Navigating Change

Welcome back...we hope you were able to attend General Assembly, where we enjoyed the harmonies of the audiology chorus singing the National Anthem. Thank you to chorus director Dave Speidel, MS, who led this talented melodic group.

President Ian Windmill, PhD, graciously thanked the Program Committee, comprised of 100 volunteers. Chaired by Rebekah Cunningham, PhD, these dedicated individuals spent hours developing a comprehensive, value-added program of sessions, events, and fun activities.

Dr. Windmill acknowledged the continued support of our Academy partners who champion philanthropy, certification, accreditation, and student development, and who support and promote excellence within our profession. We also recognized those platinum corporate partners, Oticon and Starkey Hearing Technologies, who make significant contributions to the Academy in support of the convention, the organization, and the profession.

“The past 18 months have been nothing if not interesting for our profession. Certainly, not in my professional career has the subject of hearing loss been so evident inside the beltway,” said Dr. Windmill as he led into a number of “hot topic” issues facing the audiology profession.

From the PCAST report and FDA’s decision on OTC devices to the NASEM report, we have seen so much recent change affecting our profession. The need to stay on top of these activities and when necessary develop an action plan to meet those challenges is paramount.

The Academy is working to manage these challenges by integrating our committee volunteer structure and creating new subject-matter expert task forces who can tackle these issues effectively.

AudiologyNOW! is chocked full of relevant and timely information that helps you manage your day-to-day challenges on the advocacy front, with global technology, in better understanding patient outcomes, and how to effectively manage your business.

With grand-round sessions today on adult diagnostics, CAPD, and vestibular; as well as sessions on insurance and hearing aids; clinical decision-making; employee motivation; and a variety of student workshops, you are sure to gain some ideas, learn new techniques, and enhance your skill set.

If you are interested in a comprehensive lecture on pediatrics, you should make sure to attend the Marion Downs Lecture on Pediatric Audiology at 9:45 am (Room140–142). With philanthropic support provided in part by The Oticon Foundation, the lecture will feature Anu Sharma, PhD, presenting “Brain Changes in Hearing Loss.” Stop by a little early (9:00 am) right outside this lecture room, and join us for Coffee for Cause with a donation to the AAA Foundation.

This year, 18 state audiology organizations will participate in our State Fair today from 12:30 to 2:30 pm in the exhibit hall (attendee lounge). Learn more about what is happening in your state and how you can get involved.

Needs Tier 1 hours and more knowledge on evidence-based tinnitus management? Consider the three-hour lecture entitled Topics in Tinnitus with presenter and well-known tinnitus expert James Henry, PhD. With philanthropic support provided in part by Widex, this lecture is from 3:00 to 6:00 pm in Room 140–142.

The AAA Foundation works continuously with industry supporters to fund these lecture series programs as well as several other educational opportunities including scholarships, grants, the Jerger Future Leaders of Audiology Conference, and much more. The lecture series on pediatrics, tinnitus, and workplace issues on pediatrics, tinnitus, and workplace management will be available for free online at www.eaudiology.org. Today is the last day for the exhibit hall, it opens at 9:00 am and closes at 3:00 pm. Come by and connect with industry representatives, check out new products and technologies, and get an in-depth look at the product theater featuring Oticon, Inc., Signia, Sprint CapTel, and ZPower.

Make sure you have a great convention and a safe journey home. We hope to see you next year at AudiologyNOW! 2018, April 18-21, in Nashville, TN.

Keynote presenter Dr. Shelly Chadha, Medical Officer for the World Health Organization’s Programme for Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss, spoke on Global Action for Hearing Loss: Making Hearing Care Accessible to All.

5K Winners

Team First Place—Overall
Daniel Talian—Male
Jan Kofoed-Hansen—Female

First Place—Student
Bryan Greenaway—Male
Claudia Martinez Vila—Female

Teams
Team First Place—Leading the “Heard”
Team Second Place—AudConnex

This 5K run/walk was sponsored in part by Oticon.

Thank you to all our runners, walkers, and volunteers who came out in the rain and support audiology through the PAC and the AAA Foundation.

