

## CURRICULUM VITAE OF AKILA T. RAJAPPA, PH.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-S

### CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

Assistant Professor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders  
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania  
Monroe Hall, Room 222  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301  
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Email: [arajappa@esu.edu](mailto:arajappa@esu.edu)

### EDUCATION

- 2013-2018                      **Ph.D. Speech Language Pathology.** Program of Communication Sciences & Disorders, Department of Bio behavioral Sciences, Teachers College, Columbia University NY, NY
- 1999-2001                      **M.Sc. Speech Language and Hearing Sciences.** Dr. S. R. Chandrasekhar Institute of Speech and Hearing, Bangalore University, Bangalore, India
- 1997-1999                      **M. A. Psychology.** Annamalai University, Chidambaram, India
- 1993-1997                      **B.Sc. Speech and Hearing Sciences.** All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore University, Mysore, India

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### **Fall**

##### *Graduate Courses*

SPPA 550: Advanced Clinical Practicum

SPPA 583: Caseload Management in Medical Speech-Language Pathology

##### *Undergraduate Course*

SPPA 350: Advanced Speech-Language Disorders

#### **Spring**

##### *Graduate Courses*

SPPA 562: Dysphagia

SPPA 569: Motor Speech Disorders

SPPA 550: Advanced Clinical Practicum

##### *Undergraduate Course*

SPPA 414: Neurological Bases of Communication Disorders

#### **Summer**

##### *Graduate Course*

SPPA 550: Advanced Clinical Practicum

## **SCHOLARLY EXPERIENCE**

2019 – Present

### **Principal Investigator**

ESU Cough, Swallowing and Motor Speech Research  
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, PA

## **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

- **Topic:** Psychophysical Evaluation of Cough Sensations in Healthy Population
  - **Project:** Psychophysical Evaluation of Urge-to-Cough (UTC) Sensation in Healthy Young and Older Adults
  - **Funding Source:** Faculty Development and Research (FDR) Grant, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, PA
  
- **Topic:** Early Identification and Intervention of Dysphagia
  - **Project:** Dysphagia Warriors Program- An Evidence Based Outreach Educational Model on Dysphagia Prevention for Community Dwelling Older Adults (CDOA)
  - **Funding Source:** PASSHE- Faculty Professional Development Council (FDPC) Grant
  
- **Topic:** Pediatric Dysarthria Treatment for Neurodegenerative Diseases
  - **Project:** Motor Speech Treatment for Childhood Ataxic Dysarthria due to Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 29 (SCA29): A Single Subject Case Study
  - **Funding Source:** None

## **RESEARCH GRANTS**

**2019**

PASSHE- Faculty Professional Development Council (FDPC) Grant, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, PA  
Funded: \$8550  
Project: Dysphagia Warriors Program- An Evidence Based Outreach Educational Model on Dysphagia Prevention for Community Dwelling Older Adults (CDOA)

**Role:** Principal Investigator (PI)

**2019**

Faculty Development and Research (FDR) Grant, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, PA :  
Awarded: \$10,000 Project: Psychophysical Evaluation of Cough Sensations in Healthy Population

**Role:** Principal Investigator (PI)

## **ESU GRADUATE HONOR THESIS COMMITTEE**

- Ms. Lori DeFazio (Spring 2020) (Topic: Impact of mTBI on word finding abilities in young adults)

- Ms. Mary Kate Bulger (Spring 2021) (Topic: The knowledge and attitudes regarding noise induced hearing loss among adolescences)

### **CLINICAL SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE**

- Active clinical supervision of graduate student clinicians at ESU Speech & Hearing Clinic, East Stroudsburg, PA

### **STUDENT ADVISEMENT EXPERIENCE**

- Active advisement of undergraduate students of ESU Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) program.

