



# Communication Sciences and Disorders

Arnold School of Public Health  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



## USC\_COMD Newsletter

Fall 2023

### Top Articles:



National awards support students pursuing academic-research careers in communication sciences and disorders

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[Distance education program provides path to becoming speech-language pathologist](#)



[Recovery from post-stroke aphasia hampered by diabetes](#)



[I am Public Health: Paige Banaszak](#)



[Underdiagnosis of autism in children with fragile X syndrome reveals need for better education, early screening](#)

### Announcements:

Welcome to our new students admitted in 2023! In both the residential and distance education modalities, students started their graduate coursework over the summer and in the fall of 2023.

Congratulations to our USC\_COMD class of 2023! 63 students graduated in August between our residential and distance education modalities for the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program.

The Montgomery Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic at USC\_COMD is hiring a [clinical audiologist](#) and [clinical instructor \(SLP\)](#).





[Faculty Highlight: Jessica Klusek](#)



[Psychology background sparks passion for speech-language pathology](#)



[Personal battles inspire future speech-language pathologist to help children, cancer patients](#)



[Tracking our aging brains](#)



[Center for the Study of Aphasia Recovery improves communication, quality of life](#)



[Three future speech-language pathologists win outstanding student awards](#)



[Staff Spotlight: Traci Williams](#)

Congratulations to the Montgomery Speech, Language & Hearing Clinic at USC for being voted The State's Best! The clinic was voted a Gold Winner for Audiologist/Hearing Center and a Silver Winner for Speech Therapy.

Welcome new faculty members Dr. Heather Bonilha, Dr. Laura Droege, Laura Heidenreich, Dr. Elizabeth Will and staff members Jessica Purrington and Lara McEachern.

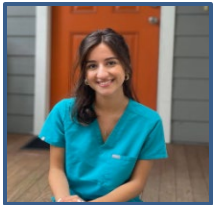
It is with great sadness that USC\_COMD said goodbye to Audiologist and faculty member, Dr. Beth McCall, and Associate Professor, Dr. Roozbeh Behroozmand. Dr. Beth McCall will be moving to Richmond, Virginia and Dr. Roozbeh Behroozmand will be going to the University of Texas. We miss you both!

Dr. Gina Crosby-Quinatoa has successfully defended her thesis and earned her Ph.D. Congratulations!





[Understanding the mechanics of speech](#)



[Alumni Highlight: Delara Abedini, MS, CCC-SLP](#)



[Alumni Highlight: Alex Marion, MSP, CCC-SLP](#)



[Alumni Highlight: Sarah McCulloh Emory, MSP, CCC-SLP](#)

The Montgomery Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic has received a SPEAK OUT! Program Development Grant from the Parkinson's Voice Project to provide free SPEAK OUT! training to faculty and students. SPEAK OUT! is a motor-based approach to help those with Parkinson's maintain and improve their speech abilities while also helping to decrease related swallowing complications. Over the course of this year, we are hoping to get as many students trained in SPEAK OUT! as possible!

USC\_COMD sent its Master's Leadership Committee Members, to CAPCSD conference in April with 3 presentations.

Congratulations to Juliana Miller, Crystal Murphree-Holden, and Joanna Scoggins on being promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor!

\* Recent Grants and Publications from April 2023 - October 2023

Faculty members are **bolded**

Mentees are underlined



**Recently Awarded Grants and Awards\*:**

**Suzanne Adlof**, National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. [Measuring Language Comprehension Development in the Primary Grades](#). July 2023-June 2028. \$3,217,918.

**Lisa Fitton & Suzanne Adlof (MPD/PI)**, [South Carolina Department of Education / Learning Ally Partnership](#), *Reach Every Reader: Dyslexia Screener Validation Program in South Carolina*, September 2023 - August 2024: \$190,000 (USC Subaward).

**Lisa Fitton**, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD / NIH), [Administrative Supplement for Language difference or difficulty learning? Assessing early language skills to identify risk for reading difficulty among young Spanish-English dual language learners](#), June 2023 - May 2024: \$82,106.

**Julius Fridriksson**, [Community Project Funding / Congressionally Directed Spending Construction \(Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias in South Carolina\) / HRSA / HHS](#), 7 Tesla MRI, 2023: \$7,750,000

**Abigail Hogan**, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) / NIH, [RO1 for Emergence, Stability and Predictors of Anxiety in Fragile X Syndrome](#), August 2023 – May 2024: \$3.5 M.

**Sandra Irvin** (graduate student), [USC Office of the VP for Research Students Preparing for Academic Research Careers Award](#), 2023: \$1000.

**Jessica Klusek**, National Institute on Aging (NIA) / NIH, [administrative supplement for her RO1 Aging Symptom Trajectories in Mother Carriers of the FMR1 Premutation](#), April 2023 – March 2024: \$395,485.

