

25 Years of ATP: Nidhi Mahendra

I first got involved with ATP as an Assistant Professor at CSUEB in 2006, given my clinical and research experience working with persons with dementia, aphasia, and neurologic communication disorders. My early roles were supervising, planning aphasia-specific class projects, and collaborating with former ATP director Dr. Avent. After Dr. Avent's retirement, in 2009, I began to collaborate closely with Ellen Bernstein-Ellis and helped initiate an active era of research, training, and advocacy work and helped to substantially improve publicity about the Aphasia Treatment Program, that led to multiple national and international research collaborations and accolades. I served as ATP co-director in 2010 and 2011 along with Ellen Bernstein-Ellis. In 2012, I stepped into the role of Department Chair and doubled down to make ATP a well-known program at CSUEB and to shine a light on the success that ATP modeled as a university program that provided long-term, clinical services while training graduate students in state-of-the-art aphasia therapy. During these years, the Aphasia Treatment Program and the Aphasia Tones performed at the CSHA Convention in San Jose (2012), was recognized as a departmental strength in the ASHA accreditation process (2012), performed at CSUEB's WASC Accreditation celebration event (2013), hosted the first campus-wide aphasia awareness event with actor Carl McIntyre and screening the Aphasia movie (2014; this event partly funded by a grant that I and Shubha Kashinath received), and engaged in a historic collaboration with the Hayward City library, raising awareness about aphasia and with the Aphasia Tones performing at Hayward City Hall (2015). During these years, ATP and the Aphasia Tones stepped solidly into the spotlight, enjoying media attention and being featured in the Tri-City voice newspaper, on the KQED radio show, and receiving the Bay Area Proud Award (in 2015).

I am most proud of the role I played in ATP's leadership as co-director and by leveraging my role as department chair to highlight ATP while establishing a stronger culture of clinical research, collaboration, and strategic publicity for the program. A pinnacle moment was when I received a letter as department chair from CSU Chancellor Tim White praising our collective efforts and recognizing our department's work in aphasia. I helped establish. I most value the relationship I have with ATP director Ellen, with ATP members and their families, and our student researchers working in aphasia. Together we made an incredible difference, and I

carried the seeds of this work in launching the Spartan Aphasia Research Clinic (SPARC) at San José State University, which just completed 5 years. The memories we made, the student and client lives we changed, the research we did together, and the bonds I developed are unforgettable. In t

Sample Work Presented (of a long list)

Fox, M. C.* , Bernstein-Ellis, E., & Mahendra, N. (September 2017). Keep singing: A qualitative look at the experience of long-term participation in a choir for adults with aphasia. Technical paper, 10th Biennial Asia Pacific Conference of Speech, Language, and Hearing, Narita, Japan.

Bernstein-Ellis, E., Mahendra, N., Cherney, L., Richards, C. D., Silverman, M. E., Shelley, K. (November 2015). Hear Us Roar: Aphasia advocacy and awareness across different stages and settings. 2-hour seminar, 2015 ASHA Convention, Denver, Colorado.

Bernstein-Ellis, E., Avent, J., Mahendra, N. (2014). Increasing communicative access for individuals with aphasia at Yosemite National Park: Partnership, advocacy and change. Mini-seminar, Annual Convention of the California Speech Language Hearing Association, San Francisco.

Jones, B., Bernstein-Ellis, E., Mahendra, N., Rose, M. (November 2013). Aphasia Choirs go global: An international survey comparing structure, goals and outcome measures. Poster, 2013, ASHA Convention, Chicago.

Scullion, A.* , Mahendra, N., Ituarte, S. (November 2011). Training future first responders about aphasia: Knowledge is power. Poster presentation, Annual ASHA Convention, San Diego.

Spicer, J.* , Mahendra, N., Lau, L.* , Carrillo, B.* , Butler, G.* (2014). Barriers influencing access to speech-language pathology services for minority clients with aphasia. Poster, Annual Convention of the California Speech Language Hearing Association, San Francisco.

Spicer, J.* , Mahendra, N. (November 2013). Barriers influencing access to speech-language pathology services for minority clients with aphasia. Poster, 2013 ASHA Convention, Chicago.

* student