I hope you will enjoy reading the first edition of our new format annual report. This report will showcase some of the major events that shaped the past year, including new ground-breaking research of our faculty, special activities from our students and much more.

As Chair, I am privileged to be working with an outstanding group of people in our Department, the Rehabilitation Sector, the Faculty of Medicine and the University of Toronto as a whole.

In my role of Executive Chair of the Rehabilitation Sciences Sector I enjoyed collaborating with my colleagues in the sector towards building our capacity and raising more awareness for our professions within and outside the Faculty of Medicine.

I am grateful for the strong support our department receives from Dean Young, who promotes our profession in both oral and written form. Specific examples of his support can be found below and I will do everything in my power to nurture this collegial relationship, allowing us to maintain and expand our representation in the wider community.

As we near the end of 2018, I would like to highlight a few important events from the past year

**FACULTY**
This year we said goodbye to Dr. Alice Eriks-Brophy, who completed her last year of phased retirement at the end of June. Alice has been a wonderful colleague, a strong voice for the
department and a well-known scholar in the area of language development, especially related to hearing disorders. We will miss her and are happy that she will continue to have a presence in our department while supervising her doctoral student in the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute.

This year is also the last year of my first 5-year term as Chair of the Department and as is the custom at the University of Toronto, this means the department will go through an external review process. We have already a set date for the external reviewers to meet with the different stakeholders and we have submitted a detailed self-study report that will be provided to the reviewers as background material. Based on the findings of the reviewers, the department will then set its objectives for the next 5 years.

Dr. Rosemary Martino was successful in renewing her Canada Research Chair (Tier II) for another period of 5 years. We are very proud of Rosemary’s achievements and the impact her work is having on critical knowledge areas in swallowing and the translation of those findings into health care for patients suffering from dysphagia due to various conditions, including stroke and head and neck cancer.

**RESEARCH**

As in previous years, our faculty has been very successful in generating excellent research with their trainees and presenting the findings at various national and international conferences as well as publishing them in international peer-reviewed journals. When gathering the information for the self-study report I mentioned above, it struck me how our department with a relatively small number of full-time research faculty has been able to maintain a top 5 position in terms of number of publications and citations among our peers in North-America. Given the heavy workload for teaching and administrative services, this is surely a major accomplishment and I am very proud of my colleagues in maintaining these high standards. You can find examples of the research productivity from this year elsewhere in this report.

The SLP research stream programs (MSc and PhD) in the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute (RSI) under the leadership of its Director, Dr. Angela Colantonio, are doing very well. This year we saw 3 research students finishing their program with a successful defense of their thesis: Keelia Quinn de Launay (MSc), Teresa Valenzano (PhD), and Nicholas Wasylyk (MSc). We wish them all the best in their future career and also congratulate their supervisors (Deryk Beal, Catriona Steele, & Yana Yunusova/Rosemary Martino) with the graduation of their students.

**DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

This year, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of our department with a special education event on June 1st at the MARS building. It was just wonderful to see so many people attending this event where they listened to great talks, participated in a lively panel discussion and took the opportunity to meet old friends and colleagues. We of course had a cake and a cocktail, specifically created for
this event. You will find more information on this event elsewhere in this report, including a link to the website where you will find pictures and the recipe for the cocktail.

This September, we enrolled our second cohort of 60 students, bringing the total number of students in our program to 120, thus achieving our final target. Last year we created a new classroom for the incoming group of students and this year, we were fortunate to be able to get access to another larger teaching space. So, at this point we can accommodate both classes comfortably. I am again thankful for the support we received from Dean Trevor Young and my colleagues in the rehabilitation sciences sector to make this possible.

Last November, we organized another successful Awards & Recognition ceremony for our donors, supporters, faculty, clinicians, and students. At this event, we introduced two new teaching awards in recognition of the fact that our faculty and clinical partners play a critical role in the education and training of our students. As a department, we want to make sure that educators who go the extra mile preparing our students for a future career are recognized for their efforts based on nominations from students and peers. As is the tradition at this event, the Year I students also created a special music video, illustrating with a wink and smile some of the challenges getting through the foundations unit of our curriculum. It was received with a standing ovation by the audience and you can find a link to this video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnqDHHgLPHU

Under leadership of Dr. Yana Yunusova, we have also embarked on a review of our current curriculum. You can read more about this elsewhere in this report. We hope that this process will allow us to determine our educational needs for the next 5 years (and beyond) and make the necessary improvements to our program to accommodate the current enrollment and new professional competency standards, recently released by the provincial legislators for Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

I would like to thank our Alumni Association, who, as in previous years, organized several events in support of our students, including a successful Graduation Reception at the Muzzo Family Alumni Hall. As in previous years, students, family and guests were treated to an engaging performance of the Barbershop Quartet, led by our good friend and loyal supporter, Mr. George Shields.

