



Biography of Presenter

Aravind Namasivayam, Ph.D., Reg. CASLPO, S-LP (C)

Dr. Aravind Namasivayam is a speech-language pathologist with expertise in speech sound disorders. He is a research associate at the Oral Dynamics Lab and Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto.

Career Summary

Dr. Namasivayam is a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist in Canada with a dual clinical degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, and a Doctoral/Post-Doctoral level specialization in Neuroscience. He is considered an internationally recognized speech scientist with expertise in speech motor control (including tracking speech movements with electromagnetic and video-based systems), development of outcome measures (e.g., speech probe word lists) and speech sound disorders in children. Dr. Namasivayam has held adjunct and visiting academic positions at institutions in several countries (Canada, Australia, India, United States) and, in the last 5 years, has given 14 invited presentations in Brazil, Argentina, Canada, Sweden, India, and the United States. Dr. Namasivayam is a recipient of several awards including the prestigious National award for Excellence in Applied Research (Speech-Language and Audiology Canada), Editor's Award (American Speech, Language and Hearing Association), Best Experimental Research in Physiological Acoustics (Acoustical Society of America), Mentorship award (Speech-Language and Audiology Canada), Distinguished Service award (University of Toronto) and Research in Higher Education award (American Speech, Language and Hearing Association). Dr. Namasivayam is a key member of the Program and Organizing committee of the 7th and 8th International Conference on Speech Motor Control (Groningen, The Netherlands) and routinely serves as grant reviewer for several agencies (e.g., National Science Foundation, USA) and journal editor and reviewer for high-impact speech-language pathology journals (e.g., Journal of Speech-Language and Hearing Research).

Outputs, research support

Dr. Namasivayam has a total of 48 referred publications (including 40 peer-reviewed journal articles and 8 book chapters) and 70 non-referred works. His four recent peer-reviewed articles on speech sound disorders in children are in the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric. He has received over \$1.5 million (USD) in competitive grants and industry partnership awards. Dr. Namasivayam currently supervises Ph.D. students and serves on Ph.D. and M.Sc. exam committees.

Research Impact

Dr. Namasivayam has completed several small and large-scale governmental (Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services) and industry funded (The Speech and Stuttering Institute, Toronto; The PROMPT Institute, NM, USA) clinical trials. The research outputs of these studies have led to the development of new Ministry (Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services) supported training programs, clinical practice and policy changes. These projects have led to the development of an evidence-based care pathway to support identification and intervention planning for children over 36 months of age with severe speech disorders. The evidence-based care pathway is currently in the clinical implementation phase in the province of Ontario, Canada. This is strong evidence for the clinical impact of his work and a great example of research-to-practice. The project was completed in June of 2013 and was regarded a major success by peers both nationally and internationally and by the Government of Ontario (MCYS). In April 2016, the project won the prestigious national award titled "Excellence in Applied Research Award" from the SAC (Speech-Language and Audiology Canada). This award acknowledges and honours excellence in research that provides evidence for evidence-based clinical practice. Dr. Namasivayam routinely and actively conducts knowledge translation/ continuing education/professional development workshops (e.g., via the American Speech and Hearing Association) to increase the uptake of his research work, with the aim of making evidence-informed practice accessible to frontline clinicians worldwide. Since August 2018, approximately 2000+ Speech-language pathologists worldwide have attended his workshops.