

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

2022 - 2023

A year of transition

This has been an exciting year of transition for the Aphasia Institute team! **Dr. Aura Kagan**, who has been Executive Director since 1987, has transitioned to a new role as Executive Advisor for Strategy, Applied Research and Education. **Natalie Gierman**, who served as the Director of Clinical Services, has been appointed as the new Executive Director and **Elyse Shumway** is our new Director of Clinical Services.



Dr. Aura Kagan



Natalie Gierman

On the way to accreditation

The Aphasia Institute continued its focus on preparing for accreditation and many new and updated policies and procedures have been incorporated into our day-to-day work. Using an accreditation lens our Adult Day Program, Health and Safety, Administrative, Financial, Human Resource, and Governance practices have been examined resulting in refined practices and/or the addition of new policies. Accreditation is scheduled for May 29 - 31, 2023

Volunteers are our strength

7,175 hours of support and 119 volunteers

Our volunteers' remarkable contribution in conducting 1,216 client outreach visits via telephone and video has been instrumental in the success of the Outreach Program.



Nine volunteers were awarded the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards by the Ontario Government's Ministry of Citizenship & Multiculturalism.



Tricia Broughton



Naziha Ullah



Katelyn Tadros



John Tonus



Jessie Howard



Don McKellar



Courtney Mintz



Bonnie Boltman



Beatrice Hugh-Harris

Our members are our priority



1 interactive townhall

In November, we offered the first interactive Town Hall for our community. We created several small focus groups to get feedback on preferences related to virtual and in-person programming, as well as the opportunity to make suggestions for future program ideas and improvements.



NEW website section for people with aphasia

A new aphasia-friendly section of the website has been developed to create something that is 'Simple, Instructive and Provides Hope' and can be navigated by people with moderate -mild aphasia themselves, with the help of a family member/friend. The website is being tested to gather feedback from people living with aphasia and staff but will be launched in 2023-2024.

Programs for our community



8,936 visits to our Community Aphasia Programs

Our team remains actively involved in developing our program schedule to include onsite and virtual options that meet the needs of our clients.



217 community inquiries addressed and answered

Our team continually provides support to families and members living with aphasia wherever they live. We provide general information about aphasia, help families navigate the health system and connect them to community supports.



1 online program for people with Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) and their families

The Living Your Best Life Support and Education Program was designed to meet the unique needs of families living with PPA, and it has received great reviews from attendees.



39 family members from across Ontario registered for the Path to Resilience workshop, surpassing our target attendance by 158%.

The workshop focused on acknowledging and exploring the journey of family caregivers, providing emotional validation, education about burn-out and self-care, and sharing strategies for resilience and coping.



9 Community integration opportunities and outings

This year we started in-person outings including concerts and cultural events and opportunities for our members to volunteer for other causes. Our members have clocked over 40 hours of voluntary service!

Supporting health care systems and clinicians



500+ attendees across our webinars

Our webinar series continues to be popular among the clinical and research communities. We hosted 8 webinars and had over a 100% increase in attendance in our last webinar due to improvements in marketing and registration.



121 healthcare professionals trained across all training programs and workshops

Our trainees have provided positive reviews, with many expressing confidence in their ability to communicate with people with aphasia using the skills learned in the workshops. We also had the opportunity to provide custom training to a group of Finnish and Swedish health care providers.



7 clinical students trained

Our team continues to build system capacity for people living with aphasia by training and supporting the next generation of clinicians.



2900 healthcare professionals have completed the SCA e-learning module

The SCA e-learning is a self-paced training module which allows participants to develop an understanding of aphasia and how it affects communication, learn techniques to decrease language barriers, and improve access to healthcare for individuals with aphasia.



18 research publications and educational presentations

We continue to engage in innovative research to improve communicative access across the healthcare continuum.