

# Robert Cavanaugh

M.S. CCC-SLP

I'm a certified speech-language pathologist and Ph.D student in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders at the University of Pittsburgh. My research currently focuses on the translation and clinical implementation of treatments for aphasia and related disorders. I have worked clinically in inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings, specializing in assessment and treatment of acquired and degenerative neurogenic communication disorders.



## Education

- Current**  
2018  
● PhD Student, Communication Science and Disorders  
University of Pittsburgh 📍 Pittsburgh, PA
- 2015**  
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2013  
● M.S. Speech and Hearing Sciences  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 📍 Chapel Hill, NC
  - Thesis: Working Memory Capacity and Subjective Communication Difficulties in High Level Aphasia
- 2013**  
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2009  
● B.A. Communication Science and Disorders  
University of Pittsburgh 📍 Pittsburgh, PA
  - Magna cum laude

## Appointments & Positions

- Current**  
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2019  
● Predoctoral Fellow  
Institute for Clinical Research Education  
University of Pittsburgh  
TL1TR001858 (PI: Kraemer)
- Current**  
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2018  
● Graduate Student Researcher  
Language Rehab and Cognition Lab  
University of Pittsburgh  
PI: William S. Evans
- Current**  
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2018  
● Research Associate, WOC  
Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology  
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
- 2015**  
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2013  
● Graduate Research Assistant  
Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders  
UNC - Chapel Hill  
PI: Katarina Haley
- 2013**  
|  
2010  
● Undergraduate Research Assistant  
Eye and Ear Institute  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
PI: Patrick Sparto

## Contact

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- 🐦 Twitter

## Key Interests

- 📈 Aphasia treatment outcomes
- 👥 Implementation Science
- 📊 Data science & Statistics
- 🔗 #R Stats & R Shiny

📄 Download a PDF of this CV

Last updated on 2021-07-07.



## Clinical Training

- 2018  
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2016 • Speech-Language Pathologist II  
Carolinas Rehabilitation, Atrium Health  
Formerly, Carolinas Healthcare System 📍 Charlotte, NC
- 2018  
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2016 • Speech-Language Pathologist II  
Carolinas Neurosciences Institute, Atrium Health 📍 Charlotte, NC
- 2016  
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2015 • Speech-Language Pathologist - Clinical Fellow  
Carolinas Rehabilitation, Atrium Health 📍 Charlotte, NC



## Grant Support

- Awarded • 1 F31 DC019853-01 NIH-NIDCD NRSA individual predoctoral fellowship: *Determinants of multilevel discourse outcomes in anomia treatment for aphasia*  
Role: PI; Impact Score: 25  
Sponsors: Michael Walsh Dickey & William S. Evans
- Current  
|  
2019 • The University of Pittsburgh CTSI–Clinical and Translational Science Fellowship: *Comparing Treatment Intensity between Research and Clinical Practice in Post-Stroke Aphasia*  
Role: Predoctoral Fellow  
TL1TR001858 (PI: Kraemer)  
Mentors: Michael Walsh Dickey, William S. Evans, & Catherine Palmer
- 2019 • School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Research Development Fund  
Role: PI; Direct Costs: \$1000  
Faculty Sponsor: William S. Evans



## Publications

- in press • **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Kravetz, C., Jarold, L., Quique, Y., Turner, R., Evans, W.S. (in press). Is there a research-practice dosage gap in aphasia rehabilitation? *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*
- in press • Evans, WS, **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Quique, Y, Boss, E, Starns, J.J., Hula, W.D. (in press). Playing with BEARS: Balancing Effort, Accuracy, and Response Speed in a Semantic Feature Verification Anomia Treatment Game. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*.
- 2021 • Kersey, J., Evans, W. S., Mullen, K., Askren, A., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Wallace, S. E., Hula, W. D., Walsh Dickey, M., Terhorst, L., & Skidmore, E. (2021). Metacognitive Strategy Training Is Feasible for People With Aphasia. *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15394492211023196>
- 2021 • Evans, W. S., **Cavanaugh, R. B.**, Gravier, M. L., Autenreith, A. S., Doyle, P. J., Hula, W. D., Dickey Michael, W., & Dickey, M. W. (2020). Effects of Semantic Feature Type, Diversity, and Quantity on Semantic Feature Analysis Treatment Outcomes in Aphasia. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2020\\_AJSLP-19-00112](https://doi.org/10.1044/2020_AJSLP-19-00112)
- 2020 • **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Haley, K.L. (2020) Subjective communication difficulties in very mild aphasia. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 29(1S), 437–448. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2019\\_AJSLP-CAC48-18-0222](https://doi.org/10.1044/2019_AJSLP-CAC48-18-0222)

