

**FTD/PPA Caregiver and Professional Education Conference
 August 10, 2009**

Question and Answer Session

Answered by: G. Peter Giebus, MD, Emily Langendorf, Darby Morhardt, MSW, LCSW, Mary O'Hara, MSW, LSW, Emily Rogalski, PhD, Sandra Weintraub, PhD, and Christina Wieneke.

Research

A few questions at the conference focused on current FTD/PPA research.

Can you say a bit more about the memantine clinical trial? Can we participate?

The memantine trial is recruiting participants with behavioral variant FTD (bvFTD). Participants are assigned to either a placebo or treatment group and come in every six weeks for neuropsychological testing and a neurology appointment. The study lasts eight months. For more information, contact Kristine Lipowski at k-lipowski@northwestern.edu or 312-503-2486.

What type of research studies are taking place at Northwestern for people with PPA?

Northwestern's CNADC is currently running a research study investigating PPA titled "Language in Primary Progressive Aphasia." The study takes place in Chicago over a period of 3 days. There is no cost to participate and travel/accommodations/meals are compensated for eligible persons with PPA and their caregiver. For more information, please contact Christina Wieneke at c-wieneke@northwestern.edu or 312-908-9681.

Do you have linguists as part of your research team at the CNADC?

Cynthia Thompson, PhD is a neurolinguist and a co-investigator for the Language in Primary Progressive Aphasia research study. Her laboratory's website is located here:
<http://www.communications.northwestern.edu/departments/csd/research/aphasia/>

Can research on traumatic brain injury (TBI) be applied for re-training brain areas for PPA?

All brain research is important to our understanding of the brain and from the insults from which it can recover. It is unlikely that the therapeutic strategies for individuals with TBI would be directly applicable for individuals with PPA because the fundamental cause of the brain damage of TBI is very different from that of PPA. That is, the cells in TBI are damaged (or die) from a single accident whereas the cells in PPA are dying progressively over time as a result of a disease.

How close are we to having a biomarker for FTD/PPA or Alzheimer's?

This is a very important goal for research. Work is ongoing and it is not possible to put a specific time line on when we can expect to be successful.