### **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **Board Certified Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (BCS-S)**

08/2015-2017	Lead Speech Pathologist, Ingle moor Center Genesis Rehabilitation Services, Englewood, NJ
08/2013-07/2015	Lead Speech Pathologist, NJ Veterans Memorial Nursing Home Genesis Rehabilitation Services, Paramus NJ. <sup>[L]</sup> <sub>[SEP]</sub>
05/2014-12/2017	Speech Pathologist, Kindred Health Care Long Term Acute Care Hospital, Wayne, NJ
01/2007-12/2013	Lead Speech Pathologist, Lakeland Health Care Center, Haskell, NJ (Genesis Rehabilitation Services)
06/2003-12/2006	Bilingual Speech Pathologist, Bilinguals Inc., NY, NY

### **CLINICAL AND BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Understanding sensory perception of upper airway stimuli through the science of psychophysics.
- Understanding neural mechanisms of airway protective behaviors (swallow and cough).
- Exploring cross systems effects of voice, swallowing and respiration.
- Evidence based practice in dysphagia, dystussia and dysarthria rehabilitation.
- Clinical service delivery in multicultural population.
- Utilization of service-learning pedagogy for dysphagia prevention in community.
- Pediatric motor speech disorders (Childhood apraxia of speech and cerebellar ataxia).
- Motor speech treatment for dysarthria due to neurodegenerative diseases.

## **PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED)**

- **Rajappa, A. T.**, Soriano, K. R., Ziemer, C., Troche, M. S., Malandraki, J. B., & Malandraki, G. A. (2017). Reduced Maximum Pitch Elevation Predicts Silent aspiration of Small Liquid Volumes in Stroke Patients. *Frontiers in Neurology*, 8, 436.
- **Rajappa, A.T.**, & Malandraki, G. A. (2016). The Neural Control of Oropharyngeal Somatosensation and Taste: A Review for Clinicians. *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups*, 1(13), 48-55.
- Malandraki, G. A., **Rajappa, A.T.**, Kantarcigil, C., Wagner, E., Ivey, C., & Youse, K. (2016). The Intensive Dysphagia Rehabilitation Approach applied to Patients with Neurogenic Dysphagia: A Case Series Design Study. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 97(4), 567-574.
- Mishra, A., **Rajappa, A.T.**, Tipton, E., & Malandraki, G. A. (2015). The Recline Exercise: Comparisons with the Head Lift Exercise in Healthy Adults. *Dysphagia*, 30(6), 730-737.

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

- **Rajappa, A.T.**, Faroqi Shah, Y., Biran, A., Eswaran, P., Mohan, R., AnanthaKrishnan, S., Sudarsanam, P., & Biran, S., (2018). Get to Know Your Asian Indian Caucus, ASHA Leader Blog (Feb, 2018).

## **PUBLICATIONS IN THE WORKS**

- Casebolt, K., Magnuson, L.M., **Rajappa, A.T.**, and Watkins, S. (2021). Physical Activity and Reading Comprehension. *Manuscript accepted for publication at Shape PA Journal, fall 2021.*
- Yu, Betty, **Rajappa, A.T.**, Sun, Lei, Sheen, C., and Sundarajan, A. (2022). Problematizing the Native-Speaker Construct of Bilingual Proficiency: A Survey of Bi/Multilingual Asian American/Pacific Islander Clinicians about Self-Identification as a Bilingual Service Provider. *Manuscript in preparation*
- **Rajappa, A.T** (2022) Speech and Swallowing Rehabilitation through the Lens of International Classification Framework (ICF). *Manuscript in preparation for AOCNR Journal (Invited Article)*
- **Rajappa, A.T** and Sunderaraman, P (2022). Exploring Cross Cultural Barriers to Provision of Neurorehabilitation Services for South Asians *Manuscript in preparation for AOCNR Journal (Invited Article)*
- **Rajappa, A. T and** Troche, M.T (2022). Validating urge-to-cough (UTC) as a descriptor of cough sensations. *Manuscript in preparation.*
- **Rajappa, A. T and** Troche, M.T (2022). Psychometric evaluation of magnitude estimation tools to assess urge-to-cough (UTC) in healthy young adults. *Manuscript in preparation.*
- Troche, M. S., **Rajappa, A. T.**, Sung, K., Huber, J.E (2022). Use of SpeechVive via Mobile Telehealth Service Delivery Model to Treat Hypophonia in Parkinson' Disease: A Pilot Study. *Manuscript in preparation.*

