

## Aphasia FAQs

### What is Aphasia?

Aphasia is an acquired communication disorder that impairs a person's ability to process language, but does not affect intelligence.

Aphasia impairs the ability to speak and understand others, and most people with aphasia experience difficulty reading and writing. The diagnosis of aphasia does NOT imply a person has a mental illness or impairment in intelligence.

### What Causes Aphasia?

The most common cause of aphasia is stroke (about 25-40% of stroke survivors acquire aphasia). It can also result from head injury, brain tumor or other neurological causes.

### How Common is Aphasia?

Aphasia affects about one million Americans - or 1 in 250 people - and is more common than Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy. More than 100,000 Americans acquire the disorder each year. However, most people have never heard of it.

## The National Aphasia Association

<https://www.aphasia.org/content/aphasia-faq>

## What are people saying about PACT?

### Client

*"I had a stroke which left me paralyzed on my right side, and with aphasia. Even with my life being turned around, I did not give up. For the next few years, after much therapy, I was able to participate in the Research Speech-Language Pathology Lab in many projects. The projects helped me to improve my reading, comprehension, and my communication skills"*

### Client's Family Member

*"We have always been saying how talented he is. Someone nourished it and validated that he is talented. [This] gave him a sense of accomplishment. He is so proud of [his book]. He shows it to everyone, he even brings it with him to the doctor."*

### Student Clinician

*"Working with KC has been one of the highlights of my career...He taught me about perseverance, creativity, patience, and determination. I learned about the value of increased pause time, using multiple means of communication to convey messages, and about bypassing a planned agenda to ensure that KC's needs were met. It was a unique experience, difficult to put into words, but I can say that it made me a better person and clinician having worked with KC on this project."*

### PACT Faculty Participants

**Beth Levine, M.S., CCC/SLP**

**Francine Kohen, M.S., CCC/SLP**

**Nadine Martin, Ph.D., CCC/SLP**

**Rena Krakow, Ph.D.**

**Jamie Reilly, Ph.D., CCC/SLP**

**Michelene Kalinyak-Fliszar, M.A., CCC/SLP**

**Susanne Lesnik-Emas, Ph.D., CTRS**

**Samantha Rosenberg, M.A., CCC/SLP**

**Bridget Mancano, M.A., CCC/A**

## Philadelphia Aphasia Community at Temple

# PACT



## Participate

## Collaborate

## Contribute

Dept. of Communication Sciences  
& Disorders

Dept. of Rehabilitation Sciences

College of Public Health  
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

# *What's going on in the Philadelphia Community at Temple (PACT)?*

## **DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPY SERVICES**

- Comprehensive diagnostic services for individuals with aphasia.
- Individual and group treatment sessions using innovative research-based practice.
- Multilingual services available.

## **ACTIVE LIVING FOR PERSONS WITH APHASIA**

- Social recreation and therapy group.
- Ongoing on-site meetings and social, sports & cultural activities in the community.
- Focus on improving and maintaining quality of life in the home and community.

## **FINDING THE WORDS: Authors with Aphasia**

- Participants produce books or other written materials that we print and bind.
- Speech-Language-Hearing students help participants plan, draft, revise, and edit original work.
- Examples of recent work include personal histories, cookbooks, an art catalog, comic books, guide for healthy living with aphasia, among others.

## **PACT ART CLUB**

- Participants create artwork while enjoying conversation and coffee/tea.
- Recently created a beautiful calendar which was printed and used for PACT fundraising.

## **RESEARCH**

### **From Basic Theory to Diagnosis and Treatment**

- Development of tests and treatments for word processing and short-term memory difficulties.
- Development of treatments to improve sentence processing by reducing short-term memory load.
- Development of virtual clinicians as conversation partners for people with aphasia to help improve functional communication.

## **CHAT Coffee Hour Aphasia Time**

- Enjoy weekly conversation and social hours.
- Meet others with aphasia in a group setting facilitated by students from the Speech-Language-Hearing program.
- Share coffee and light refreshments while conversing about current events, books, movies, and life stories.
- Weekly CHAT meetings offered during the academic semesters.

### ***How can I participate?***

**If you or someone you know has aphasia and would like to participate in one of our programs, please contact Beth Levine at 215-204-1876 or [blevine@temple.edu](mailto:blevine@temple.edu)**

### ***How can I collaborate?***

**If you are an aphasia professional or know one who would like to collaborate with us, please contact Francine Kohen at 215-204-4752 or [fpkohen@temple.edu](mailto:fpkohen@temple.edu)**

### ***How can I contribute?***

**If you or someone you know would like to make a donation to the Philadelphia Aphasia Community at Temple, please contact Caitlin Ozga at 215-204-1878 or [tuf81264@temple.edu](mailto:tuf81264@temple.edu)**