**COMMUNITY**

In May, our department together with the Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (OSLA) organized four special talks in celebration of the Speech- and Hearing Month, also as part of our 60th anniversary. This included a public lecture on healthy aging and dementia by Dr. Regina Jokel, which attracted a large audience from outside our community.
As the year comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our donors for their continuous efforts to support the department and our students. Without their contributions and passion for our discipline and for those who benefit from our research and clinical practice, we would not be in the strong position we find ourselves at this time. Speech-Language Pathology may be a relatively young and small field of study and practice, but our impact on the quality of life for those affected by speech, language, hearing and swallowing disorders is truly significant. We hope to have more occasions in the New Year to bring this important message to the attention of the general public, funding agencies and governments at all levels.

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Finally, a big thank you to all of you for your support, your efforts and your successes in keeping our department on track to fulfil our mission. We released our new Strategic Plan, which you can find on our website [https://www.slp.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/UofT_FOM_SLP_Strategic_Plan_2018-2023.pdf](https://www.slp.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/UofT_FOM_SLP_Strategic_Plan_2018-2023.pdf), and I welcome your input on our strategies and priorities for the next 5 years. Without you we wouldn’t be able to deliver the best education and training for our students and generate innovative and ground-breaking research.

As always, I encourage you to let me know how we are doing and how you wish to be involved in our departmental activities. I would like to end by sending you my best wishes for the upcoming holidays and a successful, healthy and happy New Year!

**COMMUNITY**

**STUDENT PHILANTHROPY**

The Year 1 and Year 2 Speech-Language Pathology classes have been keeping busy and getting involved in various extracurricular activities. A balance between school-work and extracurriculars is the perfect way to maintain self-care. The class finds participating in intra-murals has been a great way to build their interprofessional healthcare connections. The intra-murals run after school in the evenings or on the weekends and range from volleyball and soccer, to rugby and ultimate Frisbee. Not only are they bonding with students from other faculties, but they are getting all the good endorphins of exercise at the same time!

This year the SLP Student council added two new student council positions. The first involves the student group *Mind Your Mind*. Run by Brianna Guild (Class of 2019) and founded by Jenna Haji (Class of 2018), *Mind Your Mind* is a student run multifaceted wellness
program that bridges self-care, education and personal growth. Weekly sessions are held for the Speech Language Pathology students in both Year 1 and Year 2 as an opportunity to achieve wellness and practice self-care and positivity. One of the pillars of the program is to give back to the community. This year, *Mind Your Mind* is expanding and will be having a charity sale for the holiday season. Custom bracelets will be sold for the occasion, with fifty percent of the sales going to The Centre for Mindfulness Studies, a charitable social enterprise that provides mindfulness-based interventions in Canada. This is the first year this fundraiser will kick-off, so they are all very excited and looking forward to it!

The second position involves the organization Hear2Speak.org. This not-for-profit organization aims to ensure high quality speech-language and hearing services are universally accessible! Last year, the passionate team from Hear2Speak.org organized two fundraising events and one online campaign which raised a total of $2,000. The donations were used to purchase five standardized speech and language assessments for the clinic at the University of Kelaniya in Sri Lanka to enable better services for low-income families. This year, Hear2Speak.org partnered with the Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration (TAAAC) in support of a partnership between Addis Ababa University and a group of Toronto SLPs. The total amount of money raised was $509.90. Read more about their efforts later in the report.

On Saturday May 5th 2018, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Graduate Students from the Ontario University programs gathered together for the first ever student-run conference, Theory to Therapy, at the University of Toronto. The day featured keynote speaker Dr. Deryk Beal, presentations from five current clinical and research students, and a team-based advocacy campaign creation challenge to promote collaboration between students from the different schools. Allie Annibale (Class of 2018), Shanie Rampersaud (Class of 2019) and Brianna Guild (Class of 2019), founded this conference, which will return for the second annual gathering in 2019.
Both SLP classes were involved in successful fundraisers this school year. In September 2018, Suzette Newton-Janse van Rensburg (Class of 2019) and an amazing team of Year 1 and Year 2 students organized *Singing for Support: A Concert Highlighting Communication and Mental Health*. Taking place in the beautiful Tapestry Opera space in the Distillery District, this fundraiser concert raised funds for the George Hull Centre for Children and Families, a community based centre for child, youth and family mental health programs and early intervention. Featuring the singing, dancing, acting, and musical talents of our students, the concert addressed the important connections between mental health and communication. In total, the concert raised over $2300 for the George Hull Centre!
In October 2018, both SLP classes took part in the first ever “End Hunger Games” food drive. The purpose of this fundraiser was to collect food and donations for the Mississauga food bank. The SLP classes competed against the other rehab departments and ended up collecting the most food and donations.

Areej Hussain & Anja Trajkovic
Year 1 Co-Presidents

Corinne Shapero & Suzette Newton-Janse van Rensburg
Year 2 Co-Presidents

Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration

There have been a number of U of T news articles recently about the Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration (TAAAC) and their partnership with Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, but there is a fairly recent development within the department of speech-language pathology as well. TAAAC which was created in 2008 as a unique multi-disciplinary educational initiative, aligned with members of the Speech-Language Pathology community, faculty from our department and students as a result of an urgent need for student support in the capital.

