

Upcoming Lecture

“Please Help Me I’m Falling: Effects of Cognitive-Linguistic Load on Parameters of Gait and Balance and Injurious Fall Risk in Parkinson Disease”



Leonard L. LaPointe, Ph.D.

The Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at the University of Arizona is pleased to announce the first annual Anthony B. DeFeo Lecture in Speech-Language Pathology featuring Leonard L. LaPointe. Dr. LaPointe will focus on the fall risk in people with Parkinson disease and discuss intervention measures for reducing fall risk. Recent evidence suggests that performing simultaneous cognitive-linguistic tasks while walking (e.g., talking while walking) can have a negative effect on ambulation for individuals with significant fall risk from Parkinson disease or other causes (frail elderly, reduced sensory awareness, or other medical conditions). The risk of fall increases if the demands of the cognitive-linguistic task become more complex or ambulation involves situations such as ascending stairs, walking on an unstable surface, or reduced light conditions. The examination of gait and balance under varying cognitive-linguistic loads provides important information about fall risk, and offers potential strategies to reduce the suffering and subsequent enormous healthcare costs associated with it. Dr. LaPointe’s research uses the GAITRite© computerized system of measurement of over 30 variables of gait along with Computerized Dynamic Posturography (CPD) to objectively trace multiple parameters of gait and balance across conditions of changing conditions of cognitive-linguistic load.

Dr. LaPointe is a Francis Eppes distinguished Professor and Chair of Communication Disorders and a member of the faculty in the Program in Neuroscience and the College of Medicine at Florida State University in Tallahassee. Dr. LaPointe has authored or co-authored 5 books, 35 book chapters, over 80 journal articles, and presented more than 400 papers, lectures, or invited workshops in the United States, the former Soviet Union, several countries in Europe, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, and the South American countries of Colombia, Argentina, and Brazil. He has received the Honors of the Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the Academy of Neurological Communication Disorders and Sciences, and the Clinical Career Award from the Florida Society of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

What: The Anthony B. DeFeo Lecture in Speech Language Pathology

Title: Please Help Me I’m Falling: Effects of Cognitive-Linguistic Load on Parameters of Gait and Balance and Injurious Fall Risk in Parkinson Disease

Speaker: Leonard L. LaPointe, PhD

When: Friday, August 24, 2007 3:00-4:30pm

Where: AHSC DuVal Auditorium

Open to the Public Cost: Free

For more information, contact Cathy Fay at 621-1819 or cfay@email.arizona.edu