

CDP Update

Feature Devices • Tech Tips • Clinical Practice

Summer 2020

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Presenting at Closing the Gap

You heard that right, CDP is Presenting at Closing the Gap 2020!



I'M PRESENTING!

Aphasia and
AAC

Aynsley (SLP) & Stacey (OT) will be co-presenting on the topic of Aphasia & AAC. In this presentation, participants will learn how people with aphasia (PWA) can benefit from different types of AAC. Factors that may influence success with AAC and partner strategies to help facilitate communication will be discussed. Specific communication apps will be reviewed and grid sets developed to take advantage relative strengths of PWA. The benefits of Visual Scene Displays and the characteristics of contextually rich pictures will be highlighted. Additionally, participants will review direct and indirect access of an iPad or communication device and forms of alternative access such as switches or head mouse.

Closing The Gap 2020 Virtual
Conference
Oct 28 - Nov 11
www.closingthegap.com/conference

On the lighter side of things, Aynsley and Stacey will also be co-presenting on the variety of forms that the CDP has developed over the years. This presentation was developed for the new clinician, or a new to AAC clinician. This session will introduce clinicians to a breadth of forms used for everything from Referrals, to assessments, to prescription of equipment, to summary/ discharge reports and everything in between. While the focus of the presentation will be on clinical (OT, SLP) assessment and intake forms, we will also briefly discuss forms used for internal processes such as; programming requests, maintenance, equipment provision, and post-rental follow-up. The intention of this session is to provide new clinicians and/ or programs with a starting point to assist them in gathering and providing pertinent information. Modifications of forms are welcomed, and encouraged! Make the forms yours and then tell us how you've improved them!



I'M PRESENTING!

Forms, Forms,
Foooooorrrmmsss!!

Closing The Gap 2020 Virtual
Conference
Oct 28 - Nov 11
www.closingthegap.com/conference

REMINDER: October 28th - Nov 11, 2020 The show will go on!

The two week Closing The Gap Virtual Conference includes a combination of pre-recorded sessions (that's us!), live Q&A's, virtual exhibits, and features Karen Erickson as the keynote speaker.

Closing The Gap 2020

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Discounted Registration for early birds here: [Virtual Conference Registration](#)

REMEMBER: Administrators attend free (with the registration of at least 1 staff member), & you can attend the Exhibit Hall for free!

Access and Selection Method Spotlight - FUTURE OPTIONS

Exploring Electronic Switches (EMG, EOG)

While electronic switches are not new (think infrared - [SCATIR](#) and proximity - [Candy Corn](#)), successful electromyography (EMG) and electrooculography (EOG) switches are a **relatively new** addition to the alternative access switch world. Recently we have seen a few of these switches emerge as an option for clients with physical deficits that essentially leave them locked-in.

Currently the CDP is in contact with the following companies to review, assess, and evaluate the available switches to determine if they would be a valuable addition to our inventory. If you have any knowledge or experience with any of the following equipment, please let us know! We would love to hear from you.

 The [Emego](#) is an innovative new EMG switch that uses the very small electrical signals from limited muscle activity to wirelessly trigger electronic assistive technology equipment (eAT). Designed to be used by people with severe limitations to give them greater independence and control over their communication (AAC) & environmental control (EC) equipment needs. **Currently available in the UK.** The CDP is actively seeking the opportunity to access the Emego in Canada.



The [Neuronode 3.0](#), by [Control Bionics](#), is one of the latest generation of wearable EMG control devices. It now offers the combined power of its EMG + NEW 3D Spatial Control. This new control set allows users to choose EMG or Spatial control to access the NeuroNode, all in one small, wearable device. The NeuroNode 3.0 is placed on the skin over the muscle chosen to be the switch. When you attempt to move that muscle, the NeuroNode detects your bio-electrical (EMG) signals, even if there is no visible muscle movement, and uses these signals to allow you to activate the switch, and control your selected device. The NeuroNode works with both iOS and Windows based systems and may be suitable for individuals living with conditions



like ALS/MND, spinal muscular atrophy, cerebral palsy, or spinal cord injury. Its unique ability to change the access method alongside the user's needs makes it a potential solution for degenerative conditions.