Kimberley Bradley was present at a meeting of a few of those involved in this venture on November 28, 2018 here at 500 University Avenue. The group met with Hear 2 Speak (H2S) members Umna Islam, Bavika Atputhajeyam, Mia Sara Misić, Nikolina Kapor, Anna Huy and Aravind Namisivyam, to accept a cheque. Under the leadership of the H2S group, monies were raised in support of the efforts of seven experienced clinicians and educators, all connected with the University of Toronto, who
have journeyed to Addis Ababa University in the past year to teach, mentor and help the inaugural class of 17 speech therapists to graduate (and to work!!) in Ethiopia. Marci Rose for TAAAC and Kim representing the International Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation (ICDR) have coordinated this endeavour with the support of SLP Chair Pascal Van Lieshout. We are grateful for the generosity of time, competence and caring that Nesanet Girma (swallowing), Zuleikha Wadwaniya (adult neuro), Hilary Ganek (aural rehab), Alice Eriks Brophy (child language), Tracey Shepherd (AAC) and Carolyn Spavor (paediatric motor speech and fluency) have shared.

Please contact Kim Bradley or visit the TAAAC website http://taaac.com/ if you are interested in supporting this work either here in Toronto or in Ethiopia.

**GRADITUDE**

It has been another dynamic year for Advancement in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology with more than $25,000 raised in 2017/2018 from our alumni, corporate partners and friends. This funding was primarily designated to student support – including the creation of new scholarships for MHSC students – and priorities of the Chair in the Department. We are truly grateful for the ongoing support that allows us to provide opportunities for all our learners and faculty that they may not otherwise have access to. It is an honour and privilege to partner with you in educating the next generation of health care professionals.

Priorities for next year include continuing to increase student support, particularly funding for PhD students, as well as moving forward to secure funding for our world renowned research programs. We will also continue to work with our hospital partners, including the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital among others, on joint fundraising priorities.

Again, thank you for your continued interest in and support of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology. Your support is impactful. To discuss funding opportunities in more detail, please contact me at katie.rock@utoronto.ca or 416-559-2731. Please also see https://donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/180 if you are interested in making a donation online.
HONOURS AND AWARDS

SLP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

J.B. Orange is a Professor in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Western University at London Canada, and an Associate Scientist with Lawson Health Research Institute at London Canada. He also is the Scientific Director of the Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging at Western.

Dr. Orange’s peer-reviewed publications and funded research address language and cognitive-communication disorders of adults and older adults. His research has a special emphasis on discourse of individuals with various forms of dementia.

Dr. Orange’s current research projects, several funded by the Ontario Neurodegenerative Research Initiative (ONDRI) and the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA), include analyses of language, discourse, and conversations of individuals with Alzheimer’s dementia, several subtypes of frontotemporal lobe dementia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, vascular cognitive impairment, Lewy body dementia, and Parkinson’s disease, especially for those with hearing, vision, and dual sensory impairments. The objectives of these studies are to identify within- and between-group differences among various types of dementia that will assist differential diagnosis, and which will advance our understanding of disease trajectories based on correlations with cognitive, neuroimaging, gait/balance and genetics measures core to the ONDRI and CCNA studies.

Other on-going studies include a qualitative study of communication among persons with dementia and their family caregiver from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) South-East Asian groups, and the effectiveness of an iPad-based conversation memory notebook to enhance person-centred communication between family caregivers and relatives with Alzheimer’s dementia.
Adjunct Lecturer, Aravind Namasivayam received the first Faculty Recognition Award for Teaching Excellence in an Academic Course at our Annual Awards Breakfast in the fall.

The student nominator praised Namasivayam’s “exceptional dedication in supporting his students’ learning” and his teaching style, which provides students “with both current knowledge of practice and a direction to improve clinical practice in the future.” Congratulations, Aravind!

CONTINUING EDUCATION

PARTNERSHIPS

ADVANCED LITERACY PRACTICES

The Department of Speech Language Pathology, University of Toronto collaborated with the Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists and Jana Leggett (SLP) to develop an accredited, continued education course in the areas of literacy for practicing speech language pathologists. The Advance Literacy Practices course launched in January 2015 and is now in its third year.

This 6-month-long course consists of 36 in-class hours, 2 self-study modules, and 2 practice modules. The in-class course presents contemporary and advanced approaches to assessment and intervention in emergent literacy, reading, and writing disorders. Learners acquire knowledge of these disorders across various populations (i.e., English language learners, students with executive functioning difficulties, or autism) and work to apply research findings to their practice. Topics covered include the neurology and genetics of learning to read, how learning theories influenced current instructional approaches, the impact of attitudes and beliefs on learning to read, a thorough discussion of the link between oral language and literacy, and the use of assistive technologies as tools of accommodation. Classroom learning involves interactive lectures interspersed with group discussions and oral presentations by participants. In the practice modules, participants apply appropriate assessment materials to a student with an emergent literacy, reading, or writing disorder and interpret the results to provide curriculum-based recommendations. Additionally, participants design and deliver an intervention plan for this student targeting linguistic, cognitive, and meta-linguistic components of emergent literacy, reading, and writing. The course offers many opportunities for individuals to think critically about the application of research and their learning to their clinical practice. Overall the course has received positive feedback and participant reflections reported changes in their clinical practice.
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

CURRICULUM REVIEW

In the past year, the department underwent initial stages of its curriculum review. The review was motivated by the need to take a fresh look at our clinical program, considering the dynamic nature of the field of SLP, recent changes towards a competency-based professional practice framework as well as growing number of students in the department.

