

Title: Application of the life participation approach for individuals living with primary progressive aphasia

Abstract:

This Round Table discussion will promote awareness and idea exchange about the Communication Bridge Care Model, which integrates a life participation approach to address the communication difficulties experienced by individuals with primary progressive aphasia (PPA) and their families. PPA is a neurodegenerative dementia syndrome that can differentially affect all domains of expressive and receptive language. The heterogeneous and insidious presentation of PPA and its profound impact on psychosocial aspects of communication necessitates a comprehensive model of care that can be adapted to meet the evolving needs of individuals and families as the disease progresses. Communication Bridge uses a person-centered, multicomponent, dyadic approach that includes disease education, counseling, with individualized impairment- and compensatory-based communication strategy training. The Communication Bridge model is unique in its comprehensive, person-centered approach to care that allows individuals with PPA and their families to work jointly with clinicians to select meaningful and motivating treatment activities. The intervention approach doesn't focus on the individual's subtype, but rather focuses upon how their communication deficits are impacting their life participation in daily conversations and desired activities. This model has been implemented using a telemedicine approach with a custom web application, which allows individuals with PPA to connect to expert clinicians independent of geographical barriers. The web application provides the ability to serve as both a treatment delivery hub and home exercise interface. During this Round Table presentation, evidence will be provided from the Communication Bridge feasibility trial. Participants will be engaged in an active discussion regarding person-centered models of care across treatment settings that can be used to address currently unmet needs of individuals with PPA and their families.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Describe how living with a progressive aphasia may impact life participation differently compared to those living with stroke-induced aphasia.
- 2) Discuss why focusing only on PPA subtype for treatment planning may be detrimental to an LPAA approach to care.
- 3) Discuss how to select meaningful and motivating impairment-based and compensatory-based interventions jointly with individuals with PPA and their families as the disease progresses.

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Preferred Format: ROUND TABLE