



Stuttering Attitudes Research Symposium

Sponsored by the Department of Communication
Sciences & Disorders, West Virginia University



September 4-7, 2013

Morgantown, West Virginia

About the Symposium

From September 4-7, 2013 leading stuttering experts and researchers from around the globe met to discuss current findings and future directions in the area of public attitudes toward stuttering. Presentations covered a broad range of research in this area including epidemiology, stigma, job discrimination, and teasing and bullying. This landmark event culminated with the identification and development of working groups that will be focused on further research in assessing and changing public attitudes toward stuttering. Additional Information related to presentations can be accessed by following the corresponding hyperlinks.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

FAUZIA ABDALLA



Fauzia Abdalla, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, S-LP(C) earned her doctorate in developmental language disorders from McGill University, Montreal, Canada. She assisted in setting up a speech-language pathology clinic in Saudi Arabia. Fauzia is presently an assistant professor and acting chair

of the Department of Communication Disorders at Kuwait University. Her research interests include multicultural and psychosocial aspects of stuttering and other communication disorders, clinical education, and amending negative stuttering

GORDON BLOOD, MICHAEL BOYLE



Gordon W. Blood, Ph.D., is a professor and department head for the past 20 years at The Pennsylvania State University. He is a past Eli Lilly Post-

Doctoral Fellow, W.K. Kellogg National Leadership Fellow, ASHA Fellow, published more than 90+ papers in refereed journals; presented/co-presented more than 200 presentations at professional conferences and received continuous, uninterrupted external funding since 1990 from federal government/private foundations to support his research and scholarly activities. Michael P. Boyle, Ph.D. is an assistant professor at Oklahoma State University and developed the Self-Stigma of Stuttering Scale, or 4S, intended to measure self-stigma of people who stutter.

RODNEY GABEL



Rodney Gabel, Ph.D.,
CCC-SLP, BRS-FD

Rodney Gabel, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BRS-FD is an Associate Professor in the Rehabilitation Sciences Department and Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Program at the University of Toledo. He teaches courses in stuttering and directs the Northwest Ohio Intensive Stuttering Clinics. He conducts research exploring outcomes of stuttering therapy and psychosocial impacts of stuttering. In particular, much of his research has focused on public attitudes towards stuttering and how public attitudes impact occupational choices.

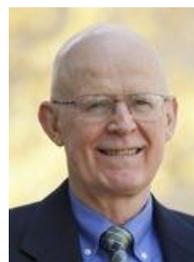
MARILYN LANGEVIN



Marilyn Langevin, Ph.D., R.SLP, SLP(C), CCC-SLP is an Associate Professor in the Department of Speech Pathology & Audiology, and is Director of Research for the Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR) in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine,

University of Alberta. She has presented or co-presented more than 130 seminars, workshops, research posters and papers over 25 years of clinical and clinical-research experience. A major focus of Dr. Langevin's research has been the exploration and amelioration of negative attitudes toward school-age children who stutter.

KENNETH ST. LOUIS



Ken St. Louis, a mostly recovered stutterer, is a professor of speech-language pathology in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders at West Virginia University. St. Louis has taught and treated fluency disorders for 40 years. His research has

culminated in more than 135 publications and 300 presentations. He is an ASHA Fellow and was awarded the Deso Weiss Award for Excellence in cluttering, WVU's Benedum Distinguished Scholar Award, and WVU's Heebink Award for Outstanding Service to the State. He founded the International Project of Attitudes Toward Human Attributes and has collaborated with numerous colleagues internationally on measuring public attitudes toward stuttering. Other current research interests include the definition and symptoms of cluttering and stories of stuttering.

1st Speaker, Ken St. Louis: "International Epidemiology of Public Attitudes toward Stuttering"

Following a rationale for investigating public attitudes toward stuttering, this presentation highlights selected findings of studies of attitudes around the world using a newly established standard measure, the Public Opinion Survey of Human Attributes–Stuttering (POSHA–S). The growing POSHA–S database currently includes nearly 120 respondent samples (in nearly 190 different comparisons) representing 29 countries and 20 different languages. The presentation also highlights the value of the database in comparing individual study samples with others worldwide as well as isolating geographic, demographic, and other variables that might predict public attitudes.

American Indian Perceptions of Stuttering ♦ Ann M. Beste-Guldborg, Ken St. Louis, Nichole Campanale
Negative attitudes toward stuttering are prevalent across the general population. Few studies have looked at the view of American Indians towards stuttering. This study examines the knowledge, perceptions, and beliefs of Northern Plains, Eastern, Pacific Northwest and Southwestern Indians toward stuttering using an adapted version of the Public Opinion Survey on Human Attributes–Stuttering (POSHA–S). Overall attitudes were generally positive and similar among tribal groups although certain significant differences were noted.