The first step in this process was to survey our students, faculty and clinical educators. Based on their responses, we carefully reviewed each element of our curriculum - integrative learning experiences, research-to-practice activities, portfolio, clinical units, and interprofessional education - and developed a set of recommendations for improvements in each of these areas.

We also organized a retreat to stimulate the ‘big picture’ discussion around our educational practices, not only to help guide the recommendations for renewal but also to help establish a mutual understanding of the purpose, priorities, and nature of the curriculum prior to considering program updates. As we are undergoing a detailed curriculum mapping at this time, we are considering the five vision statements formulated at the retreat around the central theme of the Departmental Strategic Plan 2018, which is to “Prepare and Educate Leading Clinicians and Scientists in SLP” by:

1. BUILDING UPON A STRONG FOUNDATION OF CORE SLP KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS;
2. ENGAGING WITH RESEARCH FOR ONGOING PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE ADVANCEMENT;
3. ENGAGING IN REFLECTIVE PRACTICE AS A PROCESS OF QUESTIONING, PROBLEM-SOLVING AND IMPROVING;
4. STRIVING TO PROVIDE PERSON-CENTERED SERVICE DELIVERY;
5. ACTING AS LEADERS AND AGENTS OF CHANGE IN THE HEALTH AND EDUCATION SYSTEMS
In 2018, the Department of Speech Language Pathology (SLP) celebrated its 60th birthday with a series of educational events on and off campus. The culmination of our special year was an exciting educational event on June 1, which celebrated the real impact of our clinicians and researchers on the lives of children and adults with communication and swallowing disorders. Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Trevor Young and the Ontario Deputy Minister of Health Bob Bell delivered congratulatory speeches. Toronto leaders in SLP - Rosemary Martino, Aura Kagan, Jana Leggett, and Elaine Weitzman presented their impactful clinical research in swallowing disorders, aphasia, literacy and language development respectively. In the afternoon, Sean Peacocke from the Holland Bloorview Children’s Hospital led a panel discussion on the future of building strong collaborations between researchers and clinicians.

Participants said, “It was truly a wonderful day!”; “The spirit and sense of community in the room was vibrant!”; “I was very impressed with the structure and organisation of the program - “Real Impact” was, unquestionably, achieved.

A photo gallery, summary of the panel discussion and a recipe for the signature cocktail “What Happens in Vagus” are available on our website.
CLINICAL EDUCATION A YEAR IN REVIEW

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Susan J. Wagner, BSc (SPA), MSc (CD), Reg. CASLPO, Reg. SLP (C)
Coordinator of Graduate Studies
Associate Professor, Teaching Stream
Coordinator of Clinical Education

Susan and Brian Simmons (Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto and Department of Newborn and Developmental Pediatrics, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre) presented a workshop entitled Show Us How: Assessment of Learning in Interprofessional Education and Collaboration at the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) conference in Basel, Switzerland in August. This focused on work published in 2016 with Scott Reeves (Kingston University, London and St. George’s, University of London, U.K.) in the chapter Assessment of Interprofessional Education: Key Issues, Ideas, Challenges and Opportunities in the book Innovation and Change in Professional Education (Vol. 13): Assessing Competence in Professional Performance across Disciplines and Professions edited by Wimmers and Mentkowski. Please connect with Susan regarding interprofessional education and collaboration at the university or in your community.

Lynn Ellwood, BSc(CD), MHSc, MBA, S-LP(C) Reg. CASLPO
Associate Professor, Teaching Stream
Coordinator of Clinical Education

This year, Lynn obtained a Master of Business Administration degree from the Henley Business School, University of Reading, UK. Her thesis topic was “Key Success Factors for Clinical Placement Planning”. She has begun dissemination of the research findings, having presented to the Canadian Academic Coordinators of Clinical Education and at ASHA in Boston in November 2018. Please reach out to Lynn if you have an interest in exploring how her research findings and related literature may apply to your work setting.
Jennifer Wadds, MHSc, Reg. CASLPO
Lecturer, Coordinator of Clinical Education

In the course Principles of Clinical Practice, Jenny has developed many hands-on experiences for students to practice clinical skills. This work culminates in a capstone clinical skills assignment to be completed independently (i.e., interpretation of clinical assessment findings, goal setting and treatment planning). The assignment must be passed successfully before proceeding to the first clinical placement. The aim is to ensure students are well prepared with foundational skills for clinical placements. In addition, Jenny has developed community partnerships for related specialized learning experiences, such as classroom language screenings with the Durham District School Board. If you would like to discuss approaches to pre-placement preparation of our students, please reach out to Jenny.

