

[Close](#)**A100: RERC on Communication Enhancement—Activity Update****Speaker**[Deruyter, Frank](#), *Duke University Medical Center*

available on request

**Co-Speaker**deruyter, frank, *duke University***Abstract**

An update on the NIDRR newly funded Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Communication Enhancement (AAC-RERC). Presentation will discuss the Center's major research and development activities designed to improve AAC technologies.

**Outline**

This presentation is sponsored by the NIDRR funded Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) on Communication Enhancement. The AAC-RERC consists of 15 research and development activities, each of which are designed to improve AAC technologies that further the development of communication, language, natural speech, discourse skills, literacy of persons with significant communication disorders. In addition, the AAC-RERC has several training and dissemination initiatives underway. This presentation will provide an update of the activities currently underway in the newly funded AAC-RERC which is just finishing its 1st year of operation, as well as providing a summary of the key results of the AAC-RERC program from 1998 to 2003.

The session will begin by provide participants with a brief overview of the AAC-RERC, its mission, objectives, and a summary of the various research, development, training and dissemination activities. This information will be provided in an oral presentation format with appropriate audiovisual support.

The remainder of the session will be devoted to providing more detailed oral presentations of specific AAC-RERC projects including. Preliminary findings will be presented when appropriate. The presentation will take participants through the research and development themes of the RERC including: Improving AAC technology to better support societal roles; Enhancing AAC access by reducing cognitive/linguistic load; Enhancing AAC usability and performance; Technology and Policy Watch; New Interfaces; and Reducing the cognitive linguistic burden on AAC users. Participants will also be provided with information regarding the Center's Dissemination and Training activities. In addition to the above, and depending on audience interest, we will be prepared to discuss managing a multi-site virtual research and development center as well as virtual collaboration using free Internet video conferencing and remote control tools.

This session will be provided in an oral presentation format with appropriate audiovisual support. Stakeholders participating in this session will have the opportunity to provide input to those specific AAC-RERC activities that will be presented as well as to informally discuss emerging issues, challenges, etcetera that need to be addressed by the AAC community.

**Key Learning Objectives**

1. Have information regarding goals and objectives of the AAC-RERC.
2. Have updated information regarding the activities of the AAC-RERC.
3. Have information on the recently completed RERC Center grant, 1998 to 2003.

**Presentation Type**

Educational Session

**Experience Level**

Beginner

**Session Code**

A100

**Date**

Thursday, January 20, 2005

**Time**

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

**Presentation Strand/Topic**

Augmentative and Alternative Communication

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