FACULTY

Ken Brummel-Smith, MD, is the Charlotte Edwards Maguire Professor in the Department of Geriatrics at the Florida State University College of Medicine. He founded and served as chair of the Department of Geriatrics from 2003 until 2015. He served as chief of the Division of Geriatrics at two medical schools (University of Southern California and Oregon Health Sciences University). He is a co-editor or author of five textbooks and has written numerous book chapters and articles in the areas of geriatrics, ethics, and geriatric rehabilitation. He has been selected 12 times by his peers as a member of the "Best Doctors in America." Brummel-Smith was a member of the National Advisory Council on Aging for the National Institute on Aging. He is a past president of the American Geriatrics Society and a Health and Aging Policy Fellow with the Senate Special Committee on Aging in Washington, DC. He graduated from the University of Southern California School of Medicine, did a residency in family medicine at Glendale Adventist Medical Center, and completed a fellowship in the Department of Medical Education at the University of Southern California School of Medicine. He is board certified in family medicine and has a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatrics.

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Valarie B. Fleming, PhD, CCC-SLP, is chair and an associate professor in the Department of Communication Disorders at Texas State University, where she teaches graduate-level courses in adult neurogenic disorders and swallowing disorders. She is the director and principal investigator of the Cognitive-Communication Laboratory (C2L). Fleming completed her doctoral training in neurogenic communication disorders at The University of Texas at Austin. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in speech-language pathology from the University of Memphis and the University of Central Arkansas, respectively. As a certified speech-language pathologist, she has rehabilitative experience with adolescents and adults in acute care, skilled nursing facilities, and outpatient settings. Fleming’s research focuses on cognitive and linguistic aging, mild cognitive impairment, and variables influencing access and utilization of health services in culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Her research has been funded by the Alzheimer’s Association, and she has had publications in Aphasiology, Communication Disorders Quarterly, and Seminars in Speech and Language. In addition, she has presented numerous research papers at state and national conferences.

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Foundations of Dementia: Maximizing Functional Outcomes

Becky Khayum, MS, CCC-SLP, is a speech-language pathologist and co-founder of MemoryCare Corporation, a company that provides therapy, support, and counseling for individuals with neurodegenerative disease in the Chicago and Indianapolis areas. She specializes in the non-pharmacological treatment of dementia syndromes, with a focus on person-centered care. Khayum also participates in research targeting treatment approaches for primary progressive aphasia and is currently collaborating with the Northwestern Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center on the Communication Bridge Study, an Internet-based speech-language therapy program for individuals with dementia. Khayum holds an MS degree in speech-language pathology from the University of Arizona and a BS degree in communication disorders from Purdue University.

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Emily Rogalski, PhD, is an associate professor and director of neuroimaging for the Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine. Her research falls under the broad umbrella of aging and dementia and uses a multimodal approach to investigate two aging perspectives: primary progressive aphasia (PPA), in which neurodegenerative disease invades the language network, and SuperAging, in which individuals are seemingly resistant to the deleterious changes in memory associated with "normal" or more typical cognitive aging. While structural neuroimaging is her primary method of investigation, it is not the only tool she uses. Her work strives to define the clinical and anatomical features of different dementia syndromes as well as identify genetic, developmental, and acquired factors in aging and dementia. These investigations have provided new fundamental knowledge with translational implications for cognitive aging, dementia, and neurodegenerative disease as well as the cognitive neuroscience of language and memory. Rogalski has also developed educational programs, the first PPA support group, and, more recently, the Communication Bridge Internet-based speech-language therapy program to improve quality of life for individuals with a diagnosis of dementia. She has a successful history of foundation and NIH funding including R01s from the NINDS and NIA.

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