First Place—Overall
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First Place—Student
Bryan Greenaway—Male
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Audiology Technicians in the Academy
By David Jedlicka, AuD, Chair of the Academy’s Audiology Technician Subcommittee and Member of the Academy’s Membership Committee

The Support Personnel Subcommittee of the American Academy of Audiology was formed in 2015 to evaluate the need for a new membership category. A survey conducted by the American Academy of Audiology in 2012 found that 87.9 percent of audiologists believe that audiology technicians have a role in supporting patient care. There was also strong support for audiology technicians to work under a standard scope of practice and to participate in continuing education. The subcommittee is proud to announce that the audiology technician membership category is now available for enrollment.

The strong support for inclusion of audiology assistants in the clinic encouraged this subcommittee to explore other professional organizations that have successfully implemented an assistant membership category with clearly defined clinical roles for these assistants. Such organizations include the American Optometric Association and the American Physical Therapy Association.

The subcommittee also investigated the current use of technicians in audiology clinics to determine their appropriate role while maintaining the highest levels of patient care. We found the Veterans Administration’s use of audiology technicians to be the best model of appropriate clinical implementation. In addition to being one of the largest employers of audiology technicians, the VA has established its own scope of practice that helped to guide the subcommittee in its recommendations.

In 2016, the Support Personnel Subcommittee submitted recommendations to the Academy’s Board of Directors. These recommendations were based on both responses from audiologists and research regarding the role of health technicians in other professional organizations. The subcommittee recommended the creation of an audiology technician membership category and suggested that an audiologist must sponsor the technician for membership. The sponsoring audiologist is required to directly supervise the technician to ensure that the technician is working within his or her scope of practice. This recommendation was to ensure that we continue to provide high-level, appropriate care for our patients.

As the demand for audiology services continues to increase, we believe it is time to expand the Academy and grow our profession by including and supervising audiology technicians. Audiology technicians can increase an audiologist’s availability to provide the services expected of a doctoral level professional. This will add value to the services we provide while increasing the opportunities to evaluate, diagnose, and treat a greater number of individuals.

Providing a clear role for audiology technicians and embracing them as a new, separate membership category within the Academy is a needed step to strengthen the future of our profession.

For more information about this membership category, visit www.audiology.org and search with keywords “audiology technician.”

Acknowledgements: Thank you to the following committee members who helped work on the development of this new membership category: Cara Michaux, Julie Verhoff, Kelly Jahn, Nichole Kingham, Margaret Kettler, Kathryn Schwartz, and Natalie Feleppelle.
Need Preceptor Training?  
CH-AP™ Has It for Audiologists!

Last fall, the American Board of Audiology (ABA) launched its first certificate training program. The web-based Certificate Holder-Audiology Preceptor (CH-AP™) Training Program offers preceptors the information to develop the technical and professional skills needed to be successful in the audiology preceptor role. With more than one-fourth of the audiology student’s educational experience left to the responsibility of preceptors, it is essential that preceptors get the needed training for facilitating a student’s transition from being a novice clinician to becoming a competent, independent professional. The CH-AP certificate designates that an individual has completed this important training.

The learner can complete each module at his or her own pace. The learner also has access to a toolbox filled with many additional resources beyond the direct information in the modules. Successful completion of all four modules entitles the learner to a certificate of completion and inclusion on the National Registry of Audiology Preceptors™.

The CH-AP training program is open to licensed audiologists, including licensed audiologists serving as university faculty who provide audiological clinical instruction in university clinics. AuD students may register to audit courses without earning a CH-AP™ certificate. The ABA encourages every audiologist who precepts audiology students to register for this essential training program!

Participants at AudiologyNOW! can stop by Academy Central to meet with an ABA representative to learn more about CH-AP, as well as the development of a new certificate training program focused on tinnitus management. Look for information later this year on the launch of the tinnitus program.

