



Communication Sciences and Disorders

Arnold School of Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



USC_COMD Newsletter

Fall 2024

Top Articles:



[Montgomery Clinic wins two awards from The State's Best](#)



[ASHA Voices: SLPs on Benefits of Incorporating Mindfulness Into Service Delivery](#)



[Stroke expert continues aphasia research in Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders as assistant professor](#)



[Lebanese speech-language pathologist completes master's degree to treat adults in acute settings](#)



[Long-time speech-language pathologist joins Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders as clinical instructor](#)

Announcements:

Welcome to our new students admitted in 2024! In both the residential and distance education modalities, students started their graduate coursework over the summer and in the fall of 2024.

Congratulations to our USC_COMD class of 2024! 70 students graduated in August between our residential and distance education modalities for the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program.

[Two USC_COMD faculty members](#), Casey Stromberg and Sigfus Kristinsson, were recognized by recent graduates as having a key influence on their career journeys.





[St. Matthews man shares how his life has changed since receiving cochlear implant](#)



[Tara Sabo-Attwood returns to USC as new dean for the Arnold School of Public Health](#)



[Top graduate student award winners announced](#)



[Tom Chandler returns to faculty role after 17 years as Dean of the Arnold School](#)



[Communication sciences and disorders welcomes intellectual disability expert Liz Will](#)

Welcome to Hannah Midles, AuD., CCC-A and Ariana Silverstein, MS, CCC-SLP who joined our clinical faculty this fall!

Congratulations to Dr. Lisa Fitton on becoming an Associate Professor in ASPH!

Congrats to [Postdoctoral fellow Dr. Laura Giglio](#) who was awarded the 2024 Otto Hahn Medal for her PhD dissertation.

The Montgomery Clinic has been established as the only SPEAK OUT! Therapy & Research Center in the state of South Carolina. Please click the [link](#) to learn more!

[USC COMD alum](#), Anne Elise Nicoladis, was recently named a Distinguished Early Career Professional by ASHA.

Check out articles about our alumni, [Rowan LaForce](#), [Alexis Lawton](#), and [Brianna Miluk](#) in the ASHA Leader!

* Recent Grants and Publications from April 2024 – September 2024

Faculty members are **bolded**

Mentees are underlined



Recently Awarded Grants and Awards*:

Loujen Ajlani, USC – Communication Sciences and Disorders, [Outstanding Master of Science – Distance Education](#), 2024.

Jamy Claire Archer, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), [ACE Continuing Education Award](#), 2024.

Berrier, Taylor Bryant. National Institutes of Health, National Research Service Award for Individual Predoctoral Fellows. *Emotion Regulation in Children with Developmental Language Disorder* (F31DC021877). June 2024-May 2027. Faculty Mentors: **Suzanne Adlof & Abby Hogan**. Link to grant in NIH reporter is here if you want to see more info: <https://reporter.nih.gov/search/x-f5mmF8-UmrpqLkcB6hpA/project-details/10903302>

Taylor Berrier, USC- Center for Teaching Excellence, [Outstanding Teaching Award for Graduate Instructors](#), 2024: \$1000.

Dr. Gina Crosby-Quinotoa, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), ASHA [ACE Continuing Education Award](#), 2024.

Brandi Daves, USC – Arnold School of Public Health (ASPH), [ASPH Jeffery Keith Mattison Outstanding Student Achievement Award](#), 2024.

Dr. Laura Droege, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), [ACE Continuing Education Award](#), 2024.

Ellie Dubose, USC – Communication Sciences and Disorders, [Magellan Apprentice Award](#), 2024.

Dr. Lisa Fitton, National Institutes of Health. *Diagnostic identification of language and reading disorders among bilingual learners*. September 2024 – June 2029. Co-Investigators: **Suzanne Adlof & Gina Crosby-Quinotoa**. <https://reporter.nih.gov/search/tr0Hqk9fuEaXR58O7YTwkQ/project-details/10980670>

Dr. Lisa Fitton, [ASHA Editor's Award](#), *A Longitudinal Investigation of Code-Related Emergent Literacy Skills in Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing Across the Preschool Years*, 2024.

Dr. Lisa Fitton, Career Influencer Award, 2024.