The [nous™](#) is a unique switch access method, which lets people control eAT by blinking. It can be set so that it only uses 'intentional' blinks, so that people can still



blink comfortably. The nous™

hardware, a soft headset that houses sensors, which measure the electrical signals of eye movement, called "electrooculography" or EOG (this signal is independent of your eyebrow or forehead movements, and is only produced by the movement of your eyeballs). Not only has the nous™ has been tested and used extensively by people who have ALS, but it was co-designed with them. While we continue to look into the potential of the CDP to carry the nous™, we see potential for the system to be an option for those clients where traditional switches are no longer effective.

The GyroSet™ [GLORY/VIGO](#) by [Nowtech](#) is a relatively new 'head mouse' option that we are exploring in collaboration with Assistive Technology Products & Services (ATPS). It is a proportional control Bluetooth headset that enables users to control their computer and drive their power wheelchairs with the same device. The VIGO is said to be super sensitive, you can use it even with the smallest head movements. It also has the ability to recalibrate neutral position any time.



Consider inquiring about the potential for an electronic switch for those clients who:

- Have minimal to no visible muscle movement
- Have voluntary control over specific muscle groups, despite having uncontrolled muscle activity elsewhere (i.e. spasticity, and/ or tremor)

Clinician's Corner

Inducted into the Order of Manitoba - Margaret Morse, Speech Therapist



The following clip taken directly from CBC Manitoba article found [here](#). "Twelve people — including Indigenous leaders, a philanthropist, activists, educators and entrepreneurs — have been named to the Order of Manitoba in a year that marks the 150th anniversary of the province. The order is the province's highest hon-

our, established in 1999 to honour those who have demonstrated excellence and achievement, helping to [enrich] the social, cultural or economic well-being of Manitoba and its residents. Typically, the annual list is announced on May 12, to coincide with the day the Manitoba Act received royal assent in 1870, but this year's announcement was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, it is being made July 15, the 150th anniversary of the Manitoba Act being officially enacted, bringing the province into Confederation. It is also the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Manitoba Legislative Building."

[U of M Archives, 1964](#)



Among those named to the Order of Manitoba in 2020 include Margaret Morse, Manitoba's first Speech Therapist. Morse pioneered speech clinics in hospitals, assessing and treating adults and children with communication disorders for several decades, for which her patients were very grateful. Morse continues to advocate for a master's program in speech pathology at the University of Manitoba and has a long record of volunteerism with a variety of community organizations.

Born in 1925 in her family's home at the corner of Broadway and Spence St. (which today houses the Wasabi on Broadway Restaurant), Margaret is the youngest of four children born to Dr. Gordon Chown and Penelope Mellin. Margaret completed her Bachelor of Arts in 1946 and went on to be a figure skating instructor in the USA. After her father passed away in 1949, she returned to Winnipeg and was offered a position in a clinic working with children with Cerebral Palsy. During her time at the clinic the Hospital Chairman was so impressed with her work, he offered her a

scholarship in Speech Therapy at Kent State University. During her studies, Margaret completed her thesis on the need for Speech Therapy following cleft pallet surgery. In 1952, after graduating Margaret once again returned to Winnipeg and opened the first even Speech Therapy Clinic at the Children's Hospital. If you would like to learn more about Margaret Morse, Stacy Cardigan Smith wrote a piece for the Community News Commons in March 2017 titled: [Speech Pathology Pioneer Never Gives up](#).

[2016 Legacy Circle Celebration](#)



ISAAC Canada - PWUAAC Online Chats

ISAAC has been hosting online chats for People Who Use AAC (PWUAAC). They seem to run every couple of weeks and offer advance notice about the topic and general agenda so PWUAAC can have comments and questions pre-stored (as appropriate). One of the most recent chats was moderated by Kevin and Lateef on July 27th, 2020. For more information you can go to: <https://www.isaac-online.org/english/news/pwuaac-online-chats/>

The topics for the July 27th session included: Introductions, How has AAC made life more accessible, and If you could have anyone in the world do a voice sample for you to use with your AAC system, who would it be, and why?