## Refereed Presentations

- 2021 ● **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Quique, Y, Boss, E, Hula, W.D., and Evans, W.S. (2021). Practicing with BEARS: Active Ingredients in Semantic Feature Analysis. Abstract for poster presentation, 51st annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Online
- 2021 ● Evans, W.S., **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Quique, Y., Boss, E., Dickey, M.W., Doyle, P, Starns, J.J., and Hula, W.D., (2021). BEARS-Balancing Effort, Accuracy, and Response Speed in semantic feature verification anomia treatment. Abstract for platform presentation, 50th annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Online..
- 2021 ● Quique, Y., **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Starns, J.J., Boss, E., Hula, W.D., and Evans, W.S. (2021). Estimating the speed-accuracy tradeoff “Sweet Spot” in language performance for people with aphasia: replication and extension of a diffusion-model based approach. Abstract for poster presentation, 50th annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Online.
- 2021 ● Boyle M, Akers C, **Cavanaugh R.B.**, Hula WD, Swiderski A, Elman R. (2021) Changes in informativeness following communication-based group treatment for chronic aphasia. Abstract for platform presentation, 50th annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Online.
- 2021 ● Akers, C, Boyle M, Swiderski A, Hula WD, **Cavanaugh R.B.**, Elman R. (2021) Using complete utterances to measure change in conversational discourse following communication- based group treatment. Abstract for poster presentation, 51st annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Online
- 2021 ● **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Kravetz, C., Jarold, L., Quique, Y., Turner, R., Evans, W.S. (2021). Is there a research-practice dosage gap in aphasia rehabilitation? Abstract for poster presentation, Aphasia Access Leadership Summit, online.
- 2021 ● Nguy, B, **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Quique, Y, Evans, WS. (2021). Are Aphasia Research Participants Representative of the Post-Stroke Aphasia Population in the US? Abstract for poster presentation, Aphasia Access Leadership Summit. Online conference.
- 2020 ● **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Kravetz, C., Jarold, L., Quique, Y., Turner, R., Evans, W.S. (2020). Is there a research-practice dosage gap in aphasia rehabilitation? Abstract for poster presentation, 16th Annual Rehabilitation Institute Research Day. Pittsburgh, PA
- 2020 ● **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Terhorst, L., Swiderski, A.W., Hula, W.D., Evans, W.S. (2020). A Systematic Appraisal of Individual Effect Sizes in Aphasia Single-Case Designs via Simulation. Abstract for poster presentation, 58th Academy of Aphasia, Philadelphia PA.
- 2020 ● Evans, WS, **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Quique, Y, Boss, E, Dickey, MW, Doyle, P, Starns, J, and Hula, W (2020). BEARS-Balancing Effort, Accuracy, and Response Speed in semantic feature verification anomia treatment. Abstract for platform presentation, annual Academy of Aphasia Conference (virtual online conference).
- 2020 ● **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Kravetz, C., Evans, W.S. Utilization and Disparities in Outpatient Aphasia Rehabilitation in Western Pennsylvania. Abstract for poster presentation, Pennsylvania Speech-Language Hearing Association Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (Conference Canceled).
- 2019 ● **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Evans, W.S., Gravier, M., Autenreith, A., Ashmore, E., Doyle, P., Hula, W., Dickey, M.W., (2019). Do the kinds of features that patients generate during Semantic Feature Analysis affect treatment outcomes? Poster presented at the 2019 Clinical Aphasiology Conference in Whitefish, MT.
- 2018 ● **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, Haley, K.L. (2018) Subjective communication difficulties in very mild aphasia. Abstract for poster presentation, 48th annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference, Austin, TX.

- 2014 • **Cavanaugh, R.B.**, & Haley, K. (2014, April) Accounting for Aphasia-Related Language Deficits in Verbal Working Memory Assessments: A Literature Review. Poster presented at the 2014 SPHS Student Research Day in Chapel Hill, NC.



## Teaching

- 2020 • CSD M.S. Summative Assessment Project
- Peer-review of M.S. - SLP students comprehensive exams
- 2020 • CSD 2230: Neurogenic Language and Cognitive Communication Disorders
- Guest Lecture 1: TBI: Pathophysiology and Medical Considerations
  - Guest Lecture 2: Case studies in adult neurological communication disorders
- 2020 • SPHS 742: Aphasia (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- Invited Lecture: Applying treatment research in clinical practice settings
- 2019 • CSD 2230: Neurogenic Language and Cognitive Communication Disorders
- Guest Lecture 1: TBI: Pathophysiology and Medical Considerations
  - Guest Lecture 2: Case studies in adult neurological communication disorders



## Honors and Awards

- 2020 • ANCDs Conference Student Fellowship
- 2020 • NIH-NIDCD Academy of Aphasia conference grant (R13 DC017375-01)
- 2019 • NIH-NIDCD Fellowship: Research Symposium in Clinical Aphasiology
- 2014 • Adult Communication Disorders Annual Scholarship, UNC-Chapel Hill
- 2014 • Robert W. Peters Award for excellence in research, UNC-Chapel Hill



## Certification, Licensure, Memberships, and Service

- 2020 - • Reviewer, ASHA Annual Convention: Adult Language Section
- 2020 - • Member, Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences
- 2016 - • CCC-SLP: American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA)
- 2015 - • SLP: Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology, North Carolina
- 2015 - • Member, ASHA SIG 2: Neurogenic Communication Disorders



## Software

- 2021 • Kowalski, J., and Cavanaugh R.B. (2021). TBDBr: Easy Access To TalkBankDB via R API. <https://github.com/TalkBank/TalkBankDB-R>, <https://talkbank.github.io/TalkBankDB-R/>.