

# SPEECH LANGUAGE AND HEARING PATHOLOGY IN BRAZIL

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| journal or publication title | 北海道医療大学心理学部研究紀要 : J Psychol Sci   |
| volume                       | 2   |
| page range                   | 142-145   |
| year                         | 2006  |
| URL                          | <a href="http://id.nii.ac.jp/1145/00006815/">http://id.nii.ac.jp/1145/00006815/</a> |

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IN BRAZIL**

Emi Juliana Yamauchi, Toshiko Mori

**HISTORY OF THE SPEECH LANGUAGE AND HEARING  
PATHOLOGY**

The field of speech-language and hearing pathology (SLHP) in Brazil, named 'fonoaudiologia', comprises both a therapeutic approach to communication disorders and audiology, and was officially recognized on December 9, 1981 (law No. 6965). University programs exist since the 1960s. The undergraduate level is a 4-year Bachelor of Science Degree program, and requires at least 3.700 hours of coursework. Since 1996, four areas of specialization were established: language, audiology, voice and oral myology, requiring the minimum of 500 hours of coursework. Graduate programs in the narrower sense, namely master's and doctor's degrees exist since the 1970s. Brazil is a 180-million inhabitant country with approximately 28.500 speech-language and hearing pathologists, of which 3.000 are specialists, 850 masters and 215 doctors. There are almost 100 undergraduate courses and 70 specialization programs; however, for master's and doctor's degree there are only 8 programs.

In Sao Paulo state, the Brazilian's largest state in population, with 40 million of inhabitants, there are 23 faculties/universities and 10.400 speech-language and hearing pathologists working in hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers, Home care support programs, private clinics, industries, companies, universities, public health programs, esthetic centers, TV sets and so on. In order to receive an allowance to practice speech-language and hearing pathology, every Speech-language and hearing pathologist must be registered and become a member of the federal speech-language-hearing association

in Brazil (equivalent to the ASHA-USA) called Conselho Federal de Fonoaudiologia (CFFa), through a professional ID number that they get right after finishing their undergraduate program and get their BSc certificate.



**The Speech Language and Hearing Pathology  
Symbol**

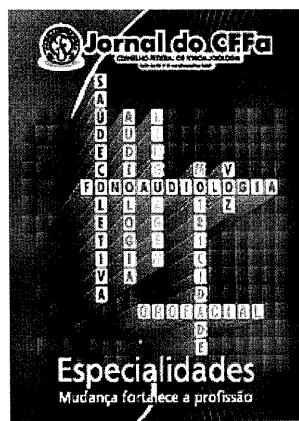
The CFFa is subdivided into 7 regional councils called Conselho Regional de Fonoaudiologia (CRFa) as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Consil-Rio de Janeiro State; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reginal Consil-Sao Paulo State; 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Council - Parana and Santa Catarina States; 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Council - Alagoas, Bahia, Ceara, Maranhao, Paraiba, Piaui, Rio Grande do Norte and Sergipe States, 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Council - Acre, Amapa, Amazonas, Distrito Federal, Goias, Para, Rondonia, Roraima and Tocantins States, 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Council-Espirito Santo, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul and Mato Grosso; 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Council - Rio Grande do Sul State. Besides motivating scientific research, the CFFa is responsible for making up and determining the rules and regulations for educational purposes (normative rules of faculties/universities) and for professional practice. In order to protect and qualify the professionals' activities, the CFFa in association with the CRFas zeal for the practice of the law (LAW No6965/81) and inspect the occurrence of code violations by schools and/or professionals. If there were any code violations by the professional he may be charged and, depending on the gravity of the infraction he may have his registration canceled and

be formally prohibited from continuing his practice as a Speech language and hearing pathologist.

The CFFa and the CRFas publish and send the professionals a trimestral edition of newsletters containing scientific issues, normative reviews and announcements, interviews with professionals, preventive campaigns in speech-language and hearing sciences.



CRFa Newsletters



CFFa Newsletters

Every year, The Speech-Language-Hearing Pathologists Day is celebrated on December, 09<sup>th</sup>. In this year's celebration ceremony, the president of CRFa - Silvia Tavares de Oliveira (PhD), congratulated SLPs and other entities (Brazilian Speech language hearing pathologists Society, ONG Time of the voice, State of Sao Paulo Union of the Speech Language Pathologists, etc ) for their great commitment and effort that contribute for the great improvement of Speech-language and hearing Sciences in Brazil and emphasized the great achievement the 25th anniversary of official recognition and law regulation of our profession represents to our nation development in the field of health sciences.

#### RESEARCH AND REHABILITATION CENTERS

In Brazil, there are several centers internationally known for their excellence in research and

rehabilitation activities. Some of those institutions were listed below:

**AACD** - Associação de Assistência a Criança Deficiente (Impaired Children Assistance Association) Internationally known and awarded for its excellence in services it is a philanthropic institution founded in 1950 that aims to support physically impaired children and teenagers through rehabilitation programs and social inclusion programs. This institution is provided of hospitals, intensive care centers, rehabilitation centers, bio-energy engineering laboratory and research centers. [www.aacd.org.br](http://www.aacd.org.br)

**APAE** - Associação de Pais e Amigos dos Excepcionais (Special Children Parents and Friends Association). Since 1954, this institution aims to promote actions in defense of the impaired people's rights and to represent them in national and international organs to improve the quality of the institution's services to the social inclusion of these people with special care needs. There are hundreds of centers all over the country and they develop supporting programs for impaired children and their families, including educational programs, professional development programs, and preventive programs for pregnant women.

