Optimizing Treatment Efficiency for Children with Speech Sound Disorders

10-11th April 2026

Corso Residenziale - *In presence*
Hotel Cristoforo Colombo, **ROME**

The course is in English - Translation is not available

Crediti ECM offerti, in fase di accreditamento (per logopedisti italiani)

Provider: ECMLogos - 4554

Responsabile scientifico/Scientific coordinator: Francesca Bongino

Docente/Lecturer: doctor Aravind Namasivayam, PhD

Destinatari/Target: **logopedisti con conoscenza della lingua inglese/SLPs**

- il corso è **confermato** perché ha **raggiungiunto il numero minimo** di partecipanti.

- l'iscrizione è confermata solo al ricevimento della quota d'iscrizione

- *the course is **confirmed.***

- ***registration** will be considered **valid** only upon receipt of the **registration fee***

Obiettivo formativo: CONTENUTI TECNICO-PROFESSIONALI (CONOSCENZE E COMPETENZE) SPECIFICI DI CIASCUNA PROFESSIONE, DI CIASCUNA SPECIALIZZAZIONE E DI CIASCUNA ATTIVITÀ ULTRASPECIALISTICA. MALATTIE RARE (18)

Course description:

There is consensus that the act of speaking is the result of multiple sub-systems (respiration, phonation, articulation and resonance) and articulators working together as coordinated movements or synergies (Kelso, 1995; Namasivayam et al., 2020). Despite its importance, information about what constitutes a synergy, how these coordinated movements develop, and their implications for assessment and treatment are not typically included in university curricula. This knowledge gap is particularly significant in the context of Speech Sound Disorders (SSDs), a broad term encompassing a range of difficulties in producing speech sounds in both children and adults.

Traditional approaches to the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of SSDs are grounded in psycholinguistic theory and rely heavily on auditory-perceptual, transcription-based methods. While these methods have been foundational, they often fail to detect underlying speech motor development and control issues (Hardcastle & Morgan, 1982; Kent, 1996). For instance, undifferentiated lingual gestures—a hallmark of motor-based difficulties—are frequently misinterpreted as linguistic-phonological errors, such as phonological substitutions (Gibbon, 1999; Gibbon & Wood, 2002).

Instrumental evidence from technologies like ultrasound and electropalatography underscores this discrepancy, revealing that approximately 71% of so-called "phonological errors" stem from underlying speech motor issues (Gibbon, 1999; Goozée et al., 2007). This finding aligns with the understanding that speech production results from intricate synergies among multiple speech subsystems interacting with higher-level cognitive-linguistic processes (Green et al., 2000, 2002; Nip et al., 2009; Green & Nip, 2010). However, this perspective remains underemphasized in traditional clinical education and practice (Hagedorn & Namasivayam, 2024; Namasivayam et al., 2020).

Addressing this disconnect is critical for advancing the field toward precision medicine, which emphasizes accurately aligning interventions with the underlying nature of a problem. Precision medicine in the context of SSDs requires a paradigm shift from transcription-based auditory-perceptual analysis to approaches informed by instrumental evidence and speech motor theory.

In this clinical practice workshop, we aim to bridge this gap by defining and presenting evidence for speech synergies, showcasing clinical assessments through video demonstrations, and offering strategies for integrating movement synergies into intervention plans. By highlighting the limitations of transcription-based analyses and emphasizing the role of speech motor foundations in SSDs, this work seeks to realign clinical practices with the broader, evidence-based understanding of speech production.

Ultimately, the integration of movement synergies into assessment and intervention has the potential to enhance outcomes for individuals with SSDs. Equipping clinicians with the tools and knowledge to recognize and address speech motor issues is essential for advancing the profession and improving the accuracy and efficacy of treatment. By embedding this knowledge into curricula and clinical training, the field can move closer to a precision medicine approach that optimally supports individuals with speech disorders.

Goals:

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the historical nature and limitations of IPA transcription based linguistic-phonological interpretation of speech sound errors in children.
- Describe recent instrumental evidence supporting speech motor basis for speech sound errors in children
- Describe the development of speech motor synergies.
- Identify types and measures for assessing speech motor synergies.
- List three ways to incorporate synergy-based assessment results into treatment.

