



University of Michigan  
Aphasias Program

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 5, 2011

## **University of Michigan Aphasias Program increases treatment schedule**

### *Moves to monthly sessions*

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The **University of Michigan Aphasias Program (UMAP)**, the oldest speech and language therapy program of its kind in the United States, today announced it is increasing its number of intensive treatment sessions annually from eight to 12. The average length of each session is four weeks, and the core curriculum has been enhanced and will include 30 hours of structured intervention each week.

“This decision was based on feedback from our clients, our clinical experience and what the research says about intensive therapy,” said **Mimi Block**, M.S., CCC-SLP, clinical services manager, UMAP.

The aphasia treatment program was founded in 1947 by the University Center for the Development of Language and Literacy at the University of Michigan to offer speech and language therapy for injured veterans returning from World War II. Since that time, adults with language disorders resulting from stroke, brain injury, or brain tumor have come from around the globe to receive the highly individualized and intensive therapy offered at UMAP.

“In the field of speech-language pathology, we know that intensive therapy – typically defined as at least nine or more hours per week – improves outcomes for adults with chronic aphasia. Beginning this month, our clients will receive 25 hours of speech-language therapy each week,” said Ms. Block.

(more)

Weekly music and art therapy, caregiver education seminars and support group, and social-recreational activities complete a week of 30 hours of structured activity.

“This intensive therapy regimen, coupled with the supportive environment and immersion in using language in natural contexts at UMAP, creates a life-changing experience for adults with chronic aphasia and their families,” said Ms Block.

**About the University of Michigan Aphasia Program (UMAP)**

Located on the campus of the University of Michigan, UMAP serves approximately 60 clients annually who come from around the world for language therapy on an intensive intervention schedule. The aphasia treatment program was founded in 1947 by the University Center for the Development of Language and Literacy to offer speech and language therapy for injured veterans returning from World War II. For more information about UMAP, please visit [www.aphasiahelp.com](http://www.aphasiahelp.com).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Media Contact:**        **Maribeth Farkas** or **Sharon McMurray** at Caponigro Public Relations Inc.,  
**(248) 353-3030.**