CH-AP CONSISTS OF FOUR MODULES

MODULE 1—Role of the Preceptor in a Clinical Environment
MODULE 2—Clinical Dynamics—Assessment and Performance
MODULE 3—Creating Effective Learning Programs
MODULE 4—Legal, Ethical, and Professional Considerations

DAILY NEWS FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2017

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Let’s Work Together!
By Kayce Bramble, AuD, chair of the Academy’s BEST (Business Enhancement Strategies, and Techniques) Committee

Did you know that the American Academy of Audiology (the Academy) is supported by approximately 350 volunteers? These volunteers are regular audiologists and audiology students with varied responsibilities and busy lives. These volunteers perform a wide variety of services for the Academy. Some give just a few hours here and there while others are putting in some serious time for the benefit of the Academy and its members. Why would they do this? What’s in it for them?

Perhaps they volunteer because of the passion audiologists have for having the hearing and balance impaired. Maybe they choose to serve because it makes them feel good or possibly they just enjoy connecting with other audiologists. Whatever the reason, our profession and our Academy depend upon each and every available volunteer.

What would happen if these 350 or so volunteers decided not to volunteer any longer? One day they might find themselves simply too busy with work and home to serve the Academy. If that happened, we wouldn’t have an Academy any longer. The Academy is comprised of layers upon layers of volunteers. We depend upon each and every one and all of their contributions whether large or small.

A Helping Hand
You might be wondering, what do these volunteers actually do for the Academy? Simply put, they squeeze time out of their work days and sometimes weekends to do a little (or sometimes a lot) more work for audiology.

If you are a busy audiologist it can be difficult to find the time and opportunity that allows you to give back. The Academy has a number of volunteer opportunities, including serving on committees, task forces, special working groups, and participating in short-term projects such as authoring articles, presenting on special interest topics, or serving as a subject matter expert. It’s actually not difficult work and every audiologist is already well equipped to do the job. Some commitments are very short and others are longer. The experience of volunteering is really dependent upon what you make of it. Some audiologists choose to just try a little volunteering at first to see if they like it while others jump right in. Either way works to the benefit of all audiologists.

We All Benefit
Volunteering offers help to the profession of audiology and the people we serve, but the benefits can be even greater for the volunteer. Studies have shown that volunteering and helping others can help reduce stress (Thoits and Hewitt, 2001), combat depression (Lum and Lightfoot, 2005), keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose (Greenfield and Marks, 2004). Sometimes we just need a break and volunteering gives us a way to create more balance in our lives.

When we volunteer for our professional organization, we can help grow our profession. We are able to support both new and future audiologists. We can work together to direct the future of audiology.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and to also strengthen your network of colleagues as you build new relationships both personal and professional.

It gives you the opportunity to develop and sharpen skills used in the workplace, such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, project planning, task management, and organization. Volunteering is a perfect environment to try out new skills and build your self-confidence. A volunteer role can perfectly compliment your professional position and you may find yourself taking on new roles within your current work setting as a result of what you’ve learned as a volunteer. Sometimes a volunteer experience can lead to a career opportunity that you may have never even considered.

Join the Team
A larger pool of volunteer audiologists will bring new, diverse perspectives, voices, and influence to the Academy. You fit the bill perfectly. Volunteering is a win-win situation. Would you like to volunteer? We have both long- and short-term commitments. You can easily sign up to volunteer on the Academy Audiology Community: community.audiology.org. We would love for you to join us! DIN

Volunteer through the Academy’s Audiology Community:
COMMUNITY.AUDIOLOGY.ORG.

REFERENCES


Move Your Profession Forward—Volunteer!

Volunteer to serve the Academy and contribute your ideas, solutions, and strategies.

» Serve on a committee or task force.
» Get involved in government relations and advocacy.
» Develop an article for Academy publications and/or the website.
» Serve as a subject-matter expert.
» Help answer media and press inquiries.

Opt in to our Volunteer Pool on the Audiology Community and select opportunities that interest you.
community.audiology.org

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REFERENCES


References


Attendee Spotlight

What prompted you to attend?
This conference is a great opportunity for me to interact with renowned members of the forum and obtain take-home lessons for the international arena, especially in UAE-Sharjah.

