



20th Annual
Eleanor M. Saffran Conference on Cognitive Neuroscience & Rehabilitation of Communication Disorders

Friday, September 25, 2026

The Influence of Precision Medicine on Approaches to Rehabilitation of Language and Communication Disorders in Children and Adults

9:00-9:15 Nadine Martin, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Temple University

Introduction and Welcoming Remarks

9:15-10:15 Jarrad Van Stan Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Harvard Medical School

The Rehabilitation Treatment Specification System: Implications for Rehabilitation of Communication Disorders

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the structure and purpose of the Rehabilitation Specification System (RTSS) as a framework for standardizing the specification of treatment ingredients, targets, and mechanisms of action in communication sciences and disorders
2. Explain how RTSS-based treatment specification enables precision medicine approach in CSD by linking specific therapeutic ingredients to measurable patient outcomes, facilitating ingredient-outcome analyses and individualized treatment planning
3. Identify practical applications of the RTSS for advancing evidence-based practice in CSD, including its use in clinical documentation, cross-study comparison of treatment protocols, and the design of dismantling studies that isolate active treatment components.

10:15-11:15 Beate Peter, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Arizona State University

Precision Medicine as a New Frontier in Speech-Language Pathology: Babble Boot Camp, a Prophylactic Intervention for Infants at Predictable Risk

Learning Objectives:

1. Explain two key principles of precision medicine
2. Distinguish between medical genetics and behavioral genetics
3. Distinguish between the terms “phenotype” and “endophenotype”
4. Evaluate how effective Babble Boot Camp was for the speech and language development of children with classic galactosemic and Down syndrome, compared to usual care
5. Construct a clinical scenario in which one of the principles of precision medicine could be applied
6. Describe pros and cons of sequencing the DNA of newborn children at predictable risk and ways to address the cons

11:15-11:30 Break

11:30-12:30 Gayle DeDe, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Temple University

Person-centered care: How the Life Participation Approach to aphasia creates the context for the precision medicine

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe what the Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA) is
2. Summarize principles underlying both the LPAA and precision medicine
3. Describe how LPAA treatment approaches can be described using the RTSS

12:30-1:30 Lunch - Student Scholars meet with NIDCD representatives

1:30-3:00 Student Scholar Poster Session

3:00-4:00 Jena McDaniel, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Vanderbilt Health

Advancing Personalized Approaches to Speech and Language Intervention for Children with Developmental Disabilities

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe at least two ways single case research design principles can be applied to personalize speech and/or language intervention for children
2. Explain the importance of selecting the most useful skill when assessing the impact of an intervention
3. Apply data-informed decision-making to personalize intervention approaches that promote meaningful improvements in speech and language outcomes for children

4:00-5:00 Rebecca Hunting Pompon, Ph.D., University of Delaware

Addressing psychological factors as part of a precision rehabilitation approach to aphasia

Learning Objectives:

1. Summarize the prevalence and impact of mental health challenges for adults with aphasia
2. Describe several patient-reported outcome measures used to screen mental health and psychosocial well-being
3. Demonstrate methods of integrating mental health/well-being measure and results into clinical practice

5:00-5:30 Discussion & Closing remarks