

LAURA LEWANDOWSKI

HBSc., M.S.-SLP Reg. CASLPO #5423

Speech-Language Pathologist

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Education **Master of Science - Ithaca College - Ithaca, NY - 2010**

Speech-Language Pathology (SLP)

- Earned the Emily F. Powell Award for Outstanding Graduate Clinician

Honours Bachelor of Science - University of Toronto - Toronto, ON - 2005

Majors: Biology and Psychology

Skills & Abilities

- Proficient using *Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA)*[™]
- Skilled in using a *Gentle Persuasive Approach (GPA)* with persons with dementia who present with challenging behaviours
- Collaborative, client-centred approach to intervention
- Strong assessment and treatment planning skills
- Apply new learning to clinical practice
- Knowledgeable in dysphagia assessment and management for adults
- Organized, creative and flexible in providing services to best suit clients' needs

Experience **January 2018 – Present**

Speech-Language Pathologist, S.L. Hunter SpeechWorks
Burlington, ON

- Provide individual and group intervention for adults and children who present with varying speech, language and cognitive communication difficulties.

Dec. 2013 – July 2014

Speech-Language Pathologist, Child Development Centre of Oakville (CDC)
Halton Aphasia Centre (HAC) SLP Service Contract
Oakville, ON

- Expanded community-based conversation groups for people with aphasia to Peel Region, in collaboration with HAC staff, community partners, volunteers and students, and acted as the Program SLP for HAC across Burlington, Georgetown and Brampton programs.
- Provided formal/informal education and training related to aphasia and *Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia*[™] techniques to students, volunteers, clients and families.
- Supervised Communicative Disorders Assistants (CDAs), volunteers, and college and graduate-level students.

Dec. 2012 – Nov. 2013

Speech-Language Pathologist, Mississauga Hospital, Trillium Health Partners
Outpatient Neuro Rehabilitation Services
Mississauga, ON

- Provided evaluation, intervention, and education for individuals with acquired/neurogenic communication and swallowing disorders, in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team.
- Lead the “May is Speech and Hearing Month” Planning Committee to promote the profession across the organization.

Apr. 2012 – Nov. 2012

Corporate-Wide “Float” Speech-Language Pathologist, Brampton Civic Hospital and Etobicoke General Hospital, William Osler Health System
Brampton and Etobicoke, ON

- Facilitated continuity of care by assessing and managing patients with swallowing and communication disorders across the corporation, including in Emergency, Critical and Acute Care, Rehabilitation and Palliative settings.

June 2011 – Apr. 2012

Speech-Language Pathologist, St. Peter’s Hospital, Hamilton Health Sciences,
Behavioural Health Unit, Medically Complex Unit and
Centre for Healthy Aging – Outpatient Therapy Services
Hamilton, ON

- Provided assessment, management and patient/family counseling for communication and swallowing difficulties related to stroke/brain injury, dementia or other neurodegenerative disease, recommended strategies to maximize function and life participation, and determined appropriate referrals.

June 2010 – June 2011

Speech-Language Pathologist, Regional Rehabilitation Centre, Hamilton Health Sciences, Hamilton, ON

B2North – Inpatient Stroke Rehabilitation Program and
Regional Rehabilitation Outpatient Services (RROS)

- Assessed and treated individuals recovering from stroke or other neurologic injury who presented with swallowing or communication difficulties.

Presentations

- *Community Aphasia Programs: Gaining Momentum in Ontario.* Collaborative presentation with Antonella Drenzo Samson, SLP Reg. CASLPO, at the Ontario Aphasia Centres Interest Group (OACIG) “Knowledge Exchange Day”, to share knowledge of expanding programs and services (Aphasia Institute, June 2014)
- *A Clinical Conversation: Issues in Dysphagia – Aspiration, Modified Textures and Hydration.* Prepared and presented this staff in-service to promote evidence-based dysphagia management practices for persons with dementia (St. Peter’s Hospital, Hamilton Health Sciences, Nov. 2011)

**Continuing
Education and
Training**

- *Sound Judgement: Using Effective Speech Therapy Techniques and Motor Learning Principles for Speech Sound Disorders with or without Related Structural Anomalies*, Online Course (Certificate, December 9, 2017)
- *Eight Behavioural Teaching Strategies for Treating Childhood Apraxia of Speech*, Online Course (Certificate, Nov. 15, 2017)
- *Cognitive Aging and Mild Cognitive Impairment*, Online Course (Certificate, October 2016)
- *Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (A2 and A3)*, Education and Training Workshops (Certificate, June 17, 2014)
- *Assessment & Treatment of Cognitive Communication Disorders - Level 1*, Clinical Short-Course (Certificate, February 8, 2013)
- *ADP Individual Authorizer - Communication Aids*, Workshop and Online Course (Completed, November 2011)
- *Swallowing Evaluation of the Palliative Patient: A Clinical Conversation*, Conference (Certificate, July 8, 2011)
- *Gentle Persuasive Approaches in Dementia Care: Responding to Persons with Challenging Behaviours*, Education and Training Workshop (Certificate, June 10, 2011)

**Membership and
Associations**

- Registered member of CASLPO (2010 - Present)
- Member of OSLA (2011 - Present)
- Member of the Ontario Aphasia Centres Interest Group (OACIG) (2013 – 2014)