

Grace Gane Memorial Award Lecture 2014

Presented by Maggie-Lee Huckabee PhD

Using Integrative research to solve clinical problems

Abstract:

The past five years have seen a positive shift in clinical routines in medical speech pathology within New Zealand, resulting in a substantive improvement in patient outcomes. Although this type of change is inherently multi-factorial, a key component is likely the growing integrative link between clinicians and researchers.

This Grace Gane Lecture will outline the collaborative steps taken by researchers and clinicians to develop, execute and integrate an ongoing clinical research programme. Although discussion of the cough reflex testing research programme will be used as a vehicle to drive the discussion, the broader focus of this talk will be to emphasise the need for academics and clinicians to work collaboratively toward improved patient care. Both partners in the clinical research process carry unique contributions to ensure success; both also carry restrictions in availability and resources. And although both are ultimately driven by the desire to improve patient outcomes, the more immediate motivations may vary. Clarification of these differences may facilitate an effective and productive research team.

The capacity to efficiently translate research into clinical practice is a definite benefit of the somewhat small community of clinicians and even smaller community of researchers in New Zealand. This efficiency allows us a great capacity for improving our own practice patterns and allows us to serve as an example to others.