What aspect of the meeting are you looking forward to most?
I would like to interact as much as I can with the experts in the audiology field, as this would enhance my clinical and teaching skills and enable me to deliver the best to our patients and our students respectively.

What sessions do you plan on attending?
I am looking forward to attending the vestibular and pediatric assessment sessions, and, specifically, I am looking forward to hear from Dr. Richard Gans, my mentor during the AuD program.

Muhammed Ayas, AuD, PhD
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

What prompted you to attend?
This year, I wanted to meet with many of my international research collaborators, present my research findings to an international audience, and hear about new research that is happening in this space!

What aspect of the meeting are you looking forward to most?
Australia is a long way to come for many, so being able to meet with colleagues in the United States is a great opportunity.

What sessions do you plan on attending?
Because much of my research focuses on the needs of both children and their entire family unit, I am most interested in the pediatric session titled "Creating a Successful Family Workshop for Children Who Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing."

Nerina Scarinici
St. Lucia, Australia

What prompted you to attend?
Everyone who I’ve talked to says that AudiologyNOW! is a great time—fun, very informative, a chance to make connections in the field, and spend time with colleagues, etc.

What aspect of the meeting are you looking forward to most?
There’s a lot to look forward to, but probably spending time with other audiologists-to-be and faculty and discussing what we’re learning in a more relaxed setting than the university.

What sessions do you plan on attending?
I plan on attending the session titled “The Business of Balance: How to Build, Grow, and Manage a Successful Vestibular Practice.” Also, the session titled “Fit for the Future: Are You Ready?” seems very interesting. Obviously, things are changing in audiology, and I’m definitely thinking about my future in the profession.

Sam Tillman, Student
Mount Pleasant, MI

What prompted you to attend?
It is amazing that audiologists from different parts of the world are able to come together to share their knowledge, learn from others, and explore parts of the field in one place.

What aspect of the meeting are you looking forward to most?
I am most looking forward to learning about the ongoing research and latest advancements in the field of audiology. I hope to connect with researchers, hear about their experiences, and exchange ideas.

What sessions do you plan on attending?
"Spanish-speaking Patients’ Experience with Hearing Health Care" with lead presenter Laura Gaeta. The content is novel in examining the role of culture on hearing health.

Hannah Famili, Undergraduate
Pittsburgh, PA

What prompted you to attend?
My professor said, “Every student must go to AudiologyNOW! at least once.” Those words stuck with me.

What aspect of the meeting are you looking forward to most?
Aside from getting to meet professionals in my field, mingle with my peers, and attend informative lectures, I am most looking forward to meeting the people I volunteer with on the SAA Media Committee.

What sessions do you plan on attending?
I would first like to note how impressed I was with how many lectures there are! Every single day, from morning to evening, there is something going on. I was also impressed with how “student-friendly” a lot of these lectures are. So many of them are geared toward bettering students and providing advice for the future.

Sasha Kheyfets, Student
Brooklyn, NY

What prompted you to attend?
I recently became the vice president of the Student Academy of Audiology, and I felt this would be a great opportunity to network, gain knowledge, and develop action plans that could help enhance the changing profession of audiology in a positive way.

What aspect of the meeting are you looking forward to most?
I’m looking forward to the educational sessions and gaining insight on what is important to know for audiologists who are just starting their career.

What sessions do you plan on attending?
There are many sessions that I would be interested in attending, however, I had to be conscientious of the cost and what is feasible for me at this time. I am planning to attend most of the student-oriented lectures.

Elise Drager, Student
Kalamazoo, MI
The American Academy of Audiology is committed to advancing the professional needs of audiologists at every stage of their careers. In particular, the Academy has a special interest in promoting and involving new professionals. Thus, the Academy formed the New Professionals (NP) Subcommittee in 2014 to represent the unique needs of new professionals in the field of audiology. The charge of our subcommittee is to identify and promote the needs of new professionals in audiology.

