Asking (and answering!) a beautiful question

How has the field of AAC grown?

Cumulative growth

Research question

- Description
  - What is the nature of？

- Intervention
  - What is the impact of x on y for？

- Experimental
  - What is the relationship between x and y for？

- Instrument development
  - How can we measure the relationship between x and y for？
Perspectives over time

Impact of Research
- Cites on Google Scholar
- Pre-service SLP/teacher you taught
- Child/adult you helped

Beautiful questions
- Passion
  - People care about the problem
  - Interest beyond your professional community
- Purposeful
  - Addresses an answerable problem
  - Important piece of larger puzzle
- Strong science
  - theoretical rationale
  - New approach that builds on what is known, and promises insight into new challenges

Engage with (learn from) community

Megabus

Beautiful questions

- **Purposeful**
  - Addresses an *answerable* problem
    - Important piece of larger puzzle
  - Answer one question and answer it well
    - But don’t promise more than you can deliver
    - Balance goals, resources, and “wow!” factor
    - Can I really do this?

Meaningful variations support a central theme
Supporting graduate students in beginning research careers

- Model
- Guided practice
- Independent practice
- Maintenance
- Generalization

Literature review
Observational study
Pilot study
Larger study
How do we know a question will support a line of research?

- Literature review
- Observational study
- Pilot study
- Larger study (Grant, Dissertation)

Beautiful questions

- Strong science
  - theoretical rationale
    - New approach that builds on what is known, and promises insight into new challenges
  - Acknowledge existing theory
    - How have similar challenges been addressed in other areas

Insight (Wallas, 1926)

- Preparation
  - Clinical experience
  - Read deeply and widely
- Incubation
  - Let unconscious do the work
- Illumination
  - Sudden insight
- Verification
  - Test ideas
Seeing what others don’t (Klein, 2013)

- Connections
- Coincidences
- Curiosities
- Contradictions
- Creative desperation

Insight (Wallas, 1926)

- Preparation
  - Clinical experience
  - Read deeply and widely
- Incubation
  - Let unconscious do the work
- Illumination
  - Sudden insight
- Verification
  - Test ideas

Asking beautiful questions

- **Passion**
  - People **care** about the problem
  - Interest beyond your professional community
- **Purposeful**
  - Addresses an **answerable** problem
  - Important piece of larger puzzle
- **Strong science**
  - **theoretical rationale**
  - New approach that builds on what is known, and promises insight into new challenges

Answering Beautiful Questions

PPP
BBB
Set priorities / Plan your time

Manage your projects - Trello

Measure where your time goes: toggl

Weekly report

- 60.43 hours

- Project

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Beethoven

Keep a book of ideas
Develop strong, memorable themes in your research

Books & journals

Write
Read in your area
Read anything
Read in a related area

Bach & scholarly writing:
Exuberance within a rigid structure

Bach
• Wrote music to
  • Pay the bills
  • Better understand and celebrate the wonder of the universe

We
• Do research to
  • Obtain and maintain employment
  • Better understand, support, and celebrate the wonder of communication
• The contents of this presentation were developed under a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR grant number #90RE5017) to the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (RERC on AAC). NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this presentation do not necessarily represent the policy of NIDILRR, ACL, HHS, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

• We are also grateful to the Hintz Family Endowed Chair in Children’s Communicative Competence for their support of the AAC Doctoral Student Think Tank.