Public Attitudes Towards Stuttering in Khartoum, Sudan ♦ Yomna Elsidig, Charles Haynes, Julie Atwood, Ken St. Louis
Social environments play an important role in the way stuttering is experienced, how it develops, and its effect on persons' lives. This poster session will explore stuttering in Sudan in terms of public perceptions and attitudes collected through the Public Opinion Survey of Human Attributes–Stuttering (POSHA–S). Results of cross-cultural comparisons will also be shared.

Surveys as Instruments for Measuring Attitudes Toward Stuttering: Epidemiologic Cautions ♦ Bobbie B. Lubker, John L. Lubker
Well-designed surveys are familiar data collection methods in social and epidemiologic sciences. Familiarity breeds attempt; emails, charity pleas, and political rants specialize in biased surveys. This presentation addresses five survey considerations that influence measuring attitudes toward stuttering: 1) sample bias; 2) question bias; 3) mis-reporting and misapplication of data; 4) gender prevalence; 5) surveyor characteristics.

Arabic Perceptions of Stuttering Compared to Voice and Hearing Disorders ♦ Stephanie Hughes, Farzan Irani, Fauzia Abdalla
The attitudes of Arabic-speaking adults toward stuttering, voice disorders, and deafness were measured by administering a modified version of Bebout and Arthur's (1992) cross-cultural attitudes toward communication disorders questionnaire. While Kuwaiti attitudes toward all three disorders were generally positive, there were significant differences among the disorders, particularly for hearing disorders compared to voice disorders and stuttering.

This presentation will review basic definitions associated with social cognition and social categorization, prejudice (affective component), stereotyping (cognitive component) and discrimination (behavioral component) associated with stuttering. Stigma and resulting negative discrimination linked to stuttering provide compelling evidence based research necessary to work in treatment programs not only on behaviors associated with stuttering but attitudes and feelings. Public and self stigma as well as the difficulty with changing attitudes and stigma toward people who stutter will be reviewed.

2nd Invited Speaker, Gordon Blood and Michael Boyle: "Stigma Associated with Stuttering"

Changing Peer Perceptions of Young Children who Stutter ♦ Craig Coleman, Mary Weidner, Julie Baker, Emily Barney, Natasha Scott, Katrina Stewart, Leigh Stephens, Brianna Miluk, Cassie Donsbach, Kayla Childers, Elana Goldblum,

Audrey Sydenstricker

This poster will discuss findings on a preliminary study examining young children's perceptions of peers who stutter. Additionally, the presentation will provide data on changes in perceptions following the reading of a children's story about a character who stutters, along with accompanying discussion of individual differences.

Public Attitudes Toward Males versus Females who Stutter: USA and Iran ♦ Ken St. Louis, Staci LeMasters, Ahmad Poormohammad

American and Iranian respondents rated hypothetical stuttering males or females on modified POSHA-S versions (in English or translated Farsi [Persian]). Virtually no significant differences were observed on any standard POSHA-S ratings for stuttering males vs stuttering females in either country, but attitudes were more positive in the USA.

A Study on Knowledge and Attitudes Among Primary School Teachers about Children with Dysfluency ♦ Saminda Kuruppu, Chanta Jayawardena

Dysfluency (stuttering / stammering) is a communication disorder which affects the fluency of speech. School teachers are an important category of people who largely encounter individuals with dysfluency. Thus, it is extremely important to explore the level of knowledge, their

attitudes about dysfluency and

Bullying is a ubiquitous health problem that affects a minority of typically fluent children but a majority of children who stutter who present for therapy. This presentation will provide an overview of the frequency and nature of bullying and the differing degrees of impact experienced by children who stutter and an exploration of what speech-language pathologists can do at a universal and client-centered level to help children who stutter deal with bullying. Recent literature focused on helping the children who bully change their behaviors will also be discussed.

also how they react to children having this disorder. This would help to identify the training needs on the subject and to create a better classroom environment for children with dysfluency.

3rd Invited Speaker, Marilyn Langevin: "Teasing and Bullying of Stuttering Children"

Attitudes of Teachers versus Non-Teachers Towards People Who Stutter ♦ Hayley Arnold, Kathryn Goltl

Evidence indicates that teacher perceptions of stuttering and people who stutter (PWS), once thought to be negative, are becoming more positive (Irani & Gabel, 2008). However, it is not known whether they are more positive than people with similar years of education. We compared perceptions of stuttering and PWS in an international sample of teachers and non-teachers based on their responses on the Public Opinion Survey on Human Attributes-Stuttering (POSHA-S, St. Louis, 2012).