**Sigfus Kristinsson**, Prisma Health, [Prisma Seed Grant for MRI-based Brain Age as a Potential Biomarker for Acute Stroke Symptoms and Recovery](#), 2023: \$16,786.

**William Matchin**, [USC Office of the VP for Research ASPIRE Grant](#), *Functional Neuroimaging of Syntax Using a Novel Training Protocol*, July 2023 – September 2024: \$14,967.

**Jean Neils-Strunjas**, [SC CREATE](#) 2024 contract, August 2023 – August 2024: \$309,996

**Angela N. McLeod** (faculty and clinic director), Parkinson's Voice Project, [SPEAK OUT! Program Development Grant](#), 2023: up to \$72,000.

**Laura Riggleman** (graduate student), [USC Office of the VP for Research Students Preparing for Academic Research Careers Award](#), 2023: \$1000.





**Elizabeth Will**, National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD) / NIH, Roo phase of her grant for her work with [Early Developmental Determinants and Pathways in Down syndrome](#), August 2023: \$744,713

### Recent Publications\*:

Behroozmand, R., Sarmukadam, K., & **Fridriksson, J.** (2023). Aberrant modulation of broadband neural oscillations reflects vocal sensorimotor deficits in post-stroke aphasia. *Clinical Neurophysiology*, 149, 100-112.

Busby, N., **Newman-Norlund, S.**, **Sayers, S.**, **Newman-Norlund, R.**, Wilmskoetter, J., Rorden, C., **Nemati, S.**, Wilson, S., Riccardi, N., Roth, R., **Johnson, L.**, **Den Ouden, D. B.**, **Fridriksson, J.**, & Bonilha, L. (2023). Lower socioeconomic status is associated with premature brain aging. *Neurobiology of Aging*, 130, 135-140.

Castilla-Earls, A., Ronderos, J., & **Fitton, L.** (2023). Spanish morphosyntactic growth in bilingual children with and without Developmental Language Disorders: Articles, clitics, verbs, and subjunctive mood. *Invited manuscript for the Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2023\\_JSLHR-23-00091](https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_JSLHR-23-00091)

**Fitton, L.**, Goodrich, J. M., Pratt, A., Thayer, L., & Luna, R. (2023). Bilingual vocabulary assessment: Examining single-language, conceptual, and total scoring approaches. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2023\\_JSLHR-22-00573](https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_JSLHR-22-00573)

Friedman, L., Lauber, M., Behroozmand, R., Fogerty, D., Kunecki, D., Berry-Kravis, E., & **Klusek, J.** (2023). Atypical vocal quality in women with the *FMR1* premutation: An indicator of impaired sensorimotor control. *Experimental Brain Research*. E-pub ahead of print, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00221-023-06653-2>

**Klusek, J.**, Will, E., Moser, C., Hills, K., Thurman, A. J., Abbeduto, L., Roberts, J. E. (2023). Predictors, parental views, and concordance across diagnostic sources of autism in male youth with fragile X syndrome: Clinical best estimate and community diagnoses. *Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology*. E-pub ahead of print. [10.1007/s10802-023-01059-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10802-023-01059-8)

**Matchin, W.**, **Ouden, D. B. D.**, Hickok, G., Hillis, A. E., Bonilha, L., & **Fridriksson, J.** (2023). Reply: The Wernicke conundrum is misinterpreted. *Brain*, 146(4), e23-e24. <https://academic.oup.com/brain/article/146/4/e23/6957408>

**Matchin, W.**, **den Ouden, D. B.**, Basilakos, A., Stark, B. C., **Fridriksson, J.**, & Hickok, G. (2023). Grammatical parallelism in aphasia: a lesion-symptom mapping study. *Neurobiology of Language*, 1-



66. [https://direct.mit.edu/nol/article/doi/10.1162/nol\\_a\\_00117/117095/Grammatical-parallelism-in-aphasia-a-lesion](https://direct.mit.edu/nol/article/doi/10.1162/nol_a_00117/117095/Grammatical-parallelism-in-aphasia-a-lesion)

**Matchin, W.** Lexico-semantics obscures lexical syntax: commentary on Fedorenko et al. (2023). *Frontiers in Language Sciences*, 2, 1217837.

Roth, R., Busby, N., Wilmskoetter, J., Schwen Blackett, D., Gleichgerrcht, E., **Johnson, L.**, Rorden, C., **Newman-Norlund, R.**, Hillis, A. E., **Den Ouden, D. B.**, **Fridriksson, J.**, & Bonilha, L. (2023). Diabetes, brain health, and treatment gains in post-stroke aphasia. *Cerebral Cortex*, 33(13), 8557-8564.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhad140>

Stockbridge, M. D., **Matchin, W.**, DeLuque, E., Sharif, M., **Fridriksson, J.**, Faria, A. V., & Hillis, A. E. (2023). Mary has a little chair: Eliciting noun-modifier phrases in individuals with acute post-stroke aphasia. *Aphasiology*, 1-19.  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02687038.2023.2233739>

