

Reviving Speech for People with Parkinson's Disease and Aging Adults with Treatments at Home



Jessica Huber
Professor Speech Language and Hearing Sciences

CURRENT RESEARCH

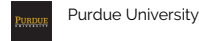
How devices the size of bluetooth pieces are giving patients back their voice

Parkinson's disease is a degenerative disorder in which symptoms including difficulty with walking and gait, slowness of movement, shaking, impairments to speech and cognition, and depression worsen as the disease progresses. The National Parkinson Foundation reports that in the United States alone, 50,000-60,000 new cases of Parkinson's disease are diagnosed each year, adding to the one million people who are currently diagnosed. Perhaps most startling is that complications for Parkinson's disease are the 14th leading cause of death in the United States. Despite the challenges inherent with Parkinson's disease, there is hope. As researchers and practitioners work towards specialized treatments to better care for patients with Parkinson's disease, they are greatly impacting both the patient's lives and their families.

Dr. Jessica Huber, of Purdue University, is a speech language pathologist and researcher who focuses on the quality of life for her patients before collecting her research results. As a young scientist, she chose to begin looking at Parkinson's disease because it provided a nice disease model. After a short while however, Dr. Huber realized that her subjects were more than models to understand disease. She passionately describes patients who have been married for 40 years that could no longer communicate. While one partner with Parkinson's was having difficulty speaking, because of the disease process, their spouse often had hearing loss, as a result of the aging process. Dr. Huber understood that if she could restore patient's speech, she would be able to bring back to life the gift of companionship for couples who had been affected by the disease process. This empathy sparked a love for...

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AFFILIATION



EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Communication Disorders and Sciences 2001, University at Buffalo
- M.A. in Communication Disorders and Sciences 1997, University at Buffalo
- B.A. in English 1992, Saint John Fisher College

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Neurological / Cognitive, Neurological / Cognitive, IOT, Devices, Data

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support Dr. Huber's research as she seeks to find treatments to ameliorate changes to communication, mobility, and cognition that occur as a part of typical aging and as a result of Parkinson's disease. Her unique treatments including the SpeechVive device and Microsoft Kinect software are examples of her innovative therapies that can be implemented within the homes of patients or in their everyday activities. Donations will fund salaries and experimentation.

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