This FWY-funded project aims at expanding and facilitating the cross-talk between undergraduate academic training at the Department of Linguistics and Languages and hands-on practical training that students receive via placements with speech and language pathologists (SLP) in the Hamilton area. In the last year, logistic support was provided to several practicum students through reimbursement of transportation costs and office supplies. This enabled their continued interaction with SLP professionals and engagement in helping clinical populations in the community. The audio-video recording equipment, purchased with the help of the FWI funding, made it possible for the students to participate in a broader scope of projects offered at their placement sites.

Several meetings with SLP practitioners were organized, and an agreement has been reached about expanding the number of placements for the coming year, and a FWI-supported creation of an online platform that will allow for close matching students' interests with the expertise of SLP practitioners. Both measures will lead to an enriched undergraduate experience for a larger number of program students. Finally, an Open Lab day was organized by the Reading Lab at McMaster with the help of the FWI funding. This event gave the opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to present their research to visiting students, professors and SLP professionals, and facilitated both the graduate recruitment and the creation of new collaborative projects.
Other activities for the next year will include: (a) an SLP fair, i.e. an event where students aspiring for placements meet practitioners and hear about challenges that the community faces, (b) a colloquium at which students will give an overview of research literature on topics identified as critical by the SLP partners, and (c) continued logistic support for an extended number of placements.