

**Project Title:** Discourse Comprehension and Executive Function: Understanding Age-Related Deficits in Information Processing

**Investigator:** Valerie Fleming

**Department:** Communication Disorders

**Project Summary:** Currently this project is still in the data collection phase. The protocol takes approximately 2 to 2.5 hours to administer. So far, data has been collected on 23 subjects. Due to the PI's teaching and service commitments, data collection is taking longer than previously anticipated. However, data collection is ongoing and some presentations have been made based on the preliminary findings. Data collection will continue throughout the summer and hopefully be concluded in early fall 2009. Work has begun on a manuscript with projected submission by December 2009.

I have been interacting on a monthly basis with Dr. Julie Barkmeier-Kraemer (University of Arizona) with respect to my mentoring plan. Per this plan, the following interim goals have been established:

Developing plans for studies geared toward developing a cognitive-communication model of discourse and achieving tenure and promotion. I am currently engaged in studies of discourse comprehension and production. In addition, I have received a very high reappointment review in my progress toward tenure and promotion.

Grant preparation. Although a grant has not been submitted based specifically on this project, I have submitted three external grants since the implementation of this award. I am currently preparing a submission for a NIH R15. The grants are geared toward previous preliminary studies that are a part of my research program. However, having support of the REP allowed for graduate research assistant to help with participant recruitment and data collection which freed my time to work on these grants.

**Publications:**

N/A

**Presentations:**

Fleming, V.B. (accepted; to be presented May 2009). Discourse comprehension and aging: The mediating effects of executive function. Paper for poster session submitted to the Clinical Aphasiology Conference 2009, Keystone, CO.

Walling, L., Banduch, A., & Fleming, V.B. (2009, April). Discourse comprehension: The role of age and gender. Poster presentation presented at the College of Health Professions 13th Annual Faculty/Student Research Forum, San Marcos, TX.

Fleming, V.B. (2009, April). Age-related deficits in discourse comprehension: The role of executive function. Research technical session presentation to the National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.

Fleming, V.B. (2008, November). Discourse comprehension and executive function:

Understanding age-related deficits. Paper for technical session presented to American Speech-Language-Hearing Association National Convention, Chicago, IL.

**Student Number: 8**