



## SESSION 27: BRIDGING THE GAP: FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION IN APHASIA & DIVERSE RECOVERY JOURNEYS

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**Helping patients with aphasia find community and access community supports is an important goal of speech-language therapy and can help with long-term recovery after discharge.**

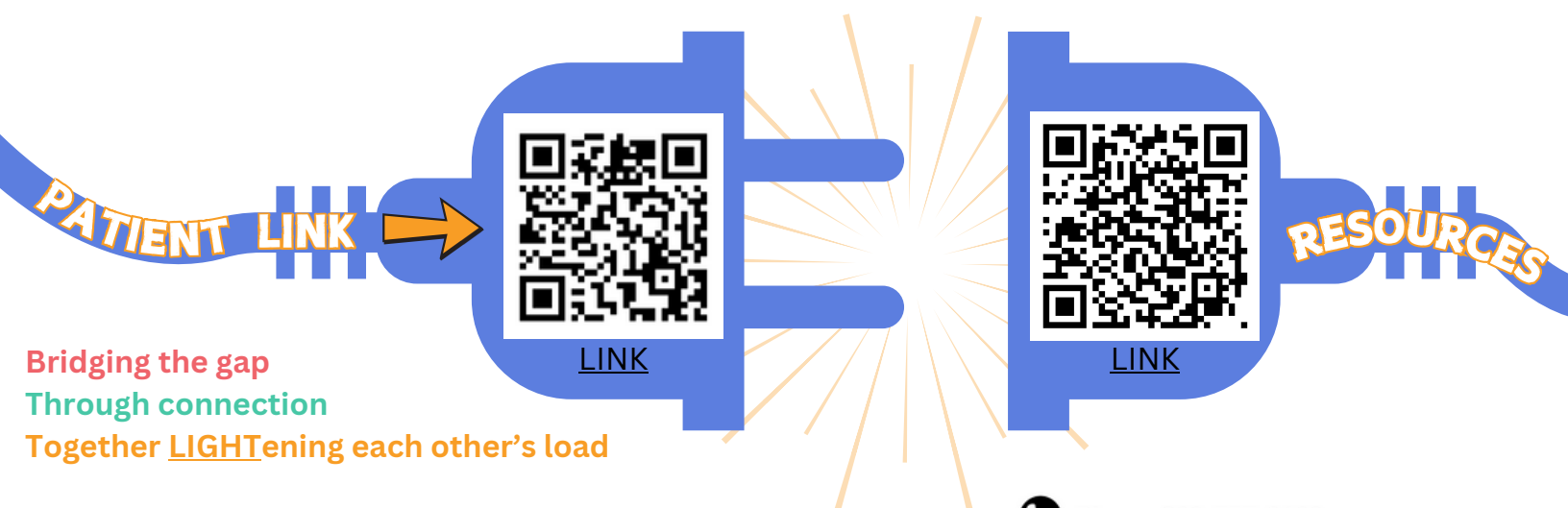
Aphasia-friendly options for community support that are happening now (either in person or virtually): support groups, drama groups, Bible studies, exercise programs, research studies, advocacy events, education events for future SLPs, and Ambassador programs.

### Functional Communication Goal Examples:

- Identify and contact 2-3 community organizations (e.g., support group, church/religious group, exercise program, research study) in order to increase communication opportunities and social support.
- Use specific nouns and verbs related to hobbies/activities of interest in 2-3 word phrases with minimal cues.
- Repair communication breakdowns in 80% of opportunities using gestures, writing or drawing.

### Functional Communication Therapy Activities:

- Follow written directions to navigate to a web page or complete a form in order to get information or sign up for a community activity.
- Create and practice a script to use for introductions when joining new groups/activities.
- Practice reading and answering questions using material related to hobbies /community activities (e.g., aphasia book club, family member jobs/hobbies).
- Follow 1 step directions to make a craft/advocacy project (e.g., painting an Aphasia rock).



➔ **START** with the patient link to connect your patients living with aphasia to our USC Aphasia Lab

Plug into the resources to learn more about our programs & great resources for SLPs!

📞 **Phone:** 803-777-2693

✉ **Email:** [ssayers@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:ssayers@mailbox.sc.edu)

🌐 **Website:** <http://web.asph.sc.edu/aphasia>

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