**DIRECTOR’S NOTE**

Holiday greetings! Even though it seems like our summer picnic was only a few weeks ago, the chilly weather means that it’s now time to celebrate the holidays with another party! More details about the party are on page 6. We hope to see you there.

Here at the Aphasia Center we have been keeping ourselves very busy. Dr. Baldo and Dr. Dronkers recently attended conferences in Baltimore for the Academy of Aphasia and the Society for the Neurobiology of Language. The Academy of Aphasia is an organization made up of researchers who study the language problems of people who have neurological diseases. Some of these researchers also provide clinical services to help people improve their language skills following strokes or other illnesses. The Society for the Neurobiology of Language (SNL) is an NIH-funded non-profit organization whose overarching goal is to foster progress in understanding the neurobiological basis for language via the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas. Our time spent at these conferences alternated between presenting our most recent projects, hurriedly running from talk to talk trying to absorb the latest new findings in research as well as catching up with old colleagues.

We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you!

Sincerely,

Nina Dronkers, Ph.D.
Director
Center for Aphasia & Related Disorders
We are finding that white matter pathways in the brain are just as important as individual brain structures for the production and comprehension of speech in humans. The images above illustrate four of these major brain fiber tract pathways involved in speech and language. For some people, it is the disruption of these pathways that leads to speech deficits following stroke. The four pathways are as follows: 1. Inferior Fronto-occipital Fasciculus (IFOF) 2. Superior Longitudinal Fasciculus (SLF) 3. Arcuate Fasciculus (AF) 4. Inferior Longitudinal Fasciculus (ILF)
Winter Word Search

chilly
fireplace
frost
hibernate
hot chocolate
migrate

penguin
polar bear
snowflake
snowman
white
winter

VA NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Bay Area Stroke Support Groups (East Bay):

Stoke Support Group of Contra Costa County
John Muir Medical Center in Concord or John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek
Contact: Ann Dzuna (925) 376-6218. Mailing Address: Ann Dzuna, 1852 Bonanza Street Apt. 305, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Meets once monthly on the second Monday from 7pm to 9pm.
Email: adzunal@gmail.com.

Aphasia Center of California
200 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA 94610
Contact: Roberta Elman, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BC-NCD, (510) 336-0112
Mailing Address: Roberta Elman, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BC-NCD, Aphasia Center of California, 3996 Lyman Rd., Oakland, CA 94602
Email: RJElman@aol.com Website: www.aphasiacenter.org

California State University East Bay Aphasia Group
Cal State East Bay, Speech, Language & Hearing Clinic, MB# 1097A, Communicative Sciences and Disorders, Hayward, CA 94542 Contact: (510) 885-3233. Mailing Address: California State University - East Bay, Dept. of Communicative Sciences & Disorders, MB# 1097A, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward, CA 94542-3065
Email: ssimrin@csuhayward.edu

Stroke + Head Injury Support Group

Stroke Support and Communication Group at VA Martinez
Building R4
150 Muir Road (126R), Martinez, CA 94553
Contact: Juliana Baldo, (925) 372-4649, meets every Wednesday 1pm-3pm in Building R4
Email: juliana@ebire.org

Cal State University Sacramento Aphasia Group
Maryjane Reese Language, Speech, and Hearing Center
6000 J St., Shasta Hall 172, Sacramento, CA 95819-6071
Contact: Darla Heggie, Clinic Coordinator, 916-278-6601
Community Resources: [STROKE]

San Francisco Bay Area

Bay Area Stroke Support Groups (North Bay):

Interpersonal Skills - Stroke Support Group
College of Marin, Disabled Student Services Program, 835 College Ave., Kentfield, CA 94904
Contact: Maureen Green, M.A., CCC-SLP, (415) 457-8811 ext. 7702

Bay Area Stroke Support Groups (SF/Peninsula):

Pacific Stroke Association Support Group Network
Pacific Stroke Association, (650) 565-8485. SF Peninsula www.psastroke.org

CHMC Community Health Resource Center
2100 Webster Street, San Francisco, (415) 923-3155. Classes and written information. The Stroke Survivor Support Group meets the first Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Stroke/Communication Group/Acquired Brain Injury Program
City College of San Francisco, John Adams Campus, DSPS Dept., 1860 Hayes St., San Francisco, CA 94117.
Note: Must call to register, this is a Group Speech Therapy Course.
Contact: Judi Kaplan, M.S., CCC-SLP, or Joyce Foreman (415) 561-1005.
E-mail: jforeman@ccsf.org

Bay Area Clinical Trials (Area universities frequently run various clinical trials with persons who have experienced a stroke. You may find one you are interested in learning more about participating in. We do not promote any organization’s clinical trials, but offer these for your information only. Some trials may offer reimbursement for participation)

UCSF: http://www.ucsfhealth.org/clinical_trials/index.html
Stanford: http://med.stanford.edu/clinicaltrials/
UC Davis: http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/medicalcenter/clinicaltrials/

Web Sites/Email Contacts:

American Stroke Association: www.strokeassociation.org
National Stroke Association: www.stroke.org
StrokeNet: www.strokernetwork.org
http://www.aphasiasoftwarefinder.org/
Stroke Support Group

When
Wednesday, Dec. 13th, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

What to bring
A dish or drink to share if you are able and a small gift or ornament to exchange if you wish.

Where
Building R4 at the Martinez VA, 150 Muir Rd, Martinez, CA, 94553.
You can park in the regular, main patient parking lot and ask the volunteer golf cart driver to take you to Building R4 (there is not much parking adjacent to R4). Map of the campus is below. If you have questions or get lost, call Juliana at 925-372-4649.
Happy Holidays from the Aphasia Center!
Aphasia News
Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders
150 Muir Road 126R
Martinez, CA 94553

http://www.ebire.org/aphasia

Newsletter Information
If you would like to receive this newsletter or you have comments/suggestions, e-mail Juliana at juliana@ebire.org, call her at (925) 372-4649 or write to:

Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders
VA Northern Calif. Health Care System
150 Muir Road 126R
Martinez, CA 94553

We welcome your comments and questions!

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We would also like to thank the members of the Stroke Support Group, all of our research participants and their families, and the VA Speech Pathology staff.

The Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders is supported by the VA Northern California Health Care System, the VA Medical Research Program, the National Institutes of Health, and the University of California at Davis and San Diego, as well as through generous donations from private foundations and individuals. Please feel free to contact Dr. Dronkers at (925) 372-2925 if you would like more information.