**UQ Winter Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Comprehensive, High-Dose Aphasia Treatment (CHAT) & TeleCHAT** |
| **Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode** | 4 weeks, 20 hours per week. This project can be conducted under a remote working arrangement if required.  COVID-19 considerations: Please outline if the project can be completed under a remote working arrangement or if on-site attendance is required. |
| **Description:** | The Queensland Aphasia Research Centre Winter Scholar will divide their time between two key projects:  **Clinical implementation of a Comprehensive, High-dose Aphasia Treatment (CHAT) program**  CHAT is the first intensive, comprehensive aphasia program to be delivered in a public hospital and health service in Australia. This project is a partnership between the Queensland Aphasia Research Centre, UQ and the speech pathology department at the Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS). This project aims to evaluate the process and clinical effectiveness of implementing CHAT in a clinical rehabilitation context. Delivered over 10 weeks, the CHAT program includes assessment, goal setting, patient and family education and 50 hours of aphasia therapy. Therapy is tailored to the individual and directly aligns to patients’ goals. The program includes impairment therapy, functional therapy, computer-based therapy and group therapy.  This clinical implementation and effectiveness study will employ a mixed-methods design. We will evaluate changes in participants’ language impairment, communication effectiveness, quality of life and communication-confidence. Furthermore, clinician and service-level outcomes will be collected to identify the implementation barriers and facilitators. The outcomes of this research will ultimately support the translation and implementation of a comprehensive post-stroke aphasia rehabilitation program into routine clinical practice.  **TELECHAT**  TeleCHAT is the telerehabilitation delivery of the CHAT program. It is the first ICAP to be delivered completely by telerehabilitation into participant’s homes. The telerehabilitation configuration for TeleCHAT was developed as part of a PhD study by Genevieve Vuong and the usability, feasibility and acceptability of this configuration which uses Zoom is being investigated as part of this study. Clinical, participation and quality of life outcomes are also being collected as part of a larger effectiveness study of TeleCHAT and will ultimately be compared to the in-person CHAT program. Participants are also assessed pre, post and at follow up through telerehabilitation. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | Students may gain skills in the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data. They may gain skills and experience in communicating with people with aphasia. Students may be asked to produce an oral presentation, for example for the QARC Clinical Forum at the end of their project. |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to applications from students completing a bachelor of speech pathology (3-4th year) or masters of speech pathology at UQ with an interest in aphasia rehabilitation. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | *Dr Jade Dignam (QARC Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Early Career Researcher)*  *Dr Annie Hill (Speech Pathology Conjoint)* |
| **Further info:** | Please contact Dr Jade Dignam [j.dignam@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.dignam@uq.edu.au) and/or Dr Annie Hill [aj.hill@uq.edu.au](mailto:aj.hill@uq.edu.au) for further information regarding these projects.  This research will be conducted at the Surgical Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS) facility located in the Herston Health Precinct. |