

International Perspectives on Voice Disorders

Edited by Edwin M-L. Yiu (2013). Published by Multilingual Matters, Bristol, UK [216 pages]. ISBN: 9781847698735. Price €84.95. Hardback.

Written by leading specialists in voice, this book provides a state-of-the-art account of voice research and issues in clinical voice practice from around the world. The book was formulated on the basis that, whilst voice research traditionally has been undertaken by mainstream research centres throughout the world, voice research has also been undertaken by many leading experts in clinical voice practice, located in independent research facilities and institutions. The quality of this research and practice is frequently excellent and this book serves as a vehicle to disseminate current issues in international clinical practice and research.

Like the editor, Edwin M-L Yiu, most of the contributors to this book are both academics and practitioners, with a long-standing commitment to intervention for voice disorders. Many are very eminent. The chapters present good practice in different areas of voice disorders, supported by the latest research. The overall impression is of a group of inspirational leaders in the field who are optimistic about the practice and potential of voice assessment and intervention.

A necessary book for every graduate student, in the field of speech language pathology, it provides an exceptional compendium of insights and current clinical opinion and practice and fills a critical need in the subject area.

Current approaches to voice rehabilitation are founded on research and theory, but they are tempered by and delivered in different cultural contexts, meet varying needs, and are supported by different service resources. This text brings together in book form, an excellent, state-of-the-art account of voice research and issues in clinical voice practice from a world perspective.

The book is separated into two parts, the initial chapters focus on current issues in voice assessment and intervention, from a world perspective and the following chapters focus on contemporary voice research. The engaging style of the work means it can be enjoyed cover to cover or as reference to an area of particular interest.

The initial chapters provide an overview of the current context of voice assessment and intervention in 10 countries around the world, contextualising it within the health, educational, cultural, and public policy environment. Specialist topics such as management of vocal fold injuries, cognitive

behavioural therapy in the treatment of functional dysphonia are included. Reading these chapters, it is clear that there has been increased attention afforded worldwide, to the impact of voice impairment on one's QOL. This is true in countries as diverse as Hong Kong, Australia and Brazil.

Another shift in practice is the implementation of preventive work for voice problems and alternative service delivery models of voice therapy – tele-health rehabilitation (Hong Kong and Australia).

Current pedagogic research and practice frequently appears to be governed, as much by local contextual factors – social, economic, institutional and cultural – as it is by revised conceptualisations of its knowledge base. It is good to see therefore, that Part 2 includes chapters on contemporary voice research in areas as diverse as, acupuncture and voice treatment, application of motor learning principles in voice motor learning, and analysis of professional voice users in the clinical setting. The contributors identify issues and examine directions in which research and practice in voice might proceed.

This book has been compiled with a wide international readership in mind. It is clear that it is intended to engage both practising clinicians and researchers, interested in voice and voice disorders. The work was extremely well researched and intelligently constructed and I would recommend this book for those who want a comprehensive overview of the field of practice and inquiry.

One of the key strengths of this book is its clear intention and enthusiasm to propel the findings in the literature beyond a detailed summary of contemporaneous research in this field, to give clear direction to those readers wishing to develop practical tools and skills in assessment and intervention in voice disorders. This is a serious book intended for practitioners, professionals and academics in this field and is well grounded in real practice.

In summary, Edwin M-L Yiu has produced a robust book which bridges theoretical concepts and research findings with the need for practical application, to facilitate improved voice therapy practice with a sound evidence base. The book is a valuable read for any experienced professional and can support increased understanding and insight into clinical practice and research into voice.

Dr Pauline Sloane, *Associate Professor in Voice Pathology, Department of Clinical Speech & Language Studies, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.*
E-mail: PSLOANE@tcd.ie