



C.H.A.T. SOCIETY

COMMUNICATION HEALTH AND THERAPY

MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER

VOL 17



C.H.A.T. SOCIETY

COMMUNICATION HEALTH AND THERAPY

NEWSLETTER

C.H.A.T. UPDATES



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Get ready for [CHAT in the Park](#) on **June 21st** at **Rundle Park!**
 - **Read the next page** for more **exciting information** about our **annual event!****
- **Register now for [Aphasia Camp](#) that takes place on **September 12-14!**
 - **Click on the Link on page 4!****

3RD ANNUAL

C.H.A.T.

IN THE PARK

SATURDAY JUNE 21ST

11AM - 3PM / RUNDLE PARK SITE 5

SWAG BAGS | PRIZES | SILENT AUCTION | GAMES | BOTTLE DRIVE

Come looking like a
Tacky Tourist
to win more prizes!



**Rundle Park
Site 5**
2909 113 Ave NW



BRING YOUR **EMPTYES**
EARNS **ENTRIES FOR**
THE **PRIZE DRAW!**



*A special
thank you to
these amazing
sponsors!*



SAVE THE DATE

Register now for **Alberta Aphasia Camp** to join a relaxing weekend

[Register here!](#)



Join us for the 12th annual
**ALBERTA
APHASIA
CAMP 2025**

GULL LAKE CENTRE

28116 RR 3, Lacombe, AB

SAVE THE DATE
September 12-14, 2025

**A recreational and relaxing weekend camp retreat
for people with Aphasia and their friends/family.**

Registration forms now available online at uab.ca/AphasiaCamp
\$175 Early Bird Rate (applications received by July 1st) | **\$200** (Applications received by August 1st)

PLEASE CONTACT:

Andrea Ruelling, SLP Camp Coordinator | ruelling@ualberta.ca | 780-492-1549



Meet Daralynn Swensrude!

Board Member Highlight

After recovering from brain injury, **Daralynn** created the **C.H.A.T. Society** when she noticed the **lack of speech services** for **adults with aphasia**!

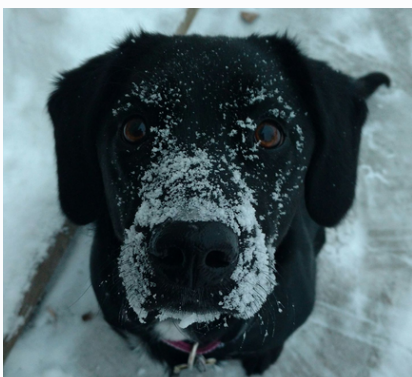
Since then, **Daralynn** has been working towards **increasing access** to **speech therapy** for **people with aphasia**!

“As a **person with aphasia**, I have a strong belief that this disorder needs to have more **education** of what it is and how it **affects** those with it and their **families and friends**.”



Daralynn Swensrude
C.H.A.T. President
& Founding Member

“I felt **everyone** had the **right** to more **access to therapy** no matter their **financial situation** and from there decide **we needed more**.”



Milly
Daralynn's dog!

Through the **C.H.A.T. Society**, **Daralynn** hopes to **build a community** and **provide** opportunities for education on **aphasia**!

“**Aphasia** affects **every aspect** of ones **life** therefore more **need to know** about it and its **struggles**.”

Meet Daralynn Swensrude!

Board Member Highlight

Question Time!

Read through to learn more about **Daralynn's** journey with **C.H.A.T.**!



Daralynn at our annual C.H.A.T. in the Park!

What do you **like** most about being a member?

“For me, it’s **definitely the people and community** I have discovered through **C.H.A.T. Society**. There are connections I would have never met without **C.H.A.T. Society.**”

What is something that **inspires** you?

“The **people I meet** and their **spirit** even after an injury like this. I **love** to see **friends and others with aphasia** gain **language and individual strength no matter the odds.**”

What is something you would like to **share** with other members?

“**No matter how alone** one can feel with **aphasia** just **remember** there are a **lot of us out** there and **it will get better!!!!**”



Daralynn spending her freetime Milly and Lucy, her horse!

Did you know? June is Aphasia Awareness Month!

In **Canada**, over **100,000** people are effected by **aphasia**!

Despite this, many people are **unaware** of **aphasia**!

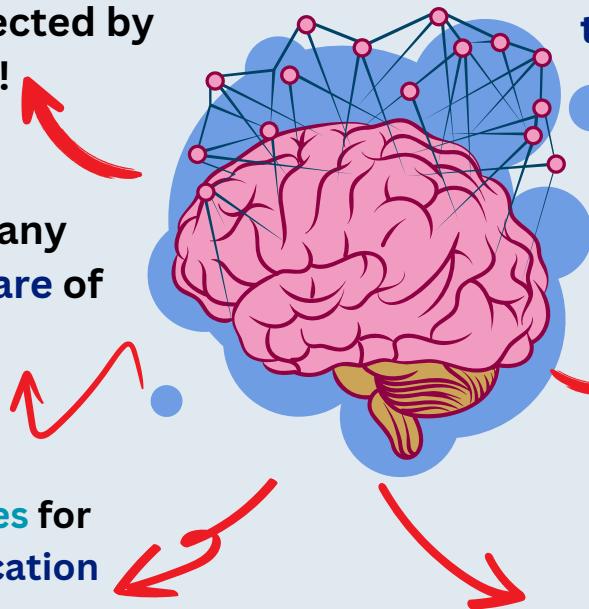
C.H.A.T **advocates** for better **communication** experiences for people living with Aphasia.

Aphasia is usually due to a **stroke** or **traumatic brain injury**



Aphasia makes it **difficult** for an individual to **communicate**.

