

# Aphasia Insights!

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“This report constitutes a “call to action” for all stakeholders interested in the future of aphasia services! Together we can and must act now to transform the lives of people with aphasia.”

This includes a detailed list of recommendations including: “Launch a strategic awareness program including inter-organizational collaborations to build knowledge and awareness of aphasia and best practices to obtain meaningful outcomes” plus “Improve communication access in health care and the wider community.”

## Aphasia in North America (Simmons-Mackie, 2018)

Stroke Educator, Inc. is committed to educating the wider public about stroke and the 50 state “*Aim High for Aphasia!*” Aphasia Awareness Campaign.

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## *The ABCs of Aphasia: A Stroke Primer; The Link to the Outside World About Stroke and Aphasia.*

By Tom Broussard, Ph.D.

I spoke (by ZOOM) with the Boston University Aphasia Resource Center (BUARC) staff and members last Saturday, September 26, 2020. It was my ninth anniversary to the day since my stroke in Waltham, MA in 2011.

I am an alum from the BUARC and took the Conve

rsations Class in 2012. My Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) at BU was Jerry Kaplan and he is still the best SLP and leading the ZOOM event (with 44 in attendance) last Saturday.

My presentation describes the “call to action” imperative detailed in the white paper, *Aphasia in North America* (Simmons-Mackie, 2018) regarding the lack of aphasia awareness in the wider public as well as the hospitals and healthcare providers.

My response to the author’s call is my book *The ABCs of Aphasia: A Stroke Primer* which provides the “missing link” that connects the people on the inside world (people with aphasia, their family, and clinicians) to the outside world of hospitals, healthcare providers and the wider public who are largely unaware about aphasia.

Many hospitals do not use the language (the lexicon) of aphasia at all. As a result, discharged stroke and aphasia patients can leave with nothing in their hands to help them understand the marathon of aphasia

recovery that is about to come.

In my case, I was discharged

with a one-page description of a list of “typical problems” that included “aphasia, cognitive-linguistic disorders, dysphagia, language, dysarthria, verbal apraxia, and voice disorders.”

I went home with nothing about aphasia (other than that one page) until my first speech therapy session almost a month later. I started asking (as best I could with the evidence of it in my diary) about more information and a plan for recovery but there was none.



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Hence, this book provides what I (and my family) desperately wanted; more information about aphasia from the start.

This new tool is written *about, by,* and *for* people with aphasia to educate hospitals, healthcare providers, and the wider public about aphasia before hearing about it for the first time when being admitted to your local ER.

This primer should be in the hands of *every* person who has just started the family journey of stroke, aphasia, and recovery.

Signed: *The Johnny Appleseed of Aphasia Awareness*