**CLINICAL PLACEMENTS AT A GLANCE**
- Number of Clinical Educators involved in clinical placements = 369
- Total Number of Clinical Placements = 340
- Clinical Educators with Status-Only Appointments = 166
- Enrollment for 2018 Year 1 - 61, Year 2 - 52
Paired/Group Model:
This approach involves an individual or a group of clinicians providing clinical education to two or more students simultaneously. This model allows students to develop their collaboration and reflective practice skills while supporting each other in their learning process. In addition to allowing multiple students to benefit from a single learning experience, this model can free up the clinician’s time to address only the most meaningful questions and teaching opportunities.

2018 Faculty Recognition Award for Teaching Excellence in a Clinical Course
The recipient of the department’s first Faculty Recognition Award for Teaching Excellence in a Clinical Placement is Inaam (Nima) Sahar. This award is given to an individual or teams of clinical educators in speech-language pathology who have made outstanding contributions to the education of students in the MHSc stream and is presented at our Annual Awards Celebration in the Fall.

Sahar is a lecturer and clinical educator with the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and an SLP at the George Hull Centre for Children and Families.

In the words of her student nominator, Sahar, “embodies the essential elements of an educator: she is intuitive, passionate, patient and reflective. I am so lucky to have had the opportunity to learn from Nima. (Sahar) demonstrates by example how rewarding our profession is when you commit yourself to becoming the best clinician you can be.” Congratulations Nima!
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

This exciting supplemental placement opportunity was developed in partnership with the Durham District School Board (DDSB) and has been running for the past three years. All students in Year 1 are provided with a training session by speech-language pathologists (SLPs) from DDSB, on administering and interpreting a brief assessment tool examining language and phonological awareness skills. This training session is valuable for developing knowledge of language development and clinical assessment skills. Students then volunteer to participate in pre-and post-assessment days with DDSB SLPs. In the fall term, SLP students work in pairs under the supervision of an SLP to administer assessments to kindergarten children identified by their teachers as being at risk for delay. SLP students then return in the spring to perform re-assessments of children after classroom-based supports have been provided throughout the year. This fast-paced and unique opportunity both benefits the school board and gives SLP students the chance to gain clinical hours towards certification and develop essential clinical skills.

Global Impact - International Clinical Internships

Students frequently indicate that they appreciate and are attracted to opportunities for learning in international contexts. Currently, there is capacity for 12 students annually to experience international clinical placements across four partner sites. Countries involved include India, Kenya and Trinidad. Placements are carefully developed to align with the vision, mission and values of the International Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation (ICDR) and our program.

We currently have formal placement agreements with:

- Amar Seva Sangam (ASSA), Tamil Nadu, India
- Immortelle Children’s Center, Port of Spain, Trinidad
- Sri Ramachandra University, Tamil Nadu, India
- Yellow House Children's Services, Kisumu, Kenya
In 2018, the department organized a placement for four students in Trinidad for eight weeks in Unit 3, a placement for two students in Tamil Nadu for four weeks in Unit 5, and a placement for two students in Kenya for ten weeks in Unit 9. The latter is supported by Chris Gandy through the Chris Gandy International Outreach Award.

The partnership with Yellow House in Kisumu, Western Kenya exemplifies the high standards of the Department’s international clinical partnerships. Yellow House annually welcomes two SLP students for a 10-week placement in the latter part of the program. These students meaningfully contribute to the site’s service delivery models, by enhancing service volumes and offering in-services to caregivers and other health professionals. In July 2018, Professor Lynn Ellwood was welcomed on site for a two-week work-study, providing continuing professional development to staff and supporting the clinical education of the two MHSc students. Ellwood and the students helped Yellow House organize a conference on communication disabilities in East Africa held in Kisumu, and offered several presentations and workshops.
Interprofessional Education Curriculum

IPE AT-A-Glance

DEFINITION
“Interprofessional education occurs when two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.”
- World Health Organization, 2010

1600 STUDENTS EACH YEAR IN 11 HEALTH SCIENCE PROFESSIONS
- Dentistry
- Kinesiology and Physical Education
- Medical Radiation Sciences
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant
- Social Work
- Speech-Language Pathology

THREE COMPETENCY CONSTRUCTS OR THEMES
- Values and Ethics
- Communication
- Collaboration

CORE LEARNING ACTIVITIES INTEGRATED INTO THE SLP CURRICULUM
Year 1
- Unit 1 and 2 – SLP 1520 Principles of Clinical Practice
  - Teamwork: Your Future in Interprofessional Healthcare
  - Roles of Health Professions and Team Dynamics
  - Understanding Patient/Client Partnerships in Team Dynamics
- Unit 2 - Health and Wellness

Year 2
- Unit 6 - Collaborating for Quality
- Unit 7 – SLP 1508 – Advanced Clinical Laboratory in Speech-Language Pathology
  - Case-Based: Palliative Care
  - IPE Component in a Clinical Placement
- Unit 8 – SLP 1535 Advanced Principles of Clinical Practice
  - Conflict in Interprofessional Life

