

**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES**

**SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
FOR UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 1, 2014

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is pleased to offer the following research project for the summer of 2014. Interested students are urged to contact the faculty member(s) directing the project that most interests them. By contacting the faculty member, you can discover more about the project, learn what your responsibilities will be and, if possible, develop a timetable for the twelve-week research period.

SOCIAL VALIDITY OF AN AAC INTERVENTION FOR PEOPLE WITH APHASIA

Professor Aimee Dietz

Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders

French East G45A

Cincinnati, OH 45221-0379

Tel: (513) 556-8551

Fax: (513) 556-8500

Email: aimee.dietz@uc.edu

Project Description

Stroke frequently produces aphasia, leaving survivors to cope with communication disability that precludes reintegration into society. Traditionally, people with aphasia focus early rehabilitation efforts on restorative interventions which are perceived as superior in facilitating language recovery compared to augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) interventions (compensatory approaches). However, clinical observations indicate that high-tech AAC treatments (HITAAC Tx) can facilitate restoration of communication and language skills. The overall objective of this NIH-funded project (NIH-NCRR 8KL2TR000078-05; 8ULTR000077-05) is to generate pilot data regarding early cortical plasticity associated with personalized HITAAC Tx. Our hypothesis is that personalized HITAAC Tx will lead to improved language and communication skills, and significant cortical plasticity (via) as documented by functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

The purpose of the associated WISE project is to determine the social validity of this intervention. That is, do age-, gender, and education-matched healthy controls perceive improvements in the quality and/or quantity of the spoken language output of the participants with aphasia.

Project Elements for WISE scholar:

- Randomize pre- and post-treatment discourse samples and integrate into one video for naïve listeners to view
- Recruit age-, gender- and education-matched healthy controls (HCs)
 - Consent HCs

- Coordinate the viewing of HCs to rate the quantity and quality of the pre- and post-treatment interactions.
- Collect and organize the data
- Generate preliminary analyses

Background Characteristics of WISE scholar:

- Communication Sciences and Disorders background
- CITI training completed