Children's and Parents Perspectives of Psychosocial Impact of Stuttering and Stuttering-Related Bullying ♦ Susanne Cook,

4th Invited Speaker, Rod Gabel: "Job Discrimination Associated with Stuttering in Adults"

For decades, research has attempted to explore the impact that stuttering has on the occupational performance and experiences of people who stutter. Several research studies have directly surveyed or interviewed people who stutter about their experiences with employment. In general, these studies have found that people who stutter experience an impact, or prejudice, when approaching work situations. Another body of research has explored the impact of societal attitudes towards stuttering on occupational choices and experiences for individuals who stutter. The purpose of this presentation is to explore these areas of research. The speaker will attempt to describe the present research, with a focus on an ongoing research program related to vocational stereotyping and role entrapment of people who stutter. Areas for further study will be explored.

Recognizing Positive Aspects of Stuttering: A Survey of the General Public ♦ Stephanie Hughes, Edward Strugalla
In this study, members of the general public responded to open-ended questions about the effects of stuttering on the lives of people who stutter (PWS). Compassion, empathy, motivation, and perseverance were associated with stuttering only after participants were specifically asked to think of positive aspects of stuttering. These results suggest that PWS and speech-language pathologists may need to help cultivate positive perceptions of stuttering as much as they need to ameliorate negative perceptions.

Public Attitudes Toward Mild versus Severe Stuttering in the USA and Kuwait ♦ Ken St. Louis, Fauzia Abdalla, Megan

Burgess, Chelsea Kuhn

Respondents rated hypothetical persons with mild or severe stuttering on modified Public Opinion Survey of Human Attributes–

Stuttering (POSHA–S) questionnaires in the USA (in English) and Kuwait (in Arabic). Attitudes were modestly—but not uniformly—better for mild stuttering in both countries, but USA attitudes were overall more positive.

Attitudes toward Stuttering: A Look at Selected "Helping" Professions ♦ Ann Beste-Guldborg, Nichole Campanale

Negative attitudes toward stuttering are held by many including teachers, pediatricians, social workers, and nurses. This study examines perceptions of law enforcement, medical, mental health, and educational personnel toward stuttering using the Public Opinion Survey on Human Attributes–Stuttering (POSHA-S). Significant differences are evident across the professions.

Emotional and Social Aspects of Stuttering in Women ♦ Dinamichele Boyer, Kathleen Scaler Scott

Many studies have been conducted to further explore possible causes and treatments of stuttering. Most studies include primarily male participants. This pilot study has been conducted to address the effects of stuttering on young adult women and to bring more attention and acceptance to women who stutter. This study also focuses specifically on the emotional and social implications of stuttering; an aspect of the disorder that has been recognized as important in the treatment of stuttering.

4th Inv.

Negative attitudes toward people who stutter still prevail in various sectors of society. While such beliefs and their effect on stigma have been the subject of intense inquiry, there is a paucity of research exploring ways to reduce these misconceptions and tackle unfavorable attitudes. This presentation will: 1) review intervention studies that have aimed at improving fluent speakers' awareness and attitudes toward stuttering; and 2) examine why existing studies have not yielded consistent findings in modifying participants' perceptions. It is hoped that this presentation will provide an evidence base for evaluating future endeavors at altering negative stereotyping of stuttering.

An Interdisciplinary Training Program in Stuttering: Raising Awareness and Changing Attitudes ♦ Stephanie Hughes, Rodney Gabel, Christopher Roseman, Derek Daniels

This poster presentation will present pilot data regarding the outcomes of a training program seeking to build collaborative relationships between speech-language pathologists and school counselors. The students in these disciplines participated in a program to raise awareness of stuttering, improve attitudes towards stuttering and identify ways each group may collaborate in serving children who stutter.

Measuring Stuttering Attitudes in the Client's Environment: A New Clinical Tool ♦ Ken St. Louis, Chelsea Kuhn, Lindsey Lytwak

An experimental version of a new clinical measure for clinicians, the Appraisal of the Stuttering Environment (ASE), was introduced. Attitudes of stuttering adults were more positive than attitudes of their close family members or friends. Additionally, family or friends' attitudes were better than those of unrelated, nonstuttering adult controls.

A Comparison of Attitudes Towards Stuttering Between Polish SLPs and SLP Students Using the POSHA-S ♦ Katarzyna Wesierska, Marta Wesierska, Ken St. Louis

This study aimed at documenting and comparing attitudes and knowledge of Polish speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and SLP student towards stuttering and people who stutter. A Polish version of the Public Opinion Survey of Human Attributes–Stuttering (POSHA–S) questionnaire was used. Statistically significant differences were observed for some of the subcategories investigated, but the two groups showed, overall, a relatively similar outlook toward the stuttering phenomenon.

Drawing on Allied Fields in Improving Attitudes of Graduate Students toward Stuttering ♦ Isabella Reichel, Ken St. Louis, Susanne Cook

Most of the curricula in fluency disorders courses are based, predominantly, on knowledge in the field of speech-language pathology, and often do not draw on the resources of allied fields. In order to reduce negative attitudes that many graduate students have about people who stutter, the authors explore multidisciplinary curricula integrated into traditional courses in fluency disorders at different times and in different classes.