

About the Authors

Jill K. Fahy, MA, CCC-SLP, is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois. Jill has been at Eastern for the past 13 years. She coordinates graduate student medical internships and serves on a variety of department and university-wide committees focusing on curriculum development and critical thinking. Jill's teaching at EIU includes courses in acquired language disorders, neurology, executive functions, medical grand rounds, interprofessional education, and advanced practicum.

Jill is a nationally recognized speaker in the area of executive functions. She presents at conferences for therapists, educators, psychologists, and parents, clarifying the nature of executive dysfunction and articulating frameworks for assessment and treatment. Jill has published articles on principles of evaluating executive functions and the relationships between language and executive functions. Her diagnostic expertise focuses on identifying executive function profiles that are influenced by, and concomitant to, language disorders, social/pragmatic disorders, autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, and TBI. Many of Jill's clients present with complicated mental health histories and behavioral challenges that further contribute to breakdown in self-regulation and behavioral control.

Jill spent the first half of her 25-year career as a medical speech–language pathologist, working primarily with the traumatic brain injury population in acute care and rehabilitation programs. She has received two Faculty Excellence Awards for her teaching at EIU. She is married and lives in the Midwest with her husband and youngest daughter.

Gail J. Richard, PhD, CCC-SLP, is a professor emeritus and Director of the Autism Center in the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois. She also coordinates the Students With Autism Transitional Education Program (STEP) for the university's college students with autism spectrum disorders. Gail is a national speaker and teacher, with seminars focusing on childhood developmental language disorders, especially the autistic spectrum, central auditory processing disorders, language processing disorders, learning disabilities, medical syndromes, and selective mutism. Prior to 35 years in the university setting, which included 14 years as Department Chair, she worked in the public schools, serving preschool through high-school-age students. She especially enjoys the diagnostic challenge of differentiating among the various aspects of developmental disorders.

Publications include clinical assessment instruments and treatment materials, eight books in “The Source” series, book chapters, and professional articles. Gail enjoys translating research into clinical application for practitioners, clients, adjunct professionals, and parents. She has served in leadership roles in state and national organizations, including president of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2017), as well as numerous other positions on the ASHA Board of Directors and Legislative Council.

Professional awards include Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; Honors of the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association; Distinguished Alumnus of Southern Illinois University–Carbondale, Eastern Illinois University, and Augustana College; and numerous teaching and service awards at Eastern Illinois University. In addition, Gail was inducted into the EIU Athletics Hall of Fame for her work as the university NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative for 16 years, including a term as the conference representative to the NCAA Division I Management Council.