

# Robert B. Cavanaugh

---

M.S. CCC-SLP · Ph.D Candidate, University of Pittsburgh

✉ rob.cavanaugh@pitt.edu · 🌐 robcavanaugh.com

🆔 orcidID · 🏠 Github · 🐦 Twitter

*Last updated on 2022-08-02*

---

I'm a PhD candidate and ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist. My research aims to improve the effectiveness and clinical implementation of aphasia treatment from two perspectives: (1) specifying the active ingredients of aphasia treatments and (2) developing technology-based tools to increase the clinical implementation of aphasia research. To achieve these goals, my research combines training in aphasia treatment theory, quantitative methods and statistical programming, implementation science, and my clinical experiences as a speech-language pathologist. I'm also passionate about sharing and promoting quantitative methods and open science practices within the field of communication sciences and disorders.

## Education

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

## Professional Experience

- 2018 — Graduate Student Researcher  
Language Rehab and Cognition Lab, University of Pittsburgh  
PI: William S. Evans  
  
Speech Pathology and Audiology, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System  
PI: William D. Hula & Michael Walsh Dickey
- 2015 — 2018 Speech-Language Pathologist  
Carolinas Rehabilitation, Atrium Health
- 2016 — 2018 Speech-Language Pathologist  
Carolinas Neurosciences Institute, Atrium Health
- 2013 — 2015 Graduate Research Assistant  
Center for Aphasia and Related Disorders, UNC - Chapel Hill  
PI: Katarina Haley

2010 — 2013 Undergraduate Research Assistant  
Eye and Ear Institute, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
PI: Patrick Sparto

## Grant Support

2021 — 2023 NIH-NIDCD F31 DC019853-01: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award  
*Determinants of multilevel discourse outcomes in anomia treatment for aphasia*  
Role: PI; Impact Score: 25; Direct Costs: \$68,482  
Sponsors: Michael Walsh Dickey & William S. Evans

2021 — 2023 Audrey Holland Endowed Award  
*Determinants of multilevel discourse outcomes in anomia treatment for aphasia*  
Role: PI; Direct Costs: \$2000

2019 — 2021 NIH-NCATS TL1 University of Pittsburgh Clinical & Translational Science Fellowship  
*Comparing Treatment Intensity between Research and Clinical Practice in Post-Stroke Aphasia*  
Role: Predoctoral Fellow; PI: Kraemer (TL1TR001858)  
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

## Scholarships and Awards

2022 NIH-NIDCD Academy of Aphasia conference grant (R13 DC017375-01)

2022 Plural Publishing Research Scholarship

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

## Publications

2022 Quique, Y. M., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Lescht, E., & Evans, W. S. (2022). Applying adaptive distributed practice to self-managed computer-based anomia treatment: A single-case experimental design. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 99, 106249. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcomdis.2022.106249>

Boyle, M., Akers, C. M., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Hula, W. D., Swiderski, A. M., & Elman, R. J. (2022). Changes in discourse informativeness and efficiency following communication-based group treatment for chronic aphasia. *Aphasiology*, 1-35.

Nguy, B., Quique, Y.M., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Evans, William S. (2022) Representation in aphasia research: an examination of US treatment studies published between 2009 and 2019. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*

**Cavanaugh R**, Quique YM, Dickey MW, Hula WD, Boss E, & Evans WS (2022). Practice-Related Predictors of Semantic Feature Verification Treatment for Aphasia. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2021\\_AJSLP-21-00296](https://doi.org/10.1044/2021_AJSLP-21-00296)

2021

**Cavanaugh, R.**, Kravetz C., Jarold L., Quique Y., Turner R., & Evans, W.S. (2021). Is There a Research–Practice Dosage Gap in Aphasia Rehabilitation? *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 30(5), 2115–2129. [10.1044/2021\\_AJSLP-20-00257](https://doi.org/10.1044/2021_AJSLP-20-00257).

Evans W.S., **Cavanaugh R.**, Quique Y, Boss E, Starns J.J., & Hula W.D. (2021). Playing With BEARS: Balancing Effort, Accuracy, and Response Speed in a Semantic Feature Verification Anomia Treatment Game. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*. [https://doi.org/10.1044/2021\\_JSLHR-20-00543](https://doi.org/10.1044/2021_JSLHR-20-00543)

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>

Evans, W. S., **Cavanaugh, R.**, Gravier, M. L., Autenreith, A. S., Doyle, P. J., Hula, W. D., Dickey Michael, W., & Dickey, M. W. (2021). 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)

## Publications Under Review & In Revision

Under Review

**Cavanaugh, R.**, Quique, Y.M., Swiderski, A.M., Kallhoff, L., Terhorst, L., Wambaugh J., Hula, W.D., Evans, William S. (Under Review) Reproducibility in small-N treatment research in aphasia and related disorders: a tutorial. Preprint: <https://osf.io/exyqp/>

## Refereed Presentations

2022

**Cavanaugh R.**, Swiderski, A., Hula, W.D., Fergadiotis, G., Steel, S., (2022) The PNT-CAT: A Computer Adaptive Test Version of the Philadelphia Naming Test. Poster presented at the International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference (June 2022).