2 Day-Workshop

Friday 10th April 2026 - 9.30am to 5pm

Day 1 - Updating Foundational Knowledge

9:30am to 9:40am - Welcome and Purpose

9:40am to 10:10am - Speech Sound Disorder (SSD) Classification Systems – update

10:10am to 11:00am - Diagnosis Clinical Solution: Clinical Identification of Subtypes

11:00am to 11:15am - *Break*

11:15am to 11:30am - Group Activity 1 - Clinical solution - Samples & Discussion

11:30am to 12:00am - Sources of speech error; do we trust our ears or eyes? Potential Biases.

12:00pm to 1:00pm - Group Activity 2- Transcription Bias

1:00pm to 2:00pm - *Lunch break*

2:00pm to 3:00pm - Using Norms, Problems and Alternatives

3:00pm to 3:15pm - B*reak*

3:15pm to 4:00pm - Aligning Intervention Type to Level of Deficit
Updates on Intervention for Residual Speech Errors (RSE)

4:00pm to 4:45pm - Group Activity: New Learning, Practice Change & Reflections

4:45pm to 5:00pm - Wrap up & survey feedback forms.

2 Day-Workshop

Saturday 11th April 2026 - 9.30am to 5pm

Day 2 - Optimizing Treatment Efficiency

9:30am to 9:45am - Welcome and Day 1 Recap & Feedback

9:45am to 10:00am - Goal writing and goal tracking

10:00am to 10:30am - Dose variables and optimal dose

10:30am to 11:15pm - Optimizing rate of change/gains/generalization

11:15am to 11:30am - *Break*

11:30am to 12:00am - Optimizing rate of change/gains/generalization

12:00pm to 1:00pm - Group Activity: New learning & Practice change

1:00pm to 2:00pm - *Lunch break*

2:00pm to 3:30pm - Risk factors & Predictors for Persistent SSD checklist APPENDIX A

Predictors of Outcomes: *Child level & Intervention-level factors*

3:30pm to 3:45pm - B*reak*

3:45pm to 4:00pm - Group Activity: breakout rooms - generate 3 ways on how you can use the above information to triage your caseload. List 3 potential barriers & facilitators

4:00pm to 4:30pm - Involving Parents and Caregivers

4:30pm to 4:55pm - Group Intervention: effectiveness and Procedures

4:55pm to 5:00pm - Wrap up, summarizing and, feedback forms

Informazioni generali / Information

DATA/DATES

venerdì 10 aprile 2026 9.30-17 / *Friday 10th April 2026 9.30am to 5pm*
sabato 11 aprile 2026 9.30-17 / *Saturday 11th April 2026 9.30am to 5pm*

RESPONSABILE SCIENTIFICO/SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR

Francesca Bongino

SEGRETERIA ORGANIZZATIVA/ORGANISATION

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SEDE DEL CORSO/LOCATION

ROME, HOTEL CRISTOFORO COLOMBO, via Cristoforo Colombo 710, 00144 Roma

MODALITA' DI PARTECIPAZIONE/PRICE

Quota **con ECM** €475,00 iva inclusa / *Price: €475 vat included*

MODALITA' DI PAGAMENTO/PAYMENT

Effettuabile in sicurezza con **PayPal (link in piattaforma) con iscrizione immediata**
*Can be safely completed via **PayPal (link available on the platform) with immediate registration***
oppure/*or*
Tramite *bonifico bancario* intestato a:
ECMLogos s.r.l. a capitale ridotto
Banca Popolare di Sondrio
Nella causale riportare "optimising treatment - Aravind" e il nominativo del partecipante
N.B. Per le iscrizioni effettuate a partire dal 6 febbraio è previsto il rimborso del 50% della quota di iscrizione. Le spese di segreteria, comprese tra €15,00 e €40,00, non sono rimborsabili.

Bank wire to "ECMLogos s.r.l. a capitale ridotto"
IBAN: IT11S0569601401000003374X80
Banca Popolare di Sondrio
In the payment description, include "optimising treatment - Aravind" and the participant's name.

- ***For registrations completed from Friday, February 6 onward, a 50% refund of the enrollment fee is provided. Administrative fees, ranging from €15.00 to €40.00, are non-refundable.***

Genova, lì 05.02.2026

La legale rappresentante

Irina Podda