ELECTIVE LEARNING ACTIVITY EXAMPLES
- Health Care Team Challenge
- Health Mentor Program
- Dying and Death
- Seniors Outreach Program
- Toronto Rehabilitation Institute: Meet the Team
- Interprofessional Approach to Promoting and Protecting Breastfeeding
- Empowering Patients/ Clients: Examples from an HIV Context
- Tourette Syndrome Plus: What To Consider

INTERFACULTY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
- Oversees the IPE curriculum
- Susan Wagner speech-language pathology representative

KEY VALUE – RELATIONSHIP-CENTERED CARE
Susan Wagner honoured to be **Keynote Speaker** at **Convocation Ceremonies** for School of Dental Health and Schools of Health and Wellness and Health Services Management at **George Brown College** in June 2018. Her address focused on relationship-centred care, a key value in University of Toronto IPE curriculum and concept in professional life

Four dimensions of relationship-centred care:
1) Relationship of practitioner with patient or client and family
2) Relationship of clinician with other health providers
3) Relationship of health provider with community
4) Relationship of clinician to herself
GOT EFFICACY? The Department of SLP at U of T successfully completes a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) of PROMPT intervention for children with severe speech sound disorders!

Evidence-Informed Practice (previously known as Evidence-Based Practice) is an important concept in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP). Speech-Language Pathologists and incoming students are strongly encouraged to critically examine research literature to inform their practice. Amongst the vast literature and study designs available, a Randomized Controlled Trial Design (RCT) is considered the “GOLD STANDARD” to establish causality between treatment (independent variable) and observed changes in behavior or therapy effects (dependent variable). However, the current state of research literature in the field of SLP with this level of evidence is limited, in particular with respect to treatment for pediatric speech disorders.

This year, Adjunct Lecturer, Aravind Namasivayam (Principal Investigator) and his co-investigator, Professor, Pascal van Lieshout successfully completed a large-scale high-level treatment efficacy study on children with speech sound disorders and motor speech involvement (SSD-MSI) using a well-controlled RCT design. The study is the first of its kind to examine the treatment efficacy of the Prompts for Restructuring Oral Muscular Phonetic Targets (PROMPT) approach for this population. In the RCT design, 49 children with severe SSD-MSI were first assessed at baseline (pre-treatment) and were then randomly allocated either to (1) an immediate intervention group (to receive 10 weeks of PROMPT intervention 45-min sessions 2x per week) or (2) a control group that was waitlisted for the same period and received routine home training instructions. Assessments were carried out following the 10-week intervention/waitlist period.

Data collection for this five-year project spanned across three clinical sites in Ontario, namely the ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment and Development in Mississauga, The Speech and Stuttering Institute in Toronto, and The John McGivney Children's Centre of Essex County in Windsor. The project involved more than 40 research assistants, 14 Speech-Language Pathologists and assessors, and 49 participants! After 5 years of waiting for the completion of data collection, data analysis and statistical procedures, Namasivayam says the results provide critical new information!

The study clearly demonstrated that PROMPT intervention results in significant positive changes in speech motor control skills, articulation, speech severity and word-level speech intelligibility in children with severe SSD-MSI. Namasivayam shares that, “For the first time, the study provides a clear indication of the magnitude of intervention related change for this population above and beyond neuro-motor maturation and home training activities, clearly supporting the need for direct S-LP driven intervention for this population”.

The Department of SLP at U of T successfully completes a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) of PROMPT intervention for children with severe speech sound disorders!
The results of the study were presented at the annual American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s convention in Boston in November 2018. Stay tuned for the write-up of these results which will be submitted for peer-review publication!

Note. The study was funded via a competitive clinical trials research grant from The PROMPT Institute in Santa Fe (New Mexico, USA) awarded to Dr. Namasivayam in 2013. To avoid any potential for bias and conflict of interest, the study integrity was monitored by an arms-length, external agency, The Applied Health Research Centre (AHRC) at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and was pre-registered prior to start of study in U.S. National Institutes of Health

**RESEARCH CORNER**

**Voice and Resonance Lab**
**Tim Bressmann, PhD, Associate Professor**
We are interested in speech disorders related to craniofacial syndromes (e.g., cleft palate) and head & neck cancer. Some of our current research focuses on the assessment of tongue movement with ultrasound and the acoustic analysis of oral-nasal balance in speech.

**Speech Fluency Lab**
**Luc De Nil, PhD, Professor**
We are exploring brain processes that lead to the development of stuttering in children and adults. By looking at functions and anatomy using state-of-the-art brain imaging, we can understand what factors cause stuttering and, importantly, what we can do better in treatment. In a recent study (Beal, et al. 2013 published in Cortex) we found that there are significant differences in brain anatomy between children who do and do not stutter.

