In this episode of the *Aphasia Access Conversations* podcast, Katie Strong interviews Dr. Katarina Haley, an Associate Professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Department of Allied Health Sciences at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Dr. Haley was trained as a speech language pathologist in Sweden, and then completed a PhD in hearing and speech sciences at Vanderbilt University with a focus on both improving diagnostics and treatment of speech production difficulties and understanding and better supporting person-centered care and collaboration between those affected by these disorders and their clinicians. She has over 30 years of experience working with neurologic communication disorders and has invested much time and effort into the development of Life Interests and Values (LIV) Cards, which are part of the larger LIV project.

Much of the episode is focused on these cards, which took years to develop and are a helpful tool for patients, family members, and clinicians seeking to advance patient care within an LPAA (Life Participation Approach to Aphasia) model. The cards include illustrations and are useful for goal and intervention planning, as well as taking the strength-based approach of thinking about possibilities versus losses. They allow patients with aphasia to see things that relate to them, to clarify life activities that matter most to them as individuals, and to help family members and clinicians learn about them. The cards are empowering for patients, and allow them to make autonomous decisions and can lead to an increase in overall satisfaction and quality of life.

Dr. Haley notes the need for continual conversation, research, and engagement for the sake of improved help for aphasia patients. The website for her project offers peer mentoring, resource sharing, and examples of success all aimed at developing aphasia care.
References

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