

**LISA SOMMERS, M.A., C.C.C.-SLP**  
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Department of Communication Disorders  
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## **EDUCATION**

- 1987 Master of Arts  
Speech-Language Pathology  
Kent State University
- 1985 Bachelor of Science  
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Bowling Green State University

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA, July 2014-present**

Clinical Associate Professor and Clinic Director of Center for Language, Speech and Hearing. Designated Privacy and Security Officer in September 2015; changed to HIPAA Liaison in June 2022. Responsibilities include management of clinical, fiscal and privacy/security of operations of Communication Disorders Department's clinic, marketing of clinical services, coordination of on-campus and off-campus clinical placement programs, program development, collaboration with clinical and academic faculty, supervision of support staff, graduate student clinical advising, assistance with clinical supervision of graduate students, development and implementation of interprofessional education opportunities, and teaching graduate level courses.

### **Northeast Rehabilitation Hospital, Portsmouth, NH, December 2005-June 2014**

Senior Speech-Language Pathologist in outpatient and inpatient Speech-Language Pathology departments. Responsibilities included delivery of direct therapy services for speech, language, voice, cognitive, and swallowing deficits, as well as supervision and mentoring of students and clinical fellows, and education of rehab staff and public re: role and scope of practice of the SLP. Areas of clinical expertise included voice and motor speech disorders, dysphagia, and diagnosis and treatment of language disorders. Developed LSVT Loud® and Big® programming and PD Community Wellness groups.

### **Southern New England Rehabilitation Center, St. Joseph's Hospital, Providence, RI, March 2000-December 2005**

Resource Clinician for the Speech-Language Pathology department. Responsibilities included department management, clinical development, and ensuring competency of SLP staff, supervision and mentoring of students and clinical fellows, as well as direct therapy services for adults with neurogenic communication and swallowing deficits in the acute rehab and acute hospital settings.

**Vencor, Inc., February 1997-March 2000**

Manager and clinical program developer. Duties included providing direct therapy services and clinical supervision of Clinical Fellows as well as training staff in clinical programs. Achieved ranking of Clinical Ladder III, the highest clinical achievement recognition within the organization.

**Concept Rehab, Inc., February 1995-1997**

Responsibilities included providing direct therapy services, clinical supervision of CF's and other SLP's and supervision of all disciplines as Regional Manager for six facilities in central Ohio.

**Downeast Therapy Associates, P.A., Ellsworth, ME, September 1989-1993**

Co-founded and developed Downeast Therapy Associates, an agency providing diagnostic and therapy services to a varied pediatric and adult population in eastern Maine. Responsibilities included co-administration of business, staff supervision, and direct services to pediatric and adult patients.

**Mount Desert Island, ME, September 1989-September 1993**

Private practice in Mount Desert, Ellsworth, and surrounding areas in Downeast Maine, serving pediatric outpatients, and adult neurogenic inpatients, outpatients and home health patients.

**St. Camillus Health and Rehabilitation Center, Syracuse, NY, September 1988-August 1989**

Staff speech-language pathologist

**Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center, Newport Hospital, Newport, RI, October 1987-July 1988**

Staff speech-language pathologist

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Bernhard, A., Sommers, L., and Richardson, K. (2019), Make Your Voice Heard! Healthy Communication and Parkinson's Disease. American Parkinson Disease Association.

Sommers, L., and Pierce, R. (1990), Naming and Semantic Judgments in Dementia of the Alzheimer's Type. *Aphasiology*, 4, 573-586.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Mamo, S.K. & Sommers, L. (July 2023). Comprehensive Communication Care for People with Parkinson's Disease and Their Care Partners. Poster presentation at 6<sup>th</sup> World Parkinson's Congress in Barcelona, Spain.

Richardson, K., & Sommers, L. (February 2023). The Science Behind Parkinson's Disease and Singing. Invited prestation at the American Parkinson's Disease Association

Virtual Parkinson's Conference: Educate, Empower, Engage.

Sommers, L. (Nov 2019). Person-Centered Strategies for Managing Communication Challenges in PD Support Groups. Invited presentation at the APDA Support Group Facilitator Conference, Worcester, MA.

