
APHASIA RECOVERY LAB

Hello Dear Friends—



Welcome to the second newsletter from our Aphasia Recovery Lab! We wanted to stay in touch with all of you, especially now, during this era of COVID-19. We feel it is important for you to know that you are not alone in this, and that we think about you often.

In this newsletter, we are including some news, resources, and worksheets that you might find interesting. Our biggest news is that we continue to have success with doing language assessments using video conferencing technology. Basically, most everything we did in person, we can now do by seeing each other on our computer screens or tablets. Of course, it can't replace being in the room with you, but unfortunately, this will have to wait for a safer time.

Please don't forget that our [website](#) is updated regularly with news and resources. As always, we welcome comments and suggestions for other things we should be including. We hope you continue to be safe and healthy, and that we will get to see you soon.

Yours,
Nina Dronkers

Catch up with members of the lab—

Dr. Nina Dronkers



Dr. Nina Dronkers begins her role as Adjunct Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience in the UC Berkeley Psychology Department. She continues to lead the Aphasia Recovery Lab. This year, she will also help coordinate the Cognitive Neuroscience Colloquium series of lectures for the department.

Dr. Maria Ivanova



Dr. Maria Ivanova and Dr. Nina Dronkers presented the lab's tractography work at the 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting of the Organization for Human Brain Mapping. Together with their colleague Francois Rheault from the University of Sherbrooke, they demonstrated a new analytical approach for combining results from multiple tracking algorithms to determine critical brain-behavior connections:

[Click here to view the poster](#)

Catch up with members of the lab— Research Assistants

Alexis Pracar



Lab Manager, Alexis Pracar starts the PhD program in Cognitive Neuroscience at UC Berkeley. Her PhD advisor is Dr. Dronkers.

Anjelica Vance



Anjelica Vance starts her senior year at UC Berkeley. She plans to graduate in 2021 with a dual degree in Molecular Neurobiology and Biological Anthropology with a minor in Child Development.

Jessica Lawien



Jessica Lawien continues to pursue cognitive neuroscience as a psychology post-baccalaureate student at UC Berkeley. She is also one of our healthcare heroes, working as a nurse during the pandemic.

Sandhya Kannan



Sandhya Kannan graduated in 2020 from UC Berkeley with a dual degree in Cognitive Science and Linguistics. She now begins the UC Berkeley psychology post-baccalaureate program.

Aphasia News—

Sharon Stone Discusses Recovery from Stroke

by [Anjelica Vance](#)

Many people with aphasia are surprised to learn that strokes and aphasia have impacted some of the most famous celebrities! Actress Sharon Stone has been extraordinarily vocal about her experience with having a stroke and the long path to recovery. A video is also linked for those who are further interested or those who struggle with reading! Click the video below to watch:



Other Well Known Celebrities with Aphasia

From Ralph Waldo Emerson to Dwight D. Eisenhower, many celebrities have struggled with and adapted to life with aphasia. This [list](#) from the National Aphasia Association provides some well known examples of famous aphasia cases and gives a background profile on each individual.

Click on a name to learn the story:

[Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)

[Randy Travis](#)

[Dick Clark](#)

[Glen Campbell](#)

[Kirk Douglas](#)

[Gabby Giffords](#)

[Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

COVID-19 Safety Tips —



Know how it spreads. It spreads through respiratory droplets. Avoid getting close to people's mouths, especially if they are not wearing a mask.



Wash your hands often and avoid touching your face.



Avoid close contact with people outside your home (6ft distance recommended).



Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.



Cover coughs and sneezes.



Clean and disinfect.

The CDC recommends limiting in-person visits to the pharmacy to [protect yourself from COVID-19 when getting your prescriptions](#):

- Call in prescription orders ahead of time.
- Use drive-thru windows, curbside services, mail-order, or other delivery services.
- Try to make one trip, picking up all medicine at the same time.

Ordering food and groceries online is a great way to stay safe:

- Instacart and other online delivery services in some cities have reduced fees for seniors.
- Ordering food from local restaurants is a great way to support the local economy while staying safe. Pick up in-person or order from apps like [DoorDash](#), [Uber Eats](#), [Postmates](#), [Grubhub](#), [Caviar](#) and others.
- Be sure to wipe down the packaging from food deliveries.

Walking outside is healthy but must be done [safely](#):

- Stay close to home and do not visit crowded areas.
- Do not walk outside if you feel sick.
- Wear a mask.

Aphasia Identification Cards—

Covid-19 has reminded us all that is important to be prepared for problems. If you run into problems in your day-to-day life, it might be helpful to let people know that you have difficulties with language. [To print out the materials for making your card, please click here.](#)

[Print](#) both sides out and [laminare](#) them.

I HAVE APHASIA

Aphasia is a communication disorder that affects a person's ability to understand, produce, or read written or spoken words. Aphasia presents differently in each person.

In fact, the only thing everyone with aphasia has in common is that aphasia does not affect the person's intellect.

Aphasia can occur after a head injury or stroke. It can also be the result of a brain tumor. In rare cases, aphasia is the result of primary progressive aphasia (PPA), which is a neurodegenerative disorder.



National
Aphasia
Association

FLIP CARD OVER FOR MORE INFORMATION

I HAVE APHASIA

My name is _____

Please contact _____ in case of an emergency. You can reach them at this number: _____

Please keep your sentences short and simple. Give me time to think and respond. I can give you a thumbs up (yes) or thumbs down (no) sign in response to yes/no questions. Verify that we both understand what the other person is saying.



National
Aphasia
Association

Resources— Downloads!

Visit our website at <https://aphasia.berkeley.edu/>

Aphasia Apps



A list of aphasia apps can be opened as a printable PDF if you [click this link](#). Let us know what you think about these!

Worksheets



[Click to open a printable PDF of the worksheet packet](#)

Description of worksheet activities:

Brainstorm!

For each category, think up three different answers. There are so many to choose from! Have fun.

What doesn't belong?

Cross out the word that is not in the same category as the other words.

Aphasia ID Card

Print out the aphasia ID card materials by [clicking here](#)