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### ORAL SEMINARS

- Yu, Betty, **Rajappa, A.T.**, Sun, Lei, Sheen, C., and Sundarrajan, A. (2022). Problematizing the Native-Speaker Construct of Bilingual Proficiency: A Survey of Bi/Multilingual Asian American/Pacific Islander Clinicians about Self-Identification as a Bilingual Service Provider. (ASHA 2021 Convention, Washington, DC)
- **Rajappa, A.T.**, Magnuson, L.B., and Lombardo, N. (2022) Dysphagia Warriors Program (DWP): Outreach Education for Older Adults by Students. 2022 Pennsylvania Speech Language Hearing Association State Convention, Pittsburgh, PA
- Yu, Betty, Lei, Sun., Chiou, Hsinhuei, **Rajappa, A.T.**, Sundarrajan, Anusha. (2020). A survey of bilingual, Asian Pacific-Islander clinicians: for recruiting and supporting Bilingual Service Providers, (2020, November). Proposal Number: 10999 Proposal accepted at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, San Diego, CA (Convention canceled).
- Malandraki, G., Malandraki, J.B., **Rajappa, A.T.**, and Kantarcigil, C. (2018). Four years of applying the Intensive Dysphagia Rehabilitation (IDR) approach: A Personalized Neuroplasticity-Driven Swallowing Training, 2018 ASHA Convention, Boston, MA.
- Troche, M.S., Perry, S.E., **Rajappa, A.T.**, Curtis, J.A., Sevitz, J., and Thomas, P. (2018) Tools for Guiding Clinical Decision-Making in Neurogenic Dysphagia: Grand Rounds, 2018 ASHA Convention, Boston, MA.
- **Rajappa, A.T.**, and Troche, M.S (2018) Identifying a descriptor for cough sensations. 25<sup>th</sup> International Society for Advancement in Respiratory Psychophysiology (ISARP), Gainesville, FL
- **Rajappa, A. T.**, Troche, M. S., Sung, K., Huber, J.E (2017). Use of SpeechVive via Mobile Telehealth Service Delivery Model to Treat Hypophonia in Parkinson' Disease: A Pilot Study, 2017 ASHA Convention, LA.
- Brandimore, A.E., Hegland, K.W., **Rajappa, A.T**, Davenport, P., & Troche, M.S. (2016). The Influence of Aging and Parkinson's disease on the Perception of Cough Stimuli. 2016 International Society for Respiratory Psychophysiology (ISARP) Meeting, Seattle, Washington.
- Cornish, N., Gillispie, M., **Rajappa, A.T.**, Rosa Lugo, L., Seeley, L., Vertz, S., Williams, R., & Yu, Betty (2016). The Unique Perspectives, Collective Voice and Varied Contributions of the ASHA Multicultural Constituency Groups, 2016 ASHA Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

### POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- **Rajappa, A.**, \*Streckenbein, A., Lazzara, K., & Namasivayam, Aravind (2021). Motor Speech Treatment for Childhood Ataxic Dysarthria due to Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 29 (SCA29): A Case Study. 2021Asia Oceanic Conference for Neurorehabilitation and Research (AOCNR) Virtual conference held at Mumbai, India (**\*Student won best student poster presentation award**)

- Georgopoulos, V.C., **Rajappa, A. T.**, Soriano, K., Zeimer, C., & Malandraki, G.A. (2019). Feasibility of a Neural Network in Predicting Aspiration Severity Post Supratentorial Stroke, Dysphagia Research Society (DRS) Annual Meeting (2019), San Diego, CA
- **Rajappa, A.T.**, Soriano, R Kristie., Ziemer, Courtney., Malandraki Bauer, Jaime., Troche, Michelle S., & Malandraki, Georgia A (2017). Reduced Pitch Elevation Correlates with Airway Invasion in patients with Neurogenic Dysphagia. 2017 Dysphagia Research Society (DRS) Meeting, Portland, Oregon.
- Brandimore, A.E., Hegland, K.W., **Rajappa, A.**, & Troche, M.S. (2016). The Influence of Aging and Parkinson’s disease on the Perception of Cough Stimuli, ASHA 2016 Convention, Philadelphia, PA.
- **Rajappa, A.**, Soriano, K., Zeimer, C., and Malandraki, G. (2016). The Relationship between Vocal Pitch Elevation and Aspiration: Adding to the Evidence. 2016 Dysphagia Research Society (DRS) Meeting, Tucson, Arizona.
- Mishra, A., **Rajappa, A.**, Tipton, E., and Malandraki, G. (2015). The Recline Exercise: Comparison with the Head Lift Exercise in Healthy Adults, 2015 Dysphagia Research Society (DRS) Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.

