Evaluation and Differential Diagnosis of the Dysarthrias-AM session
Management of the Dysarthrias Across Communication Environments-PM session
Presented by **Julie A.G. Stierwalt, Ph.D.**

Course Description

Individuals with dysarthria can comprise a large component of caseloads in medical settings. Careful, differential diagnosis can assist with neurological localization of symptoms, provide a framework to inform treatment directions, and serves as a useful clinical terminology for clinicians in their discussions of patients. This presentation will review the salient characteristics noted in differentiating the dysarthrias and review how these features guide clinical decision making. In addition, concepts of intelligibility and comprehensibility will be discussed with implications for treatment along that communication continuum. These will be addressed in the framework of both acquired as well as neurodegenerative processes.

Learner outcomes: Learners will be able to…

1. Discuss the underlying neuropathology of the dysarthrias
2. Identify salient features that differentiate the dysarthrias including site of lesion, perceptual and physical characteristics
3. Design communication strategies that meet the specific needs of individuals with dysarthria
4. Describe techniques for optimizing communication across a range of communication environments

Speaker Bio

Julie A.G. Stierwalt, Ph.D. is a Consultant in the Division of Speech Pathology, Department of Neurology and Associate Professor in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester Minnesota, where she serves as a consultant for individuals presenting with a wide range of speech, language, cognitive, and swallowing impairments. Prior to her work at Mayo, she was in academica for 19 years where she taught courses in dysphagia, motor speech disorders, acquired communication disorders, structural-based communication disorders, and medical speech pathology. Dr. Stierwalt received her B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Northern Iowa, and her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. She has numerous journal publications, chapters, a co-authored textbook titled "Brain-Based Communication Disorders" as well as, "Aphasia and Related Neurogenic Language Disorders 5th Edition" co-edited with Leonard LaPointe, a text that has been translated and published in Mandarin Chinese and Greek. In 2009 ASHA recognized Dr. Stierwalt's contributions to the field with Fellow status.