**Swallowing Lab**
**Rosemary Martino, PhD, Professor**
We study the pathophysiology of the swallow at the bedside and with instrumentation in patients with head and neck cancer, stroke or Parkinson’s disease. Our research develops point of care tools to identify swallowing problems (dysphagia) and its medical consequences, such as aspiration pneumonia, malnutrition and psychological issues. Our tools target earlier and more accurate identification enabling earlier dysphagia interventions. Our overarching goal is to conduct research that will assist clinicians in providing the best possible care to their patients and that will ultimately help reduce the burden of dysphagia for patients, their caregivers and the community.
Language Sciences Lab
Elizabeth Rochon, PhD, Assistant Professor
Our current research is focused on understanding language and communication difficulties in individuals with neurological disorders. With several multidisciplinary research groups, we are characterizing neuroplastic changes after language therapy in stroke patients, determining the optimal dose of anomia therapy in aphasia, investigating whether electrical stimulation is a beneficial adjuvant to aphasia therapy, characterizing the nature and course of language impairments in primary progressive aphasia (PPA), and developing clinical interventions and guidelines for clinicians who work with dementia patients.

Oral Dynamics Lab
Pascal van Lieshout, PhD, Chair, Professor
We are conducting research on oral motor control processes in speech production using state-of-the-art technology. Our aim is to provide a better understanding of underlying physiological and physical control mechanisms based on dynamical system theory principles in healthy and speech-disordered populations across the lifespan.

Speech Production Lab
Yana Yunusova, PhD, Associate Professor
We are conducting an NIH-funded study to diagnose changes in bulbar form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Funded by Parkinson Society of Canada and the Canadian Partnership for Stroke Rehabilitation, we are also developing interactive computer games for treating speech problems in those with Parkinson disease and apraxia of speech due to stroke.

Bloordview Research Institute
Deryk Beal, PhD, Assistant Professor (status-appointed)
We use behavioural, neuroimaging and neurostimulation techniques to study speech, language and swallowing physiology for the purpose of innovating neurorehabilitation interventions. We are conducting an NSERC-funded study of the neural mechanisms that drive speech development in childhood that will provide us with comparative data for future studies of speech disorders. We are also investigating the use of neuroimaging-guided electrical and magnetic brain stimulation to facilitate recovery from childhood brain injury including stroke and concussion with funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and Holland Bloordview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation.

Swallowing Rehabilitation Research Laboratory
Toronto Rehabilitation Institute
Catriona M. Steele, PhD, Professor (status-appointed)
We conduct research aimed at better understanding the physiology of healthy swallowing across the range of food and liquid consistencies, and revealing the physiological mechanisms behind impaired swallowing safety and efficiency in people with dysphagia. A further goal of our work is to study exercise-based interventions for swallowing impairment.
2018 Featured Lab

**Multilingual Development Lab**
*Monika Molnar, Assistant Professor*

Our focus is on typical and atypical language development in children who learn more than one language. Canada, especially Toronto, is a multicultural and multilingual region where many languages are spoken in addition to English and French. In Canada, children often learn their heritage language at home (e.g., Aboriginal languages of the First Nations, Arabic, Farsi, German, Italian, Mandarin, Tagalaog, Spanish, Panjabi, Russian, etc.) and the official languages of Canada (English or French) simultaneously as they grow up. Until recently, theoretical language & cognitive development research has mostly focused on monolingual children only, and as a result most of the assessment and intervention techniques developed for Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) are based on monolingual norms. One of the main goals of the Multilingual Development Lab is to advance the SLP profession by focusing on developmental norms in bilingual/multilingual populations.

Our research has so far demonstrated that while multilingual children reach the developmental milestones of linguistic development at the same pace as their monolingual peers, children from multilingual backgrounds rely on cognitive and neural resources differently than monolinguals, when it comes to language processing. We are currently investigating whether growing up in a multilingual setting, as opposed to a monolingual one, affects the speed and ability of becoming familiar with new conversation partners in children with and without developmental language disorders. Learning about the voices and language(s) of new conversation partners is crucial for successful linguistic processing. An impairment in this area can lead to (or signal) phonological processing deficits in both monolinguals and bilinguals.
Selected Publications


Tardif M, Berti LC, Marino VM, Pardo J, Bressmann T, Senior Author. Hypernasal Speech is Perceived as More Monotonous than Typical Speech. Folia Phoniatrica et Logopaedica. 2018; 70: 183-190. (Trainee publication M. Tardif)

Marino VC, Cardoso VM, de Boer G, Dutka JCR, Fabbroni EM, Bressmann T, Senior Author. Normative Nasalance Scores for Middle Aged and Elderly Speakers of Brazilian Portuguese. Folia Phoniatrica et Logopaedica. 2018; 82-89.


Perry, B., Martino, R., Yunusova, Y., Plowman, E.K., & Green, J.R. Lingual and Jaw Kinematic Abnormalities Precede Speech and Swallowing Impairments in ALS. Dysphagia. In press.


Namasiyavam-MacDonald, A. M., Barbon, C. E. A. & Steele, C. M. (2018). Dysphagia or...


http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2016.1243165


Summer Student Research Day, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Toronto, Canada

De Biasio, M., Belyk, M., & Beal, D. S. (2018). Diffusion kurtosis imaging (DKI) analysis to investigate speech production networks of adults who stutter. Ward Summer Student Research Day, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Institute, Toronto, Canada


Saban, W., Mentzel, M., Zukerman, S., Brown, T., and Ben-David, B. M. (Feb 2018) Is it Possible that the Cognitive Abilities of Older Adults are Well Preserved? Presenting Neuropsychological Tests in a Larger Format Could Raise Performance to that of Younger Adults. 5th Israeli Conference on Cognitive Research, Acco, Israel.

