

Aphasia Experts in the Classroom: PWA as Mentors

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Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured (ARBI)

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Aphasia Experts in the Classroom:

Persons with Aphasia (PWA) as Mentors

Disclosures

- Heather A. Tomlinson, M.Sc.(A), R.SLP, S-LP(c)
 - Financial:
 - Employed (part-time) at the Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured (ARBI)
 - Casual instructor, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
 - Non-Financial:
 - Chairperson, Calgary Aphasia Centre's steering committee; receives no compensation as a steering committee member

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Persons with Aphasia (PWA) as Mentors

Goal:

- Increase meaningful participation in the community for PWA
- Provide health care students with opportunities to interact with PWA



WHO:

- Aphasia group members:
 - Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured (ARBI)
 - Calgary Aphasia Centre (CAC)
- Family members
- 1-2 Volunteers
- Students in various healthcare programs:
 - Rehabilitation therapy assistants
 - Physiatry residents
 - Occupational therapy



HOW:

- Students attend a Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™) workshop
- Students interact with PWA using SCA™
- Students attend a debriefing session



Outcomes:

- ✓ PWA get to share their personal stories
- ✓ Confidence-building for PWA
- ✓ Students learn how to interact with PWA
- ✓ Now a regular offering since 2016



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