all is well with everyone and I will keep you all updated on my adventures out here. Please take care and keep in touch.

Love, Sarah

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ICE Could Save Your Life

To its owner, the cell phone is an indispensable lifeline at times of crisis, reuniting loved ones separated by unforeseen events at the touch of a button. But for members of the emergency services making life-and-death decisions, the cell poses a conundrum: Which of the numbers stored in its electronic address book should they call to reach a casualty's next of kin?

Now a simple initiative, conceived by a paramedic in Britain, has gained momentum on both sides of the Atlantic to try to solve this problem. Cell users are being urged to put the acronym ICE -- "in case of emergency" -- before the names of the people they want to designate as next of kin such as “ICE– Dad” or “ICE– Alison.”

At least two police forces in the United States are considering the idea, according to the initiative's British-based promoters, who say there has been a flurry of interest since the recent bombings in London. Paramedics, police and firefighters often waste valuable time trying to figure out which name in a cell phone to call when disaster strikes, according to current and retired members of the emergency services, who said they must look through wallets for clues, or scroll through cell address books and guess. Many people identify their spouse by name in their cell, making them indistinguishable from other entries. The idea was conceived by Bob Brotchie, a clinical team leader for the ambulance service, after years of trying to reach relatives of people he was treating. He began the ICE initiative in April, but it gained momentum only after the bombings in London, when information about the plan spread by e-mail.

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Greetings from Italy...

Hi everyone! My name is Angela Cheon and I will be a senior at UCSD as an undergraduate studying psychology. As some of you may be wondering why you have not seen me in the lab recently, I have been studying abroad in Italy for the summer since June. I will be returning to the lab as soon as I get back to the States in mid-September, which I am eager to get back to and so excited for. I am having a great time and it is all as amazing as many of you told me before I left. I can’t wait to go back and share the things that I’ve seen as well as catch up on the things everyone else has been doing. There are just so many things that I miss at the lab and I hope to catch up very soon with all of you. I miss you all!*

*Angela Cheon

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American Speech-Language and Hearing Association

ASHA is the national certifying body for speech-language pathologists. The initials CCC after a speech-language pathologist’s name indicate “Certificate of Clinical Competence”. To earn this designation, a speech-language pathologist must complete specified course work (master’s level coursework is the entry level for speech-language pathologists, and some choose to complete doctoral level coursework).

In addition, they need to complete at least 375 hours of supervised clinical observation and practicum that include a variety of types and severities of speech, language and hearing disabilities, pass a national examination administered by an independent testing service and complete a 9-month supervised clinical internship program (the Clinical Fellowship Year, or CFY).

ASHA maintains a national database of 4,200 programs that employ certified speech-language pathologists. The programs on the ASHA database may be hospitals, clinics, other health care facilities, private practitioners, schools, universities or home health agencies. Other types of useful information that can be accessed in the ASHA database are the types of payment accepted by the program and the number of certified speech-language pathologists on the staff.

State Licensure

In all but eight states, speech-language pathologists are required to be licensed by the state in which they practice. In many cases, state licensure is modeled on the ASHA standards for certification. Many speech-language pathologists choose to be both licensed by his/her state and certified by ASHA. However, it is legal to practice as a speech-language pathologist without being certified by ASHA, provided that the practitioner meets the state’s guidelines.

Indicators of Expertise

Speech-language pathology is a diverse field in which practitioners may choose to specialize in a number of types of communication disorders, including stuttering, child speech and language development, voice disorders, swallowing problems, etc. Some job assignments, by the nature of the caseload, also shape the expertise of a practitioner. ASHA’s division of consumer affairs suggests that families ask questions like, “Have you treated several cases like mine?,” when you consider working with a speech-language pathologist.

National Aphasia Association

NAA’s State Representatives

The National Aphasia Association is fortunate to have a national network of health professionals who volunteer to respond to questions from families. Called “NAA State Representatives”, these health professionals are experienced clinicians and researchers in the area of speech-language pathology who can advise families about the resources available in their area.

ASHA

Attention Action Center,
ASHA,
10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.
1-800-638-8255
www.asha.org/professionals/governmental_affairs/state_associations.htm

NAA

1-800-922-4622
www.aphasia.org.

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How to Find a Speech-Language Pathologist that’s Right for You
How to be in Control of your Treatment

Here are a few tips:

• Ask your doctor or pharmacist to make a “medication map.” This map:
  - Organizes all medicines into a daily schedule
  - Helps you make sure you take them at the ideal daily times
  - Gives a final check for any drug interactions
  - Separates any medicines that should not be taken together
  - And is a golden opportunity for you to be fully involved in your health care
Making this map helps you integrate your medicine into the way you actually live. It allows your doctor to determine if the timing and combinations are OK.

• Ask your doctor or pharmacist if they offer “brown-bag sessions”:  
  - Put all the medicines you now take in a bag
  - Have these professionals review them for dosage, strength, appropriateness, interactions and any other possible problems
  - Check expiration dates

• Never order a prescription over the Internet without a prescription, and do not automatically trust information you get from the Internet.

• Never take prescription drugs on the advice of friends or neighbors because your symptoms are “just like theirs.” Drug therapy must be individualized.

• Ask your doctor if you should be taking any vitamins or minerals.

• If you take medicines prescribed by more than one doctor, check the generic names for duplicate drugs with different brand names. This could cause serious overdoses. If you’re not sure, ask your pharmacist to help.

• Always keep follow-up appointments with your doctors and for laboratory tests.

Discover more strategies at:
http://www.strokeassociation.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3030126

Source: Adapted from The Essential Guide to Prescription Drugs 2004 by Dr. James Rybacki
Excerpted from Stroke Connection May/June 2004

Check us out on the web:
http://psy.ucsd.edu/LCNL/LRAS/home.htm

Get involved!

Have you ever thought about taking an art class, or learning to folk dance? San Diego’s Park and Recreation department offers a wide variety of activities, trips, and classes that could be just what you need to get away from the daily routine. For more information, contact:

San Diego Park and Recreation
Senior Services: (619) 236-6905