Bring on New Challenges: celebrating the Speech-Language Pathology profession in Malta

The Department of Communication Therapy, University of Malta, in collaboration with the Speech-Language Department, Department of Health, and COST Action IS0804, will be holding a seminar to mark 30 years of local service provision and 20 years since the launching of the degree course in Communication Therapy at the University of Malta. Local and international speakers will discuss aspects of speech-language pathology in Malta, as well as current trends in the assessment and management of childhood language impairments in monolingual and bilingual contexts. This seminar will be of interest to speech-language pathologists, student speech-language pathologists and other persons directly involved with the profession.

Date: 1 December 2011

Venue: South Auditorium, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Malta
Time: 09.00 – 15.00

Registration Fee: €6, inclusive of registration pack, coffee and lunch

Registration deadline: 24 November 2011

Participants are kindly requested to confirm their attendance via e-mail on nadine.call...@um.edu.mt

Programme

09.00 Welcome address
Professor Angela Xuereb, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Malta

09.15 Aspects of bilingual intervention
Professor Maria Adelaida Restrepo, Arizona State University, United States

10.00 Discussion

10.15 Coffee

10.45 Assessment profiles of bilingual children with Specific Language Impairment
Professor Elin Thordardottir, McGill University, Canada
Recent research with young dyslexic adults indicated that the ability to encode phoneme position might be a crucial factor when describing the quality of phonological representations. The results from a nonword repetition (NWR) task showed that dyslexic young adults didn’t differ from matched controls at the level of phoneme retention but performed significantly worse on the retention of the phonemes’ serial position within the syllable (Geudens, Schraeyen & Sandra, SSSR 2010). As masses of research data highlight the importance of high-quality phonological representations already in early reading development, we will report the results of a study in which the NWR test was administered to young children in this phase.