

The Wayne and CeCelia Zorn Primary Progressive Aphasia Research Grant

Background

Wayne Zorn was diagnosed with Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) in 2014. Supported by an active community of Speech Language Pathologists, others living with PPA, family, friends, and many UW-Eau Claire activities concentrated in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD), Wayne and his wife, CeCelia, participated in life in the most meaningful way possible throughout the trajectory of this disease. Their goal is to help others benefit from this community, learn more about PPA, and explore approaches that make life better for people living with PPA.

The purpose of this grant is to support research that (a) explores the lived experience of PPA, (b) proposes and evaluates specific strategies that help individuals and/or their families living with PPA enjoy a more participative and higher quality of life, and/or (c) helps students and clinicians learn about PPA more explicitly and holistically, including the full course of the disease. Please [click here to see a brief video](#) in which Wayne & CeCelia Zorn describe this grant.

Amount

The intent of this grant is to help cover any costs associated with planning, conducting, or disseminating this research. Grant amounts are up to \$2500. It is hoped that a growing program of research around PPA can be supported.

Eligibility

Any faculty or academic staff in the Department of CSD at UW-Eau Claire is eligible to apply. Applications from individuals serving as primary researchers, co-researchers, or advisors to student research will be reviewed. Collaboration is encouraged. This includes collaboration with (a) other CSD faculty, (b) undergraduate or graduate students in CSD, (c) clinicians in speech/language pathology employed in healthcare agencies, and (d) faculty and/or students in other departments at UW-Eau Claire or other campuses.

Application

Application dates for this grant are open; there are no established “due by” dates.

Submit an application to the UW-Eau Claire CSD Department Chair Dr. Abby Hemmerich via email (hemmeral@uwec.edu).

Address the following components:

- Describe the research (3-4 paragraphs). Include background & significance, research purpose, method, and plan for dissemination. Provide a summary of how the study builds on existing research.
- Delineate a research timeline.
- Summarize the researcher’s qualifications. (1 paragraph)
- Describe, in detail, how the funds will be used (1 paragraph)

Ongoing documentation submitted to the CSD Department Chair is required:

- Brief annual report documenting progress of the research (2-3 paragraphs)
- Evidence of research dissemination when study is completed

Review of applications will be conducted by the CSD Department Chair. Consultation with others will be sought as needed.

Grant established November, 2022

The process established to publicize and manage this grant will be reviewed every three years by the CSD Department Chair, beginning in January, 2026.



*Thank you for your interest in the Wayne and CeCelia Zorn Primary
Progressive Research Grant*