[www.apaebrasil.org.br](http://www.apaebrasil.org.br)

**HRAC/USP** - Hospital de Reabilitação das Anomalias Craniofaciais/ Universidade de São Paulo (Craniofacial Anomalies Rehabilitation Hospital/ University of São Paulo) In 1967 this institute research and rehabilitation center was part of Bauru Odontology Faculty/ University of São Paulo, and ten years later in 1979 it became a Cleft Palate Rehabilitation and Research Hospital and since then it has been internationally recognized by OMS (World Health Organization) for its international standard of excellence in Cleft Palate Research and

Rehabilitation services. Besides the studies in cleft palate disorders, this center is also known for the research and rehabilitation programs of craniofacial anomalies, hearing and visual disorders. As for the hearing disorders treatment besides preventive, educational, habilitation and rehabilitation programs the one that stands out is the Multichannel Cochlear Implants and support programs.

<http://www.centrinho.usp.br>

DERDIC/SP-Divisao de Educacao e Reabilitacao dos Disturbios da Comunicacao (Communication Disorders Educational and Rehabilitation Division) A nonprofit foundation dedicated to advancement of knowledge and improvement of practice in communication sciences disorders. This center's studies remain on hearing disorders of elderly people rehabilitation, on preventing hearing disorders in workers and on preventing vocal disorders in people who uses their voice for professional purposes (singers, actors, lawyers, teachers, etc). [www.derdic.pucsp.br](http://www.derdic.pucsp.br).

DMR/HCSP - Divisao de Medicina de Reabilitacao (Medicine Rehabilitation Division/ Sao Paulo University School of Medicine. Founded in 1975 this institute aims to rehabilitate and insert impaired people in the professional market by a multiprofessional rehabilitation approach and professional counseling and orientation for a physical and social improvement of rehabilitation.

<http://www.hcnet.usp.br/haux/dmr>

#### PRACTICES OF THE SLHP' S

SLHP are employed in hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers, government agencies, and private practice. Many SLPs are specialized and work with specific populations or disorders, such as child language impairments, learning disabilities, developmental delays, autism,

articulation/phonology, fluency, voice, swallowing, neurogenics, dementia, and acquired brain injury.

These professionals also develop preventive programs of hearing, language and voice disorders. An ascending approach is in the Business field where the SLPs develop preventive programs of hearing and voice disorders and language development in the telemarketing sector of a company through vocal health programs for the attendants, periodical hearing assessments, frequent advices concerning the correct way to use the audio equipment and also to improve the attendants language skills in order to attract the costumers attention and interest in acquiring the product or service offered by the company.

Not only in the telemarketing sector, but also the administrative and human resources sectors also require SLPs' services for improving their communication skills through orientation and specific training sessions.

Another sector that has been required is orofacial organs and muscles exercising for esthetic purposes because many studies have been developed concerning the efficiency of myofacial exercises to prevent and/or reduce permanent lines that appear as a result of constant frowning and contraction of facial muscles; to promote a firm facial muscles tonus and to improve circulation providing better cellular exchange and regeneration.

#### AN OVERVIEW OF SANTA CRUZ HOSPITAL

In my country, I work at Santa Cruz Hospital in Sao Paulo known as the oldest and most important Brazillian Nikkei Cooperation's charitable institution. It was built on an area acquired in 1926 eighteen years after the beginning of Japanese immigration to Brazil.

On the 30th Japanese immigration anniversary, in 1938, they constructed a memorial stone inscription of the family names of the immigrants who arrived in Brazil in the Kasato Maru ship and of the poem

from the Japanese poet Shimazaki Tooson.

In 1939, the Santa Cruz Hospital was inaugurated after a great campaign of the Nikkei community and the Brazilian and the Japanese governments. By that time, it was considered one of the most advanced centers for preventive medicine and public health in Latin America. Nowadays the hospital is still considered a reference for its Ophthalmic, cardiology and neurology surgery centers.

The most commonly admission cases are related to neurological diseases and after the admitted patients pass through the neurological surgery, to avoid the risk of infections for contamination, the doctors lead the patients to a dysphagia evaluation and intensive therapy sessions in order to allow the admitted patients to leave the hospital as soon as possible.

In Brazil, speech language pathologists are allowed to conduct a videofluoroscopy swallowing examination after having a doctor's consent and authorization for the evaluation proceeding. The Speech Language Pathologists is allowed to write the examinations results report , and even to decide what is the adequate therapeutic approach for the investigation of the reported case based on the following investigations: the need of therapy using food for a nutritive meal; the ideal consistence and volume of food, the most appropriate position of the patient for a secure meal with no aspiration risks and the importance and risk factors of having three meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) and the rehabilitation length, depending on the government financial support .

The Speech Language and Hearing Sciences studies the human being communication related to the communication development, disturbs and their differences. The Speech language Pathologist is responsible for the health promotion, evaluation and diagnosis, orientation, therapy (rehabilitation) and improvement of the speech language pathology aspects: the peripheral and central function

auditory, vestibular function, language and writing, voice, fluency, articulation, orofacial miology and swallowing.

The reason for deciding to be a ST professional is to create a better understanding of communication disorders in geo-political-socio-cultural contexts.



SANTA CRUZ HOSPITAL, in Sao Paulo city.

<http://www.hospitalsantacruz.com.br/html/>