Editorial

This special issue of *Folia Phoniatria et Logopaedica* represents the initiative of the Motor Speech Disorders Committee of the International Association of Logopaedics and Phoniatics (IALP). Collectively, the papers included are representative of presentations made as part of the Motor Speech Symposium at the 28th International Congress of the IALP held in Athens in August 2010.

The initial paper by Tara Whitehill from the University of Hong Kong highlights the importance of investigating dysarthria in individuals who speak languages other than English in a review of studies of Chinese speakers with dysarthria. In particular, this paper highlights the benefits of such studies with regard to development and testing of theoretical models of dysarthric speech which have been primarily based, to date, on investigations of speakers of English.

Folker and colleagues from the University of Queensland present a comprehensive profile of the perceptual speech features of dysarthria associated with Friedreich's ataxia in the second paper of this issue, and identify major subgroups with reference to the profile of deviant speech dimensions exhibited. The short-term effects of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation on the speech and voice of individuals with Parkinson's disease is documented in a paper from the University of Gothenburg authored by Hartelius and colleagues. Specifically, these authors were unable to identify any significant differences in the duration of sustained fricatives or sustained vowel phonations, diadochokinetic rates or intelligibility between individuals receiving repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation or sham stimulation.

Clinically significant improvements in intelligibility were reported in 50% of individuals with varying dysarthria types following application of 7 different rate control methods by Van Nuffelen and colleagues in Belgium,

with the most effective methods being use of an alphabet board, hand tapping and a pacing board. Morgan and Liégeois eloquently argue for a re-thinking of the diagnostic classification of dysarthria occurring in childhood. In particular, they set out a clear series of steps that need to be taken towards developing a dysarthria classification system specifically for children.

In a study of on-line augmented kinematic and perceptual feedback as a treatment for speech movements in apraxia of speech, McNeil and colleagues at the University of Pittsburgh and University of Texas provided evidence that supports a role for augmented feedback in these cases leading to perceptually accurate speech production. Terband and Maassen in a collaborative study arising from the Radboud University Nijmegen and the University of Groningen utilised a computational neural model of speech acquisition and production to determine the neuromotor deficits that underlie phonological and speech motor symptoms of childhood apraxia of speech. Their results showed that the speech patterns generated by a series of computer simulations were comparable to available behavioural data on this population. In the final paper, Choo and colleagues from the University of Illinois and University of Canterbury examined the presence of abnormal cerebral control in adults who stutter as evidenced by lip movement's tracked using electromyography during speech production, single sentence production and non-speech lip exercises.

Collectively, these papers represent a diverse set of perspectives on current theoretical and clinical aspects of a range of motor speech disorders that will be of relevance not only to researchers, but also to the speech-language pathologists working in a clinical setting.

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