

FOREWORD

Semantic Memory and Language Processing in Aphasia and Dementia

Awareness of the theoretical and clinical importance of semantic dementia is itself relatively new to the broad field of neuro-linguistics and even newer to the field of adult communication disorders. This fact permits me to speculate that many of us are relatively uninformed, or even that some of us are unaware, of its importance to our practice. Thus, I am thrilled to be able to present to *Seminars in Speech and Language* readers what I believe is almost a crash course in semantic dementia. Through his careful collection of experts in the disorder who also understand

the clinical world, Jamie Reilly has put together a thorough overview of the problem, coupled with practical clinical approaches to its management. The literature reviewed here is current and contemporary, and as knowledge about semantic dementia expands, it can be expected to evolve. Nevertheless, this issue of *Seminars* will provide readers with a solid theoretical and practical foundation.

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