

## **Keynote Address presented by Professor Kathryn Yorkston**

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### **Listening to adults with communication disorders: Adventure in qualitative research**



#### **Abstract:**

If we are to move toward a patient-centered approach to treatment, we need to understand the perspectives of people with communication disorders about their condition and about their experiences with speech treatment practices. Qualitative research can be an informative part of many lines of research, ground your efforts in the real world, and actively engage both investigators and participants in every phase research. This type of research is a set of methods that allow the study of complex human behaviours that cannot be separated from the context in which they occur. Qualitative methods will be described and discussed in terms of their use in exploring issues related to management of communication disorders in adults. Work involving several populations (multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and spasmodic dysphonia) will serve as examples of how the perspectives of people living with communication disorders can enhance the practice of speech-language pathology.