Aphasia can isolate people and make it more difficult to **connect** with others!



ADVOCATE

Advocate this **month** in order to raise **awareness** and **educate** others!

Advocacy Tips & Tricks:

- **Share your story** with **others** & **Get Involved**!
- **Share & use resources!** [Click here](#) for a **link** to some of them!
- **Advocate** for yourself!
 - **Open Arms Advocacy**
 - <https://openarmsadvocacy.com>
 - **1-844-548-2747**
 - advocacy@openarmsadvocacy.com

How Aphasia After Stroke Affects the Brain: Research by Dr. Behroozmand

Dr. Behroozmand is a **brain** and **speech researcher** at the University of Texas at Dallas. He studies how strokes affect speech and communication in people with **post-stroke aphasia**.

Dr. Behroozmand's lab has received \$1.7 million from the National Institutes of Health to study this problem.



What His Research Looks At

Speaking is a complex task. It involves **many parts of the brain working together**, including those that control hearing and movement.

In the **lab**, participants say words while hearing their own voice played back to them. The *researchers slightly change the sound* so it doesn't match what was said. For example, turning "bed" into "bet."

Most people notice the error and adjust how they speak. But **people with aphasia** often:

- **Don't notice the mismatch**, or
- **Can't adjust their speech.**

This helps the team understand **where the speech process is breaking down in the brain.**

How Aphasia After Stroke Affects the Brain: Research by Dr. Behroozmand

Tools

To study this, his team uses **brain imaging (MRI)** to see **what parts of the brain are active or damaged.**

They also use **computer models** to link **speech problems** to **specific changes in brain activity.**

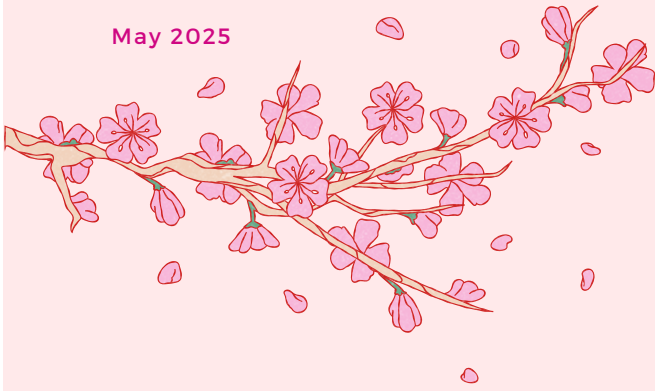


Goals

The goal is to:

- **Understand** how **different types of brain damage** affect speech.
- **Predict** **how severe** someone's aphasia may be.
- Create **better ways to support communication recovery** after stroke.

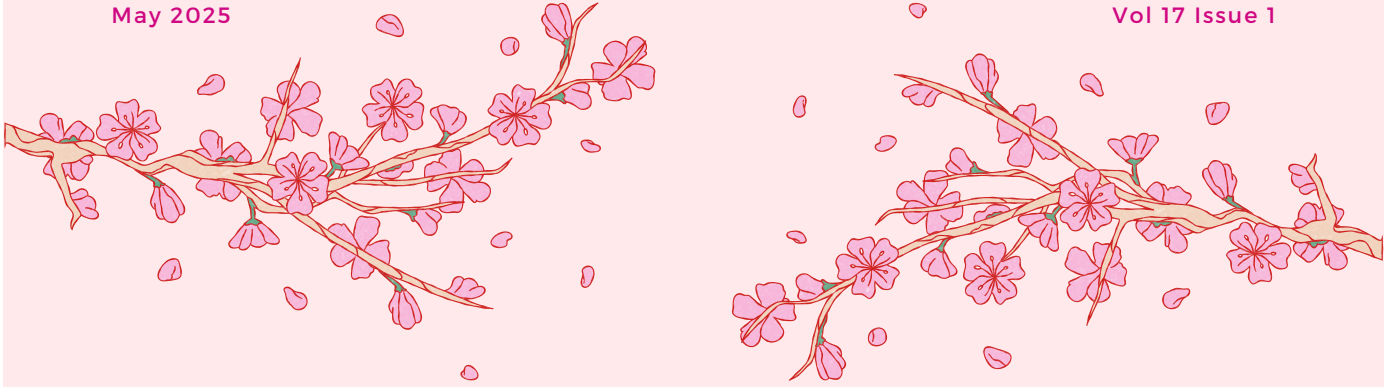
Dr. Behroozmand hopes this research will help **improve treatment and care** for people with aphasia in the future.



COMMUNICATION CORNER: RIDDLES

1. What **falls without** getting **hurt**?
2. What comes out **after** the **storm** wearing **every colour**?
3. What **opens up** in spring **without saying** a word?
4. What has **ribs**, but **no bones**, and **hates getting wet**?
5. What do kids **jump in** but **never** fill up?





COMMUNICATION CORNER: ANSWERS

1. Rain

2. Rainbow

3. Flower

4. Umbrella

5. A puddle



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



Interested in getting **more** involved with C.H.A.T.?



C.H.A.T. is run by a team of dedicated volunteers!

C.H.A.T. volunteers support Let's CHAT and use their unique skills to aid with events!

Join the board or a committee
to get **involved** & help make
meaningful change!

Join our team by visiting **this page** to
start your journey!



Follow us on Social Media



C.H.A.T. SOCIETY
COMMUNICATION HEALTH AND THERAPY

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Website @ thechatociety.ca



on Facebook @ [The CHAT Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheCHATociety)



on Instagram @ [The CHAT Society](https://www.instagram.com/TheCHATociety)

- Do you have any **suggestions** or **concerns** for **Let's CHAT?**
 - **Click** on the link below!

[CHAT Feedback Form](#)