Education and Resources

AssistiveWare - What we can learn from AAC users

Last year, [Assistiveware](#) launched a new section on their website called [Learn AAC](#). They packed it with resources about learning to use [symbol based AAC](#). (i.e. [Proloquo2Go](#)). They made it to help families, educators, and speech therapists. Their next project, which they started in the spring of 2018, was to better support AAC users themselves. They wanted to support people who used text-based AAC systems (i.e. [Proloquo4Text](#)). First, they needed to know what support these AAC users need. They decided the best strategy was to just ask AAC users themselves. They had interviews and conversations with over three dozen AAC users. The AAC users were insightful and generous with their time. What they've shared could help anyone who needs augmentative & alternative communication. Anyone who cannot rely on natural speech needs everyone else to **listen better**. The project created new resources to help us share how we can be better listeners and supporters.



Go check out the blog post to learn more about the following [Five Key Insights](#);

1. **AAC is universal, but speech is only for some.**
2. **We need to consider alternative access for all AAC users.**
3. **The AAC user should be central to all decision-making.**
4. **Privacy is crucial.**
5. **AAC is more than an app or a single system.**

If you have the time to visit the blog, you will notice that most of the new articles have ideas and concepts that can be applied to all AAC users. The section called [AAC for Everyone](#), includes new information that applies to all people who cannot rely on speech. You will learn to [personalize how you support someone](#) to communicate and are encouraged to [support all forms of communication](#). I was especially fond of the "[Barriers to Communication Checklist](#)". What a nice tool to use to gather input from the person who uses AAC (PWU AAC) about how they would like to be supported in their communication.

World Health Organization (WHO) - Doing What Matters in Times of Stress

Feeling stressed?



You are not alone.

Many people are struggling with stress right now.

The WHO released an easy to understand illustrated guide on managing and understanding stress, and coping with adversity. It is not specific to Covid, but covers many different reasons we may experience stress. You can find the resources here: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240003927> or by clicking the image to the left.

The resources include the illustrated guide, and audio files that take you through activities such as; building awareness, grounding, notice and name, unhooking from unkind thoughts, making room, and being kind to yourself. The guide offers techniques and practical skills that can be incorporated into each day to help cope with stress.

This guide has been informed by evidence and extensive field testing, by the WHO. The guide is for anyone who experiences stress, wherever they live and whatever their circumstances.

The guide also reminds us that "*If you find that doing the exercises in this book is not enough for you to cope with intolerable stress, then please seek help from relevant health or social services, or from trusted people in your community*".



Odds and Ends

This nice infographic was shared on twitter by [Dr. Abi Roper](#), a Speech & Language Therapist based in London, England. It's a great reminder that face coverings can interfere with successful communication. Let's remember to try and follow these helpful tips!

Communicating while wearing a face covering



Wearing a face covering makes it harder for people to:



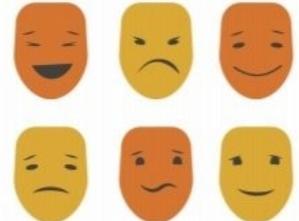
recognise you



hear your voice



read your lips



identify how you are feeling

These are some strategies you can use to make communication clearer:



make eye contact

introduce yourself



use hand gestures and point to objects to show what you mean

name emotions



slow down your speech, use a loud clear voice, and use a positive tone

This poster was compiled by Prof. Chloë Marshall, Prof. Gabriella Vigliocco, Prof. Pamela Perniss, Dr Elizabeth Wonnacott and Dr Yasamin Motamedi, designed by Annica Oberg, and financed by the Economic and Social Research Council. It was inspired by a poster created by Jasper Mckenzie for the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust.