Higgins, A., Richardson, K., & Sommers, L. (Nov 2018). Choral Singing: Effects on Speech, Voice, & Quality of Life in Individuals with Parkinson's Disease. Technical Research Presentation at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association Convention, Boston, MA.

Richardson, K., & Sommers, L. (Sept 2016). The Effects of Choral Singing On Speech and Voice Characteristics in Individuals With Parkinson's Disease. Poster presentation at the World Parkinson's Congress, Portland, OR.

Asselin, A., Choe, Y., Slade, J., Foster, T., & Sommers, L. (November 2015). Left- Vs. Right-Hand Movement During Spoken Naming Tasks: A Single-Case Report Of Computerized Anomia Treatment. Poster presentation at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention, Denver, CO.

## CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS

Sommers, L. (June 2023). Good Start Program in Parkinson's Disease: The Role of Speech-Language Pathology in Parkinson's Disease. Invited panel member for virtual PRESS program hosted by American Parkinson's Disease Association.

Sommers, L., (March 2023). Communication and Swallowing in Parkinson's Disease. Invited presentation at American Parkinson's Disease Association Virtual Young Onset Parkinson's disease support group.

Sommers, L. (December 2022). An Introduction to Speech-Language Pathology Treatments for Parkinson's Disease. Invited virtual presentation to UMass Intercampus Parkinson's and Neurodegenerative Disease Research Interest Group hosted virtually by UMass Medical School.

Sommers, L. (October 2022). Parkinson's Disease and Communication. Invited presentation at American Parkinson's Disease Association Pennsylvania chapter Parkinson's disease support group.

Sommers, L. (October 2022). Good Start Program in Parkinson's Disease: The Role of Speech-Language Pathology in Parkinson's Disease. Invited panel member for virtual PRESS program hosted by American Parkinson's Disease Association.

Sommers, L. (May 2022). Communication and Swallowing in Parkinson's Disease. Invited presentation at American Parkinson's Disease Association Northampton Young Onset Parkinson's disease support group.

Sommers, L. (April, 2022). Exploring Careers in Healthcare: Communication Disorders. Invited panel member for webinar presentation by MassHires Springfield.

Sommers, L. (December 2021). Managing Mild Cognitive Impairment in Parkinson's Disease. Invited virtual presentation for American Parkinson's Disease Association care partner support group.

Sommers, L. (March 2021). Let's Keep Moving! Invited speaker for webinar in series hosted by American Parkinson's Disease Association.

Richardson, K., Sommers, L., & Roberts, S. (March, 2021). PD Choir Best Practices: Merging Research, Clinical Expertise, and Musical Excellence. Invited virtual presentation for American Parkinson's Disease Association, Massachusetts chapter.

Sommers, L. (February 2021). Parkinson's Disease and Communication. Invited speaker for webinar in series hosted by American Parkinson's Disease Association.

Sommers, L. (December 2020). Parkinson's Programming at UMass Amherst. Invited presentation at American Parkinson's Disease Association, Massachusetts Chapter Annual Meeting.

Sommers, L., Caruso, S., Palatino, M., Jassal, M., Quach, L., Manzi, L., Stockley, J. (March 2020). Social Communication Skills. Invited 1-hour educational seminar at BIA-MA Support group, Hadley, MA.

Sommers, L., Felicetti, C., French, S., LaChance, J., Saloio, B., & Aveni, A. (April 2019). Technology for Life's Challenges. Invited 1-hour educational seminar at BIA-MA Support group, Hadley, MA.

Sommers, L., Schwebler, C., Michaud, K., Madison, J., Drown, L., & Pugh, A. (April 2018). The Science of Music. Invited 1-hour educational seminar at Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) Support group, Hadley, MA.

Sommers, L. (March 2018). UMass PD Communication and Swallowing Wellness Group. Invited presentation at PD Support Group at Jewish Community Center, Springfield, MA.

Sommers, L., Higgins, A., DuBois, H., Pastushok, H., & Jones, C. (January 2018). Traumatic Brain Injury: A Spotlight. Invited educational seminar at Hadley Police Department, Hadley, MA.

Sommers, L., Panel Member. (Dec 2017). Good Start Program in Parkinson's Disease, hosted by American Parkinson's Disease Association and UMass Medical School.