Ben-David, B. M., Malkin, G., and Erel, H. (Feb 2018). What Mistakes We Make When We Test Older Adults? The Effect of Sensory and Social Factors on the Validity of Neuropsychological Assessment. 5th Israeli Conference on Cognitive Research, Acco, Israel.


Tardiff M, Berti LC, Marino VM, Pardo J, Bressmann T. Hypernasal Speech is Perceived As More Monotonous than Typical Speech. Annual convention of the American Speech and Hearing Association, Boston, MA, 14-17.11.2018. (Poster)


American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, Boston, MA.


Martino, R (2018, Mar) Changes in Cardiac Function During A Swallowing Exercise Program in Patients With Coronary Artery Disease. Dysphagia Research Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, United States. Co-Presenter(s): Barker J, Yau T.


Martino, R (2018, Jan) Prevalence of Severe Dysphagia in Patients Up To 5 Years Following Completion of Curative Radiotherapy for Head and Neck Cancer (Rapid Fire Presentation And Poster Session). Princess Margaret Cancer Conference, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Presenter(s): Greco E, Ringash J, Tomlinson G.


Involvement in bulbar ALS. Neuroimaging Society in ALS, Edinburgh, United Kingdom. Oral Presentation.


Wagner, S.J. & Richardson D. Team Faculty Development on Collaborative Healthcare Teams: Techniques from Shakespearean Tragedy to IPE Reality!

Wagner, S.J., Simmons, B.S. & Reeves, S. Cracking The Conundrum of Assessment in Interprofessional Education: An Introduction to the Role of Structure, Function and Outcome.

Dickter, D.N., Wagner, S.J., Simmons, B.S., Reeves, S., Yumori, J., Teegzes, J. & Ashton, S. Frontiers In Interprofessional Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (IOSCEs).


SELECTED RESEARCH GRANTS

DERYK BEAL, (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation, Catalyst Grant: The Neuroanatomic Correlates of Long-Term Communication Outcome in Preschoolers with Traumatic Brain Injury: a Pilot Study. $10,000

BOAZ BEN-DAVID- UOFT, IDC (CO-APPLICANT)
PI Wendy Sandler (Haifa University). Israeli Science Foundation. Perceiving Emotions in Sign Language: Lexical (Words) vs. Non-Lexical (Tone) Channels, $430,000 CAD

PI Vered Shakuf (IDC). SHALEM: For the Advancement of Services for People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Local Councils. The What and How of Spoken Communication: New Paths to Improve the Integration of Adults with IDD, $36,000 CAD

DOUGLAS CHEYNE, (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR),
PASCAL VAN LIESHOUT, (CO-APPLICANT)
Co-investigators(s): Borschel, Gregory (co-applicant); Chau, Tom (co-applicant); Donner, Elizabeth (co-applicant); Zuker, Ron (collaborator), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Non-Invasive Imaging of Sensorimotor Plasticity Following Cranial Nerve Repair, $673,000 CAD

ROSEMARY MARTINO (CO-PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR)

Canada Research Chairs, Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Swallowing Disorders, $500,000 CAD

Co-Investigators: A. Davis, L. Moody, K. Higgins, J. Jones, R. Martino, S. McEwen, Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, Innovation to Impact Grant, Efficacy of the Rehabilitation Planning Consult for Survivors of Head and Neck Cancer: A Phase II Randomized Controlled Trial, $450,000 CAD

YANA YUNUSOVA (CO-APPLICANT)
Co-investigators: C. Barnett-Tapia, J. Berry, R. Martino, L. Zinman, National Institutes of Health National Institutes of Deafness and Communications Disorders, The development and validation of a novel tool for the assessment of bulbar dysfunction in ALS, $2,824,870.02 USD

Co-investigators: Taati, B., Bandini, A., Boulos, M. Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery Collaborative Grant & 2018 Dr. Tony Hakim Stroke Innovation Award Improving Facial Tracking Technology for the Assessment of Orofacial Deficits and their Recovery after Stroke, $50,000 CAD

Boulos, M., Yunusova, Y., Thorpe, K. Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery Collaborative Grant Strengthening Oropharyngeal Muscles as a Novel Approach to Treat Obstructive Sleep Apnea After Stroke, $50,000 CAD

CATRIONA M. STEELE (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)
Industry Contract: Nestle Health Science, PORSCHE: Performance of the Algorithm used by the Dysphagia Detection System (DDS) in Detecting Impaired Swallowing Safety and Efficiency as Compared to the Clinical Reference Method - Videofluoroscopic Swallowing Study (VFSS), $1.2 million CAD

Heart and Stroke Foundation Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery, Catalyst Grant: Effortful Swallow Training for the Rehabilitation of Aspiration Post-Stroke, $50,000 CAD