@UCLanguageLab @ChloeRuMarshall @lizwonna @pernipa

UCL

AbleData  to be discontinued as of 27 September, 2020!
Tools & Technologies to Enhance Life

For those of you who were AbleData junkies (like me), you will be very sad to hear the news: ***Important Notice!! Due to a realignment of National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) priorities, AbleData will be discontinued on September 27th, 2020. We will post additional information as it becomes available.*** For those of you who are just now learning about AbleData, it is an online database that covers all manner of AT related products. The site provides information on the status (i.e. available or discontinued), the manufacturer, a description of the product and when it was last modified/ updated. You can also search by different categories, i.e. EADL, Communications, etc. The database is like a living museum of products as it not only adds new equipment as it is released, it maintains a record of old equipment, so if anyone is looking for a stroll down memory lane, search Messagemate, Dynamo and/ or the Franklin before AbleData is gone!



Always more to learn! - Podcasts

Talking with Tech (TWT): an AAC podcast

Join Speech-Language Pathologists Rachel and Chris as they discuss supporting complex communication needs with augmentative & alternative communication (AAC) and assistive technology (AT)! This podcast runs once a week and has over 135 episodes already! You can find them all here: <https://talkingwithtech.podbean.com/>

Here is a sample of the podcasts available:

July 15, 2020; [Black AAC User Perspectives on Racism and Disability](#)

Kevin Williams and Lateef McLeod share about racism and ableism from their perspective as Black AAC users. Kevin Williams is a freelance web developer and the Chief Technical Officer of USSAC. Lateef is a PHD Candidate in the Anthropology and Social Change program at California Institute of Integral Studies, Vice President of ISSAC's LEAD Committee, and published poet/author. In the interview, Kevin and Lateef discuss the importance of having difficult conversations about racism and ableism, the intersection of race and disability in their own life, and the importance of patience, especially from the police, when communicating with AAC users.

April 1 2020: [Coaching Communication Partners using Telepractice](#). Caroline Musselwhite shares from her 45 years of experience with low- and high-tech AAC, including the communication circle of people around an AAC user, the importance of pranks & humor when using AAC, recognizing gestures, and more.

June 5, 2018: [Chris Klein: Why does Motor Planning Matter in AAC?](#) Rachel, Lucas, and Chris discuss the implications of motor planning in instruction and use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication, including: Why motor planning is important, when to start considering a child's motor plan, and practical ways to incorporate motor planning into your practice. Then Chris Bugaj is joined by Chris Klein, an educator, mentor, past president of the United States Society of Augmentative Alternative Communication (USSAAC), and founder of Building Connections with Others through Mentoring and Education about AAC (BeCOME AAC). Mr. Klein, an AAC user himself, is a voice for AAC users and individuals with disabilities everywhere; his thoughtful insights on motor planning are not to be missed!



What's New in CDP - Staff updates

Just like that things are changing in the CDP again. We have a few new staff members to introduce!



Allison Fletcher is a Student SLP who comes to us from Western University in London, Ontario. She started her final practicum at the end of June, and will divide her time between the Communication Devices Program and the main SLP department. Allison can be reached at afletcher@deerlodge.mb.ca or 204-831-3433 on Mondays/ Thursdays until September 2020.

In the late winter our manager of 6 years, Indira Mike, retired. We wish her all the best in this next chapter. We have been lucky enough to have Lisa Lloyd Scott as our interim manager since then. We have appreciated the time and dedication Lisa has shown us, in addition to all the other units she supports. As of July 27th, 2020 Nicole Philpot slowly started to assume management of the departments under the SLP Regional Manager role. Nicole previously worked at Deer Lodge Centre as an SLP, before transitioning to the Clinical Service Lead role at Concordia Hospital. We look forward to working with Nicole again and continuing to offer excellent service and support through the Communication Devices Program. You can reach Nicole at nphilpot@deerlodge.mb.ca or 204-831-2955.



Nicole Philpot

Indira Mike

Lisa Lloyd Scott