Sommers, L, and Zawacki, S. (June 2017). Spotlight on Parkinson's Disease: Living Well Everyday. Invited speaker for June 29, 2017 webinar in series hosted by American Parkinson's Disease Association.

Sommers, L., Higgins, A., Holovnia, A., DuBois, H., Pastushok, H., &

Jones, C. (March 2017). Traumatic Brain Injury: A Spotlight. Invited 1-hour educational seminar at BIA-MA Support Group, Hadley, MA.

Sommers, L., Panel member (November, 2016). A Conversation with the Experts. New England Regional Parkinson's Conference hosted by American Parkinson's Disease Association.

Sommers, L., Starr, M., and Milanesi, O. (April 2016 and July 2016). Social Communication Skills Following a Brain Injury. Invited 1-hour educational seminar at Brain Injury Support Group at Healthsouth, Ludlow, MA and BIA-MA Support Group in Hadley MA.

Sommers, L. (October 2015). Voice Speech and Swallowing Deficits Associated with Parkinson's Disease. Invited 1-hour educational seminar at the Parkinson's Disease Support Group, Baystate Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield, MA.

Sommers, L. (September 2015). UMass Amherst Parkinson's Disease Communication and Swallowing Wellness Group. Invited presentation at The Parkinson's Disease Support Group, Baystate Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield, MA.

Sommers, L., Downie, A., Barcellos, S., Milanesi, O., & Keator, L. (April 2015). Brain Injury and the Use of Mobile Technology. Invited 2-hour educational seminar at BIA-MA Support Group, Hadley, MA.

Sommers, L. (Nov. 2014). Clinical and Administrative Implementation of LSVT LOUD. Invited 1-hour educational seminar at Cooley-Dickinson Hospital, Northampton, MA.

Sommers, L. (Oct. 2014). LSVT BIG and LOUD. Invited 1-hour educational seminar at Parkinson's Disease Support Group, Hadley, MA.

## TEACHING

**Fall 2014-Fall 2016** COMM-DIS 520 Counseling in Communication Disorders

**Fall 2015-Fall 2017** COMM-DIS 496 K Clinical Observation

**Fall 2014-present** COMM-DIS 698A Professional Seminar

**Spring 2018** COMM-DIS 614 Language Disorders Adults II

**Spring 2019-Fall 2019** COMM-DIS 398 Internship

**Spring 2023** COMM-DIS 698A Professional Seminar

## SERVICE UMASS AMHERST

**2016-Present** Member, UMass Amherst-appointed HIPAA Council

**2014-Present** Chair, Ad Hoc Clinical Advisory Committee

**2014-Present** Faculty Liaison, Off-Campus Placements

**2017-Present** Member, Student Advisory Board, Department of Speech, Language, and

Hearing Sciences

**2017-2021** Member, Dean's SPHHS Community Advisory Board

**2014-Present** Member, College of Education Educator Licensure Advisory Council

**2014-Present** Member, Northeast Council of Clinic Directors

**2020-2022** Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Holistic Admissions

**2020-2022** Member, Supporting BIPOC Students Sub-committee

**2021-2022** Member, Ad Hoc AFR/ALR Revision Committee

**2022-Present** HIPAA Liaison, Center for Language, Speech, and Hearing

**2017-2020** Member, Center for Community Health Equity Research (CCHER) Steering Committee

**2019** Member, Information Risk and Compliance Analyst Search Committee

**2018-Present** Member, Pioneer Valley Interprofessional Practice and Education Collaborative

**2019-2020** Member, Search Committee, Lecturer/Clinical Faculty/Speech-Language Pathologist

**2017-2019** SLP Admissions Committee, Department of Communication Disorders

**2015-2016** Member, Search Committee, Clinical Instructor/Speech-Language Pathologist

**2015-2022** Privacy and Security Officer, Center for Language, Speech and Hearing

**2023-2024** SLP Admissions Committee, Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

**2023-2024** Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

## **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology

Licensed by the State of Massachusetts

FIM certified

NOMs certified

LSVT LOUD certified

Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS)

## **AFFILIATIONS**

American Speech-Language Hearing Association

Massachusetts Chapter of the APDA, Board Advisor

Massachusetts Speech and Hearing Association Board, UMass Faculty Liaison

Pioneer Valley Interprofessional Practice and Education Collaborative