### INVITED SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/LECTURES

- Dysphagia Rehabilitation in Stroke (Asia Oceanic Congress for Neurorehabilitation AOCNR, Aug 2021)
- Dysphagia Rehabilitation in Neurodegenerative Population, Indian Federation for Neurorehabilitation Research, IFNR (April 2021, Mumbai, India)
- Dysphagia Rehabilitation for Neurogenic Population- ISH Alumni Series (June 2021, Bengaluru, India)
- MERF- Coffee Table Lesson on Dysphagia (June 2021, Chennai, India)
- My Profession- My Passion, Dept. of Speech Language & Hearing Sciences (SLHS), Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education (SRIHER), Chennai, India for their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Silver Jubilee celebrations (October 2020)
- Chairperson, Webinar on Dysphagia Rehabilitation in Motor Neuron Disease (MND), Indian Federation of Neurorehabilitation (IFNR), Pune, India (April 2020)
- Sensation for Airway Protection, 51<sup>st</sup> Indian Speech and Hearing Association (ISHA) Conference, Bengaluru, India (Feb 2019)
- Certification for Speech and Hearing (Panelist), 51<sup>st</sup> Indian Speech and Hearing Association (ISHA) Conference, Bengaluru, India (Feb 2019)
- Caseload Management, Medical Speech Pathology Graduate Course, Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders, East Stroudsburg University, PA (Fall, 2018)
- Insights for Launching a Successful Career in Speech Language Pathology, “Life of an SLP” workshop for Graduate students in Speech Pathology, Teachers College, Columbia University (Dec 2015)
- sEMG- Principles and Applications in Cough and Swallowing Research, Laboratory for the Study of Upper Airway Dysfunction, Teachers College, Columbia University, NY, NY (Nov 2015)
- sEMG- Principles and Applications in Deglutition Research, Dept. of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana (June 2015)

- Co-morbidities of Aphasia, National Aphasia Symposium, Margaret Tietz Nursing Home, Queens, NY (May 2015)

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- ESU Digital Warriors Program (Spring 2022)
- Fall Dysphagia Research Society Institute of Education (DRSIE) Conference (June 2021)
- 2021 Indian Federation of Neurorehabilitation (IFNR) & Asia Oceanic Congress for Neurorehabilitation Research (AOCNR) (Aug 2021)
- ASHA 2021 Teaching Symposium (June 2021)
- ESU Diversity and Inclusion Training (2020-2021)
- ESU Inclusion Workshop for Individuals with Disabilities: Creating an Accommodating and Inclusive Environment Using the Principles of Universal Design Learning (June 2021)
- 2021 Diversity Trainings from Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
- Self-Archiving for Researchers (July, 2021; CSDisseminate.com)
- Teaching Online Certification (TOCC), organized by PASSHE, Kutztown University of PA (August 2020)
- Addressing Racism in CSD Education, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire (Aug, 2020)
- Federal grant writing workshop by Dr. Jeremy Miner, Sponsored by PASSHE, Kutztown University of PA, PA (May, 2020)
- Federal grant writing workshop by Dr. Bob Porter, Sponsored by PASSHE, Bloomsburg University of PA, Bloomsburg, PA (May, 2019)
- Justine Joan Sheppard Memorial Conference: Dysphagia in Pediatric Populations and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, Teachers College, Columbia University, NY, NY (July, 2019)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **SERVICE TO ESU**

- Departmental Committee
  - Chair
    - Prof. Adrienne Westheim
    - Prof. Katherine Lazzara
  - Member
    - Dr. LuAnn B Magnuson
    - Dr. Rachel Wolf
    - Interview Committee (ESU CSD Department)
- Department Minutes Secretary, Dept. of Communication Sciences & Disorders, ESU
- Certified N95 Fit Tester, College of Health Sciences, ESU
- FDR Committee Member, ESU (2020-22)
- Faculty Committee Member and Co-Advisor, Desi Student Organization (DSO), ESU