Since our inception, the NP Subcommittee has undertaken a variety of projects to promote and advance the needs of new professionals, including the following:

- Creating and executing a survey of new professionals, to better understand their needs and desires.
- Increasing communication and awareness of new professional issues to the Academy Board.
- Developing online resources for new professionals (be sure to check out the New Professionals section of the Academy’s website), specifically to assist new graduates in the transition from student to professional.
- Collaborating with the Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) to encourage SAA members to upgrade to Fellow status after graduation, and to create an easier transition from student to professional.
- Hosting a networking event each year at AudiologyNOW!, called Speak Up, Speak Out: Assembly for New Audiologists, which encourages new professionals to network with one another about current issues in our field.
- Facilitating discussion on the New Professionals Community—a discussion area on the Audiology Community website (http://community.audiology.org/home) that is just for new professionals to engage with one another.

As new professionals, we understand that the transition from student to professional can be busy, challenging, and exciting. We strive to increase communication between the Academy and new professionals, and to assist new professionals in any way that we can. We also want to connect new professionals to the Academy, as we believe that engagement in our profession is essential for continuing to advance audiology, and can have a profound impact on our own careers.

If you have not already, we highly encourage you to get involved! To do this, log into the Audiology Community website, click on the “Volunteer” tab, then “Opt in to the Volunteer Pool.” You can browse “Open Opportunities” and complete your profile to share your interests.

Above all else, we hope to hear from other new professionals. Please feel free to join the discussions within our Audiology Community group, or to contact us via e-mail. Your comments, expertise, questions, and stories are always welcome. DN

Contact Us and Get Involved!
Courtney Coburn, AuD, Chair, New Professionals Subcommittee
courtney_coburn@starkey.com
Michael Blackburn, AuD, Member, New Professionals Subcommittee
mikeblackburn@gmail.com

Stop by Booth #623 to explore GSI’s robust device lineup. Our devices are designed SMART with the audiologist in mind, providing superior ergonomic design and navigation with one-button, one-function accessibility. Built STRONG, our devices can take on the most routine to complex testing scenarios.

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Booth #623
AudiologyNOW!

While you’re visiting, stop by our AMTAS™ Coffee Bar and learn how to get a BOOST of efficiency in your practice!
The first quarter of 2017 has been hectic and enthusiastic for ACAE. On March 1, ACAE’s 2016 Standards became effective and were incorporated into ACAE’s web-based platform. We look forward to having our programs use these forward-looking doctoral standards as they prepare for initial or re-accreditation. ACAE is eager to discuss the new standards with interested program faculty at conference in the ACAE Lounge near Academy Central. Please look for us there!

An exciting part of this year has been working with our programs applying for accreditation. Two programs have been progressing with the ACAE accreditation platform and we are working with at least four more programs that hope to begin next year.

In addition, ACAE recently received a generous grant from Starkey Hearing Technologies and a second from Audigy Group. We plan to thank both groups on Thursday at our Thank-You Hour between 2:30–3:30 pm in the ACAE Lounge.

At conference this year, join us for the second Clinical Education Forum in the JW Marriott on Saturday, April 8, in Grand Ballroom 4 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. ACAE, in conjunction with the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD) planned the forum and the theme is “Student Immersion Experiences: Different Perspectives on Current Challenges and Successes.”

With the focus on the student perspective, we are pleased to have Joshua Huppert, president of the Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) and Madison Saunders, member of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA), speak about several student points of view. Mark DeRutter, PhD; Lisa L. Hunter, PhD; Sharon Sandridge, PhD; and Gail Whitelaw, XXX, are the university professors and clinical educators who will present and/or preside over the sessions.

This year, we will have guest speaker, Marshall Hill, executive director, State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), join us to demystify the saga related to student clinical placements in different states.

Another key aspect of the program will be audience interactive participation around several tables in the ballroom. During this time, discussions devoted to pressing clinical problems will take place, such as site visits during externships; challenging students/difficult conversations; communication (e.g., establishing the initial contact—the triad) setting the stage for success; evaluation; SARA, and more.

