

FOREWORD

Our understanding of nervous system functions and its dysfunctions is incomplete and somewhat rudimentary at best. As a result, the nature and variety of problems that can result from neuromotor impairments of the speech mechanism have long posed special clinical challenges for speech-language pathologists. A client's respiration, phonation, articulation, resonance, and prosody may be slightly or profoundly affected, as may a number of other motor functions. Often, there are concurrent language and cognitive disabilities as well. The assessment and treatment of children and adults who have such problems are the focus of this issue of *Seminars in Speech and Language*, and I have turned to the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and Wanda G. Webb for assistance.

During the summer of 1991, Dr. Webb gathered together a panel of experts in Nashville, Tennessee, to address some of the issues that are of current clinical significance to the effective management of clients with oral motor dysfunctions. The panel wrestled with a broad range of significant, sometimes controversial, issues. As Guest Editor, Dr. Webb has organized the panel's view on these issues into an intriguing, stimulating collage of views and advice relating to the assessment and treatment of children and adults with neuromotor impairments of the speech mechanism.

The occasion for this gathering was to honor someone who has devoted much of his professional career to meeting the challenges that clients with these problems present, Russell J. Love. This issue of *Seminars* commemorates the contributions of Dr. Love by providing thoughtful discussions of oral motor dysfunction in children and adults and the kinds of practical management advice that his work has fostered over the years.

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