



# The Ohio Academy of Audiology

Advancing Audiology in Ohio

## President

Ann Cola-Schuh, AuD, FAAA  
Diseases of ENT, Inc.  
600 Taylor Station Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230  
614-759-8811 ext. 302  
[schuh\\_a@yahoo.com](mailto:schuh_a@yahoo.com)

## Past President

Karen Mitchell, AuD, FAAA  
Columbus Speech & Hearing Center  
510 E. North Broadway  
Columbus, Ohio 43214  
614-791-9827  
[kmitchell@columbusspeech.org](mailto:kmitchell@columbusspeech.org)

## President Elect

Anne Moore, AuD, FAAA  
4217 Penrith Court  
Dublin, Ohio 43016  
614-791-9827  
[avm1905@columbus.rr.com](mailto:avm1905@columbus.rr.com)

## Member-at-Large

Christina Roup, PhD, FAAA  
The Ohio State University  
110 Pressey Hall  
1070 Carmack Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43210  
Phone: 614-247-8614  
[roup.2@osu.edu](mailto:roup.2@osu.edu)

## Member-at-Large

Larry D. Giovinazzo, Au.D  
Audiology and Hearing Associates, Inc.  
8700 East Market Street, Suite 2  
Warren, Ohio 44484  
330-372-4500  
[larrygiovinazzo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:larrygiovinazzo@sbcglobal.net)

## Secretary

Christine Eby, Au.D., CCC-A  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
3333 Burnet Avenue, ML 2002  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229  
513-636-1193  
[Christine.eby@cchmc.org](mailto:Christine.eby@cchmc.org)

## Treasurer

Leigh Temsey, AuD, FAAA  
Ohio ENT  
6499 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43213  
614-755-5151  
[TemseyL@ohpin.com](mailto:TemseyL@ohpin.com)

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The Honorable Mike Ross  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC, 20515-3225

Dear Representative Johnson,

On behalf of the two hundred and fifty members of the Ohio Academy of Audiology, thank you for your dedication and leadership on hearing healthcare issues and promoting policies that benefit individuals with hearing loss.

Our Academy endorses the Medicare Hearing Health Care Enhancement Act, H.R. 1665 to provide Medicare beneficiaries with the option of being evaluated by an audiologist, directly, for hearing and balance/vestibular diagnostic evaluations. This bill would improve Medicare beneficiaries' access to hearing care without diminishing the role of physicians or expanding the scope of practice for audiology.

As you already know, the Department of Veterans Affairs has allowed veterans directly see an audiologist since 1992. The VA has demonstrated that direct access for audiology services provide **quality hearing health care** (audiologists have either a Master's level or Doctoral level education) and is **cost effective**. The Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, administered by the Office of Personnel Management, and many private health plans now allow participants in their respective healthcare programs direct access to audiologists as well.

The Ohio Academy of Audiology appreciates your efforts in promoting this important initiative. Thank you for recognizing the need for improving the use of available hearing healthcare resources in American and for spreading momentum to improve access to care for hearing impaired Americans.

Respectfully,

Ann C. Schuh  
Doctor of Audiology  
President, Ohio Academy of Audiology