PEERS: The science of making friends.
     Social deficits are known to be a significant problem for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), ADHD, social anxiety, and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Yet very few evidence-based social skills programs exist for high-functioning individuals with these conditions. In this interactive and lively presentation, Courtney Carlisle Bolton of the UCLA Semel Institute will be providing an overview of PEERS, an empirically supported social skills program for teens and young adults and their parents. Additionally, a brief overview of an adaptation of the treatment program for toddlers will be provided. Within the framework of solid research evidence, concrete rules and steps of social etiquette will be highlighted to promote the development and maintenance of friendships for youth struggling with these skills.

Psychobiological Mechanisms in the Influence of Stress on Voice: Basic Science and Clinical Perspectives
     Clinical wisdom has long held that some conditions affecting voice have their roots in stress. However, until recently, there has been little data available to assess this assumption. This six-hour presentation will provide historical background on speculations about the stress-voice connection, as well as models that suggest possible mediation through both personality attributes and autonomic nervous system functioning. Recent data will be presented that sheds light on theoretical models and generally supports these models. Research will also be presented about effects of meditation, which is largely held to be stress-reducing, on inflammatory responses in the vocal folds following acute vocal fold inflammation induced in the laboratory. The second part of the presentation will relate basic scientific findings to clinical practice. Particular emphasis will be given to mediation and other mind-body techniques that may be relevant for a subset of the population that experiences voice problems. Throughout, special recognition will be given to the work of Dr. Maria Dietrich and Dr. Leah Helou, whose work has been seminal in the study of stress and stress reactivity and their influence on voice.

Innovative Interventions for People With Cognitive-Communication Challenges
     This presentation will describe evidence-based assessments and interventions for people with communication challenges from mild cognitive impairment, dementia, primary progressive aphasia or aphasia. Examples include spaced-retrieval training, graphic and written cues, Montessori programming and Life Participation Approach to Aphasia programming. It will also discuss life participation outcomes that are desirable and intervention goals that are appropriate for clients in community and residential care settings.