

## George Barnes MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

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### Summary

George is a board-certified specialist in swallowing and swallowing disorders, focusing on diagnostics and clinical decision-making. With a passion for food and a deep appreciation for the joy and connection it brings, he has dedicated his life to helping others enjoy this pleasure. With over a decade of experience seeing patients with high levels of medical complexity in a variety of medical settings, George is uniquely qualified to serve as an expert medical witness and form opinions on legal cases.

### Core Competencies & Skills

- **Leadership & Program Development:** Developed and implemented a FEES program and a speaking valve policy, initiated facility-wide FEES and oral care programs, and created and managed rehab programs to improve communication, safety, and quality of life for residents.
- **Training & Mentorship:** Provided on-site education and training on evidence-based practices, trained staff on managing dysphagia and cognitive-communication deficits, and supervised clinical fellows.
- **Professional Recognition:** Published writer and researcher on dysphagia-related projects.

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### Certifications & Professional Training

- **Board Certified Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (BCS-S)**, American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (ABSSD), Issued Jun 2022.
- **Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC)**, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).
- **Registered MBSImP Clinician**
- **FEES Competency**
- **Award for Continuing Education (ACE)**, Seven time recipient, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
- **Licensed to Practice in New Jersey:** 41YS00727400

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### Professional Experience

- **Speech-Language Pathologist Medical Expert Witness, SwallowStudy & Associates, LLC** (November 2022 – Present)

- Serves as an expert medical witness and forms opinions on legal cases regarding swallowing, airway protection, aspiration, aspiration pneumonia, choking, and cognitive-communication.
- **CEO, FEESible Swallow Solutions LLC** (February 2020 – Present)
  - Provides mobile FEES and speech pathology services.
- **Speech-Language Pathologist, Hackensack University Medical Center at Palisades** (December 2016 – Present)
  - Performs acute care swallow evaluations with MBSS and FEES.
  - Trains staff to work with patients with tracheostomy tubes and mechanical ventilation.
- **Lead Speech-Language Pathologist, Select Specialty Hospital of Northeast New Jersey** (September 2015 – September 2025)
  - Cooperates with an interdisciplinary team to wean patients from ventilators, tracheostomy tubes, and feeding tubes.
  - Implemented a speaking valve policy and procedure, and developed and implemented a FEES program.
- **Adjunct Professor, Seton Hall University** (December 2024 – Present)
  - Responsible for leading simulated clinical activities for the SLP graduate program.
- **Speech-Language Pathologist, Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation** (March 2016 – November 2024)
  - Lead SLP for conducting MBSS and training colleagues for MBSS competency.
- **Speech-Language Pathologist, Manager, and Clinical Supervisor, Genesis Rehab Services** (July 2012 – April 2018)
  - Skilled nursing (nursing home):
    - Evaluated and treated individuals with dysphagia and communication deficits.
    - Supervised clinical fellows and provided on-site education and training on evidence-based practice, compliance, and effective documentation.
    - Created and managed rehab programs to improve communication, safety, and quality of life for residents.
  - Assisted living:
    - Lead a team as rehabilitation manager, organizing programs and providing speech-language pathology services. Spearheaded a team as rehabilitation manager, overseeing program development and delivering speech-language pathology services.
- **Adjunct Professor, Long Island University** (February 2016 – August 2016)
  - Instructed a graduate dysphagia course detailing anatomy, physiology, diagnostics, treatment, and ethical issues.
- **Speech-Language Pathologist, Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center** (June 2013 – February 2014)
  - Evaluated and treated patients with swallowing, speech, language, and cognitive-communication deficits in acute care.

## Volunteer & Service

- **Student to Empowered Professional (STEP) Mentor, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) (2015 - 2018)**
  - Provided support and guidance to students pursuing a future in the field of speech-language pathology.
- **Peer Review Contributor, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) (2016 - 2018)**
  - Reviewed and provided feedback and critique for ASHA-sponsored continuing education courses.
- **Editorial Committee Reviewer for Perspectives SIG13: Dysphagia, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) (2017 - 2019)**
- **Dysphagia Subcommittee Member, NJSHA New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2021 - 2023)**
  - Developed and influenced change to improve the quality of care provided by medical speech-pathologists in New Jersey.
- **ASHA 2026 Topic Committee**
  - Member of the ASHA 2026 Adult Swallowing Committee, responsible for peer-reviewing clinical submissions and curating invited sessions to ensure high-quality, evidence-based programming for the national convention.

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## Education

- **Mercy College**, Dobbs Ferry, NY: Master of Science in Communication Disorders, 2012
- **Marist College**, Poughkeepsie, NY: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, 2008

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## Presentations & Publications

- **Presentations**
  - Iona College
  - New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NYSSLHA)
  - Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA)
  - Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV)
  - Swallow Your Pride
  - Fresh SLP
  - Private Practice Success Stories
  - Speech Uncensored
  - Dysphagia Cafe
  - MedSLP Ed
  - Med SLP Collective

- New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA)
- Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ISHA)
- Northeastern University
- SpeechPathology.com
- Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association (PSHA)
- El Paso Speech-Language-Hearing Association (EPSHA)
- Hackensack University Medical Center
- Seton Hall University
- Medbridge
- Genesee Valley Speech Language Hearing Association (GVSLHA)
- STPD.com
- Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama
- Atlantic Health
- Irish Adult Dysphagia Special Interest
- The University of New Castle
- Froedtert Hospital
- Patheous Health
- NYC Dysphagia Study Group
- Annual Neuro-Rehabilitation Conference
- National Foundation of Swallowing Disorders (NFOSD)
- Parkinson's Voice Project
- University of South Alabama
- **Publications**
  - **Reviewer: Adult Dysphagia Clinical Reasoning and Decision-Making Guide** (Plural Publishing Inc., 2024): Designed to help SLPs use clinical reasoning and critical thinking to assess and treat swallowing disorders in adults, using case studies and practical tools.
  - **Author: The Case for Instrumental Assessments** (ASHA, July 9, 2023): Discusses how pointing out cost savings can help convince administrators of the value of instrumental swallow studies.
  - **Author: To Thicken or Not to Thicken: Exploring the Use of Math-Based Clinical Decision Making** (ASHA Wire, March 28, 2022): Explores the utility of Bayes' theorem for predicting the risk of pneumonia in dysphagia management.
  - **Author: An Overview of Tracheostomy Tubes and Mechanical Ventilation Management for the Speech-Language Pathologist** (ASHA Wire, August 20, 2021): A clinical focus article providing an overview for SLPs working with patients who have tracheostomy tubes and ventilators.
  - **Author: Communication Disordered: Program Implementation in Long-Term Care** (ASHA Wire, March 31, 2016): Details the importance of involving facility administration in policy-making to create successful clinical programs in long-term care settings.