COMMUNICATION DISORDERS TEACHING MODULES & DATA ARCHIVE, PHASE I

This project investigated the feasibility of developing two innovative, research-based products designed to: (a) increase the ability of clinicians (nurses, physicians, physician assistants [PAs], medical residents), and students preparing to be clinicians, to interact effectively with persons with hearing loss and/or speech or language impairment (HLSLI) and their families, and to address the psychosocial issues that arise in the context of these conditions; and (b) increase access among researchers, clinicians, faculty, and students in the medical and social and behavioral science communities to the best data on HLSLI. This will ultimately help increase national attention to HLSLI, promote integration of biomedical and sociobehavioral perspectives in HLSLI research and practice, and further multiple Healthy People 2010 objectives.

Product 1, the Communicative Conditions Teaching and Learning Kiosk (CC-TALK), will comprise web-based, multimedia HLSLI teaching/learning modules intended primarily for use by nursing, medical, and PA students and residents, with accompanying materials for faculty, and secondarily by (other) practicing clinicians. In Phase I, an Expert Panel of faculty researchers and clinicians, and focus groups and surveys with students, faculty, clinicians, and persons with HLSLI and their families, provided input to product development. One module was developed as a prototype. It focuses on a single patient scenario that includes video-based clinical decision-making exercises, along with other interactive learning activities and didactic material. Usability testing was conducted with students, faculty, and clinicians, resulting in a short list of changes to be made in Phase II.

Product 2, the Data Archive on Communicative Conditions (DACC), will house state-of-the-art research datasets that address the prevalence and the social, behavioral, occupational, and economic antecedents, correlates, and consequences of HLSLI. Value-added features will facilitate clinicians' and researchers' convenient access to and use of exemplary HLSLI data. In Phase I, the Expert Panel refined study selection criteria and scored and selected candidate studies identified by project staff. Sociometrics developed a type and topic coding scheme for the archive, with Panel input, and then produced a sample archived dataset. We also contacted holders of the additional Panel-selected datasets to ascertain interest in archive participation.

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