We think this will be a formidable series of presentations and discussions around topics that are critical to the AuD education. Please plan to attend, participate, learn from one another, and enjoy this clinical education experience!

Clinical Education Forum—Student Immersion Experiences: Different Perspectives on Current Challenges and Successes
Saturday, April 8, 8:00 am–12:00 pm
JW Marriott, Grand Ballroom 5

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* Canadian Audiology, Vol. 3, Issue 5, 2016. “A Canadian Evaluation of Real-Life Satisfaction of Hearing Aids in Challenging Environments.” By Ryan Kalef, BSc, MSc, Aud(D); RAUD Carol A. Deak MA (Aud); RAUD D. Hodge MA (Aud); MA (Sp & H Th) Rachel Liu, AuD, Aud(D); Reg. CASLPO Melissa McFadden, MSc, Reg. CASLPO Andrew Sharpe, MSc.
Academy Research Conference 2018: Genetics and Hearing Loss
Save the Date!

By Jennifer Shinn, PhD, Chair of the Academy’s Research Committee

The American Academy of Audiology’s Academy Research Conference (ARC) 2018 will be the 10th meeting of an annual one-day translational research conference that was launched in 2009.

ARC provides clinicians and researchers with a unique opportunity to, together, take a day-long "deep dive" into a clinically important research area. The series of conferences are equally designed for audiologists who wish to improve their clinical practices by gaining a better understanding of cutting-edge research, and scientists who want to keep abreast of recent developments in translational research and engage in conversations with clinicians that may spur collaborative relationships and inform their future work.

Post-doctoral fellows and doctoral students in audiology and the hearing sciences will also have the opportunity to join the thought-provoking discussions at ARC, with some competitively selected to make poster presentations as a means of encouraging our emerging scientists. In keeping with the mission of ARC to make research available to practitioners, the conferences are held each year on the opening day of AudiologyNOW®

ARC 2018 will convene on April 18, in Nashville, Tennessee, with a program on “Genetics and Hearing Loss.” This topic exemplifies ARC’s public health relevance, as it will address an area of auditory science that is already impacting the clinical care of infants and young children and is poised to transform the broader hearing care field. Hearing loss is the most common congenital sensory impairment.

ARC 2018 will provide presentations that focus on basic genetics instruction and state-of-the-art genetics research. Additionally, the conference will bring together scientists and clinicians to initiate collaborative opportunities to further genetics education and research in the audiology community.

The Academy encourages you to join us for this outstanding conference, as we prepare to celebrate a decade of ARC and the Academy’s 30th anniversary and continued commitment to research and clinical practice. This event is guaranteed to provide audiologists with the latest on genetics research as it relates to hearing impairment in clinical practice.

Visit www.academyresearchconference.org for more information.

Chaired by Dr. Kathleen Arnos from Gallaudet University, ARC 2018 will feature a group of world-renowned speakers to share their expertise on genetics and hearing loss as follows:

The Basics of Genetics for the Clinician
Marci Lesperance, MD, Pediatric Otolaryngologist, University of Michigan

Genetic Testing and Counseling in the Era of Precision Medicine
Arti Pandya, MD, Pediatric Clinical Geneticist, University of North Carolina

Complex Inheritance of Noise-Induced and Age-Related Hearing Loss
Lawrence Lustig, MD, Neurotologist, Columbia University Medical Center

Genetic Associations with Vestibular Disorders and Unilateral Hearing Loss
Kelley Dodson, MD, Pediatric Otolaryngologist, Virginia Commonwealth University

Gene Therapy and Other Treatments
Cynthia Morton, PhD, Medical Geneticist, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard University

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES
Can you find the 8 differences in these two pictures? ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE 11.

Photo credit: Action Sports Photography / Shutterstock.com
Answers

- Changed woman’s yellow jacket to purple.
- Flipped “75” logo on green jacket upside down.
- Removed stands in far background.
- Changed pillow under crown to green.
- Added three security cameras under awning.
- Changed name on green jacket to “Softer.”
- Gave helmet visor an iridescent coating.
- Changed can in hand to Coca-Cola.
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