Dr. Abby Hogan, USC Office of the VP for Research [ASPIRE grant](#), *The relationship between sensory responsivity and social anxiety symptoms in children with autism spectrum disorder*, July 2024 – September 2025: \$15,000.

Dr. Laura Giglio, Max Planck Institute (Nijmegen, The Netherlands), 2024 [Otto Hanh Medal](#) for her PhD dissertation.



PI/Research SLP: **Angela McLeod**, Primary Clinical SLP: **Laura Heidenreich**, [Parkinson Voice Project](#), [Speak Out! Therapy Grant](#), 2024: \$50,000.

Dr. Angela McLeod, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), [ACE Continuing Education Award](#), 2024.

Juliana O. Miller, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), [ACE Continuing Education Award](#), 2024.

Dr. Jean Neils-Strunjas, SC Department of Education (SCDE), [SC Create](#), 2025. \$309,996.

Nadia Sabeh Ayon, USC – Communication Sciences and Disorders, [Outstanding Master of Science – Residential Award](#), 2024.

Dr. Erin Smolak, USC Office of the VP for Research [ASPIRE grant](#), *Language and Executive Function in Late-Talking Toddlers*, July 2024 – September 2025: \$13,660.

Casey Stromberg, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), [ACE Continuing Education Award](#), 2024.

Recent Publications*:

Baron, L. S., Ehrhorn, A. M., Shlanta, P., Ashby, J., Bell, B. A., & **Adlof, S. M.** (2024). Orthographic influences on phonological processing in children with and without reading difficulties: an eye-tracking study. *Reading and Writing*, 1-24.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11145-024-10567-y>

Arjmandi, M. K., Neils-Strunjas, J., Nemati, S., Fridriksson, J., Newman-Norlund, S., Newman-Norlund, R., & Bonilha, L. (2024). Age-Related Hearing Loss, Cognitive Decline, and Social Interaction: Testing a Framework. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 67(8), 2743-2760.

Farrar, R., Ashjaei, S., & **Arjmandi, M. K.** (2024). Speech-evoked cortical activities and speech recognition in adult cochlear implant listeners: a review of functional near-infrared spectroscopy studies. *Experimental Brain Research*, 1-22.

Hong, I., Bae, S., Lee, H. K., & **Bonilha, H. S.** (2024). Prevalence of Dysphonia and Dysphagia Among Adults in the United States in 2012 and 2022. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 1-12.

Horn, J., Simpson, K. N., Simpson, A. N., Bonilha, L. F., & **Bonilha, H. S.** (2024). The Relationship Between Poststroke Dysphagia and Poststroke Depression and Its Risk Factors. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 33(5), 2487-2499.



Moser, C., Friedman, L., Bangert, K., Hickey, A., Sun, J., Klusek, J. (2024). The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health in mothers of autistic children and mothers of children with fragile X syndrome. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorder*, 117, 102465. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rasd.2024.102465>

Friedman, L., Moser, C., Thurman, A. J., Lounds Taylor, J., Abbeduto, L., Klusek, J. (2024). Description and predictors of self-determination in males and females with fragile X syndrome on the verge of adulthood. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, 68, 1316-1330. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jir.13182>

Klusek, J., Will, E., Christensen, T., Caravella, K., Hogan, A., Sun, J., Smith, J., Fairchild, A. J., Roberts, J. E. (2024). Social communication delay in an unbiased sample of preschoolers with the *FMR1* premutation. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 67, 2316-2332. https://doi.org/10.1044/2024_JSLHR-23-00580

Moser, C., Campanelli, A., Friedman, L., Thurman, A. J., Roberts, J. E., Abbeduto, L., & Klusek, J. (2024). Characterising the social interaction style of autism in young adult males with fragile X syndrome. *Journal of International Disability Research*, 68, 464-476. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/jir.13121>

Yang, C-H., Lee, J., Wilcox, S., Rudisill, A., Friedman, D.B., Hakun, J.G., **Neils-Strunjas, J.**, Wei, J., Miller, M., & Byers, M.D. (2024). Implementation and evaluation of a community-based mindful walking randomized controlled trial to sustain cognitive health in older African Americans at risk for dementia. *BMC Geriatrics*, 24(1), 579. [https://doi:10.1186/s12877-024-05090-2](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-024-05090-2).