- ESU Diversity and Mentorship Committee (Role: Mentee; Mentors: Dr. Annie Mendoza & Ms. Cornelia Sewell)
- ESU Women of Color Initiative (WOCI) Member
- Faculty Marshall, ESU Graduation Commencement Ceremony (Spring, 2019; Fall, 2019; Spring 2021)

### **SERVICE TO AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE HEARING ASSOCIATION (ASHA)**

- ASHA Reviewer, ASHA 2021 Convention (Reviewed abstracts on topics related to leadership, interprofessional practice, interprofessional education, ethics, clinical supervision)
- Advisor to Executive Board of South Asian Caucus of ASHA (SACA), a multicultural constituency group of ASHA (2018-Present). Revised the bylaws of the caucus and was instrumental in bringing a name change to the caucus.
- ASHA's Mentoring Academic Research Careers (MARC) Program (Role: Mentee; Mentor: Dr. Ciara Leydon, Sacred Heart University, CT)
- ASHA Reviewer, ASHA 2019 Convention (Convention abstracts on the topic of multiculturalism)
- ASHA Brochure Development targeting High School Children of Asian Indian origin to pursue Speech Pathology and Audiology career, ASHA Membership Division, ASHA (2018)
- President, Asian Indian Caucus (AIC, a multicultural constituency group of ASHA) (2015-2018; Re-elected two terms).
- Editor, ASHA KIRAN, a newsletter published by the Asian Indian Caucus (AIC) (2014-2015).

### **SERVICE TO DYSPHAGIA RESEARCH SOCIETY (DRS)**

- Executive Member, Membership Committee (2021-23), Dysphagia Research Society (DRS)
- DRS Run 2021- Team ESU Dysphagia Warriors (Raised \$250.00 and contributed to DRS)
- Executive Member, Student Association Committee (SAC, 2019-21), Dysphagia Research Society (DRS)

### **SERVICE TO AMERICAN BOARD OF SWALLOWING & SWALLOWING DISORDERS (ABSSD)**

- Mentorship Committee (Role: BCS-S Mentor), American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (ABSSD) (Current Mentees: 3; Past Mentees: 4)
- Member, Public Relations Committee, American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (ABSSD), (2013- 2015)

### **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE**

- Invited Editor, Indian Academy of Neurology Journal
- Scientific Committee, Asia Oceanic Conference for Neurorehabilitation (AOCNR 2021 and 2022 Convention)
- Reviewer for National Education Policy of India (NEP 2020)
- Invited Editor, Journal of Dr. S.R. Chandrasekhar Institute of Speech and Hearing (Journal Dr.SRCISH), Bengaluru, India



## **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS/CERTIFICATIONS**

- Video fluoroscopic Swallow Study (VFSS)
- Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES)
- Cough Assessment and Rehabilitation
- Surface Electromyography (sEMG) for Swallowing
- SpeechVive Device Assessment and Treatment
- Auditory Evoked Potentials (ABR, MLR, P300 and MMN)
- Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT)
- Interactive Metronome (IM) Therapy
- Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation (NMES) for Swallowing
- Myofascial Release for Dysphagia Management
- Bilingual Speech Pathologist (English & Indian Languages-Tamil, Hindi, Kannada)

## **PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE**

- Pennsylvania State Speech-Language Pathology
- New York State Speech-Language Pathology
- New Jersey State Speech-Language Pathology

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, CCC –SLP, BCS-S
- American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (ABSSD)
- South Asian Indian Caucus (SACA), A Multicultural Constituency Group of ASHA (Formerly Asian Indian Caucus, AIC)
- Dysphagia Research Society (DRS)
- International Society for Respiratory Psychophysiology (ISARP)
- ASHA Special Interest Groups (SIG; 2- Neurogenic Communication Disorders, 13- Dysphagia, 14- Cultural and Linguistic Diversity)
- Indian Federation of Neurorehabilitation Research (IFNR)
- Asian Oceanic Congress for Neurorehabilitation Research (AOCNR)
- Indian Speech Hearing Association (ISHA)
- Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)