**Cavanaugh, R.**, Brancamp, T, Harmon, T, Wallace, S, Biel, M, Hambridge, T, Caputo, M, Evans, WS (2022). Measuring Post-traumatic Growth in People with Aphasia. Abstract for poster presentation, annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference (May 2022). Wrightsville Beach, NC

Brancamp, T, **Cavanaugh, R.**, Harmon, T, Wallace, S, Biel, M, Hambridge, T, Caputo, M, Evans, WS (2022). Individual-level predictors of post-traumatic growth and depreciation in aphasia. Abstract for platform presentation, annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference (May 2022). Wrightsville Beach, NC

Goldberg, E, Dickey, M.W., Hula, W.D., **Cavanaugh, R.** Swiderski, A., Autenreith, Alyssa. (2022). Cognitive functions supporting learning over time in naming treatment for aphasia. Abstract for platform presentation, annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference (May 2022). Wrightsville Beach, NC

Schliep, M., **Cavanaugh, R.,** , Tierney-Hendricks, C., Schnek, S., Douglas, N., (2022). Leveraging Implementation Science to Advance the Reach of Aphasia Best Practices. Abstract for roundtable presentation, annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference (May 2022). Wrightsville Beach, NC

Evans, WS, Kelly, A, Meyer, E, Skidmore, E, Pompon, R, Flowers, R, Cavanaugh, R (2022). Adapting acceptance and commitment therapy for stroke survivors with aphasia. Abstract for platform presentation, annual Clinical Aphasiology Conference (May 2022). Wrightsville Beach, NC.

Steel, S., **Cavanaugh R.,** Fergadiotis, G., Hula, W.D., (2022) Bridging the gap: Measuring perceived barriers and facilitators of a novel anomia assessment tool. Lightning talk, Implementation Science is for All: A CSD Practice-Research Exchange (April 2022). Online

2021 Evans, W.S., Quique, Y.M., **Cavanaugh, R,** Lescht, E. (2021). Effects of adaptive distributed practice and stimuli variability in flashcard-based anomia treatment. Abstract for poster presentation, 59th Academy of Aphasia, Online

**Cavanaugh, R.** 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

Evans, W.S., **Cavanaugh, R.,** 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..

Quique,Y., **Cavanaugh, R.,** 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.

Boyle M, Akers C, **Cavanaugh R.,** 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.

Akers, C, Boyle M, Swiderski A, Hula WD, **Cavanaugh R.,** 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

**Cavanaugh, R.,** 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.

Nguy, B, **Cavanaugh, R.,** 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.**, 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
- Cavanaugh, R.**, 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.
- Evans, WS, **Cavanaugh, R.**, 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).
- Cavanaugh, R.**, 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.**, 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.

## Software & Technology

- 2022 **Cavanaugh, R.**, Swiderski, A.M., Hula, W.D. (2022). acom: The Aphasia Communication Outcome Measure. Version 0.4.0.2 Available from <https://github.com/rbcavanaugh/acom>.
- 2022 **Cavanaugh, R.**, Aphasia Research Finder. <https://aphasiaresearch.org>
- 2022 **Cavanaugh, R.**, Swiderski, A.M., Fergadiotis, G. & Hula, W.D. (2022). pnt: Computer adaptive forms of the Philadelphia Naming Test. Version 0.0.0.9 Available from <https://github.com/aphasia-apps/pnt>.
- 2021 Kowalski, J., and **Cavanaugh R.** (2021). TBDBr: Easy Access To TalkBankDB via R API. <https://github.com/TalkBank/TalkBankDB-R>

## Teaching

- 2022 CSD M.S. Clinical Integration Project
- Review and feedback for M.S. - SLP students 1st year projects
- 2021 SPHS-S 685: Research and Ethics in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (University of Indiana Bloomington; Dr. Brielle Stark)
- Guest Lecture: Writing an NIH NRSA F31 Fellowship Application

	CSD M.S. Summative Assessment Project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and feedback for M.S. - SLP students comprehensive exams</li> </ul>
2020	CSD 2230: Neurogenic Language and Cognitive Communication Disorders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Lecture 1: TBI: Pathophysiology and Medical Considerations</li> <li>• Guest Lecture 2: Case studies in adult neurological communication disorders</li> </ul>
	SPHS 742: Aphasia (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Dr. Katarina Haley)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Lecture: Applying treatment research in clinical practice settings</li> </ul>
	CSD M.S. Summative Assessment Project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and feedback for M.S. - SLP students comprehensive exams</li> </ul>
2019	CSD 2230: Neurogenic Language and Cognitive Communication Disorders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Lecture 1: TBI: Pathophysiology and Medical Considerations</li> <li>• Guest Lecture 2: Case studies in adult neurological communication disorders</li> </ul>
	CSD M.S. Summative Assessment Project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and feedback for SLP students comprehensive exams</li> </ul>

## Professional Memberships

2021 —	Member, Collaboration of Aphasia Trialists: Effectiveness of Aphasia Interventions, Implementation Science
2020 —	Member, Aphasia Access
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

## Service

2022 —	Ad hoc reviewer. Journal of Speech Language Hearing Research
2022 —	Ad hoc reviewer. American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology.
2020 — 2021	Ad hoc reviewer, ASHA Annual Convention: Adult Language Section

## Media

2021	“Voltage Drop and Aphasia Treatment: Thinking About the Research-Practice Dosage Gap in Aphasia Rehabilitation: A Conversation with Rob Cavanaugh” Aphasia Access Conversations podcast, episode #77, October 28, 2021.
------	---