

Support

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Laboratory for Aphasia Research and Treatment

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ELEANOR M. SAFFRAN CENTER
FOR
COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

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*ELEANOR M. SAFFRAN
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**INFORMATIONAL
BROCHURE**

Mission Statement



Dr. Eleanor M. Saffran was one of the pioneers of Cognitive Neuropsychology with a career spanning some 35 years. Dr. Saffran spelled out the methodological tenets of "cognitive neuropsychology" exemplified in her studies of aphasia, acquired dyslexia, word deafness, and short-term memory impairment. These seminal papers are among the

most widely cited in the field today. In 1980, Dr. Saffran established the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience. Here she built an interdisciplinary research group composed of neurologists, psychologists, and speech pathologists. Under her leadership, this group extended the cognitive neuropsychological approach to the analysis of neurological disorders of perception, visual attention, and semantics. As the field of cognitive neuropsychology matured, Dr. Saffran became recognized as one of its most influential practitioners. Dr. Saffran was an exemplary scholar, leaving an extraordinary legacy of contributions to the field of cognitive neuropsychology. She will always be remembered for these accomplishments, but also for her kindness and generosity to colleagues, friends, and students.

In the spirit of Dr. Saffran's legacy, the Eleanor M. Saffran Center for Cognitive Neuroscience provides a venue for interdisciplinary research in the neural and psychological basis of language and cognition. Our aim is to understand and explore the relationship between language and other cognitive processes, such as attention and memory. These findings are used to develop effective treatment programs for the rehabilitation of language disorders. Thus, fulfilling the mission inspired by Dr. Saffran.

Eleanor M. Saffran Center for Cognitive Neuroscience

Aphasia Research Laboratory Dr. Nadine Martin, Director

Researchers, clinicians and students in this laboratory work together to investigate the relationships among language and short-term memory impairments associated with aphasia. Stroke and progressive neurological disorders often lead to changes in language and other cognitive functions. The knowledge we gain through the study of these changes is used to develop better diagnostic measures and more effective treatments for aphasia. The aim of treating both language and short-term memory is to improve overall communication abilities and consequently, the quality of life for people with aphasia.

Cognitive Neurophysiology Laboratory Gerry A. Stefanatos, D. Phil., Director

Research in the Cognitive Neurophysiology Laboratory focuses on studies of the efficacy of behavioral and psychopharmacologic treatments in disorders of language, spatial cognition, and attention. This research integrates neuropsychological, neurophysiological and functional imaging techniques to understand brain plasticity and the neural changes that accompany recovery and learning in acquired and developmental disorders.



Dr. Nadine Martin observes as Research Speech Language Pathologist Francine Kohen tests a stroke patient's vocabulary comprehension.

Photographed by Joseph V. Labolito/Temple University

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Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to participate in the research and treatment programs?

People with acquired brain injury, including stroke or dementia, are eligible to participate in our research and treatment programs.

What is involved if I decide to participate?

I will be given tests to evaluate my language and memory abilities. I may also be given the opportunity to participate in experimental treatment programs.

Why should I participate?

You will gain a better understanding of your language and memory abilities by participating in our research programs. If you are eligible to participate in one of our treatment programs you may benefit from a genuine improvement in your communication abilities. You will also help us understand more about the language impairments that result from brain damage so the we may continue to develop more effective treatments for future participants.

If I want to participate, who should I contact?

If you would like additional information or would like to participate in Dr. Martin's research and treatment programs please contact Francine Kohen at (215) 204-4752, email: fpkohen@temple.edu, or Michelene Kalinyak-Fliszar at (215)204-2183., email: michelene.kalinyak-fliszar@temple.edu. For Dr. Stefanatos' research and treatment programs please call (215) 204-2826, email: tuneurolab@temple.edu.

How is confidentiality ensured?

We are dedicated to protecting and maintaining privacy and confidentiality of people who participate in our research and treatment programs. All information pertaining to our research will be kept confidential in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Only members of the research team have access to personal identifying information.