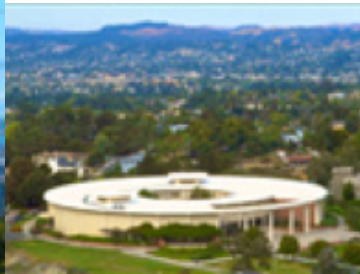




ACRC NEWS

Aging and Cognition Research Clinic (ACRC)

Vision: To achieve significant impact on the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of healthy older adults, as well as those with dementia and aphasia.



ACRC is located in the Music and Business Building at CSUEB.

The Aging and Cognition Research Clinic (ACRC) was established in 2006, with initial grant funding from the Alzheimer's Association and the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders. This annual newsletter reports on ACRC goals; ongoing and new funding; and recent and forthcoming dissemination activities. This information is intended for prospective volunteers, student researchers,

study participants, caregivers, potential collaborators, and our regional community. ACRC's primary activity is conducting scientific research, and preparing students for excellence in research and clinical service delivery for adults with cognitive and communicative disorders, as well as for diverse clients and their families.

FALL 2012

Funding News

June 2012: ACRC receives funding from the CSU Chancellor's Office to develop multilingual, multimodal resources about aphasia and autism.

July 2012: ACRC receives funding to recruit, retain, and mentor underrepresented students in the profession of speech language pathology.

People News

Graduate students Holly Bergstrom, Julie Spicer, Natalie Sanford, and Michaela Teel join the ACRC team.

Dr. Nidhi Mahendra recognized by ASHA for significant contribution to multicultural affairs.

Goals of the ACRC

1. To enhance cognitive and communication wellness and quality of life for all bay area seniors through research, advocacy, and service learning.
2. To study aspects of typical and atypical cognition in older adults.
3. To document the best methods for assessing spared and impaired abilities in healthy elders and person with dementia and aphasia.
4. To develop efficacious interventions for persons with mild cognitive impairment, dementia, and aphasia.

Recent Publications Featuring ACRC Research

Mahendra, N. (2012). The logopenic variant of primary progressive aphasia: Effects on linguistic communication. *Perspectives on Gerontology*, 17(2), 50-59.

Mahendra, N. (2012). South Asian stories: First hand perspectives on barriers to accessing speech language pathology services. *Perspectives on Communication Disorders in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations*, 19(1), 29-36.

Mahendra, N., Scullion, A.*, Hamerschlag, C.* (2011). Cognitive-linguistic interventions for persons with dementia: A practitioner's guide to three evidence-based techniques. *Topics in Geriatric Rehabilitation*, 27:4, 1-12.

Current ACRC Projects

Story Reading Speed and Comprehension in Healthy Aging and Dementia

This work is being prepared for publication, and will be presented at the 2012 ASHA Convention. Our purpose was to add to the existing literature on the speed of reading text, and on comprehension accuracy of healthy older adults and those with dementia. We found that healthy older adults read a short story faster and comprehended better than persons diagnosed with dementia.

ACRC Projects....Continued

Recalling routes versus stories: Which is easier for persons with dementia?

Data from this project are being analyzed and prepared for publication. Our data reveal a provocative finding that persons with dementia are significantly better at recalling short routes (i.e., spatial information) than short stories (i.e., auditory verbal information). This supports current perspectives on human memory systems and provides evidence of comparatively spared ability of persons to recall a short route.

Teaching future providers about aging and dementia: Combining evidence-based practice and service learning

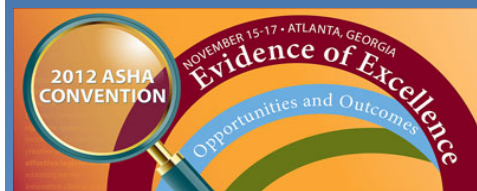
In 2011, we began a line of research to document the outcomes of a community-based service learning requirement in a class on Aging, Mild Cognitive Impairment, and Dementia (SPPA 6999). An entire class was required to participate in off-site service learning at a local dementia unit, conducting individual assessments or group interventions with dementia patients. In April 2012, one-year outcome data were presented at the Conference on Healthy Aging in Multicultural Populations (CHAMP) in San Jose. A peer-reviewed publication detailing this service learning component and its 2-year outcomes is planned for submission in January 2013.

FORTHCOMING PRESENTATIONS



Academy of Aphasia October 2012, San Francisco

Mahendra, N. (2012). The logopenic variant of primary progressive aphasia: Effects on language and cognition over four years. Poster presentation.



ASHA Convention November 2012, Atlanta

Mahendra, N., Solomon, T., Ludlow, L. Story reading speed, recognition, and comprehension in aging and dementia.

Technical Research Session

Bayles, K., Mahendra, N., Tomoeda, C., & McCullough, K. Mild cognitive impairment: Definition, Screening, Assessment and Treatment. Seminar.