

**American Academy of Audiology
Board of Directors Meeting
Atlanta, GA
April 16, 2024**

MEMBER SUMMARY

President: Bopanna Ballachanda, PhD

President-elect: Patricia Gaffney, AuD

Immediate Past President: Virginia Ramachandran, AuD, PhD

Board Members:

- **Term Ending '24:** Nichole Kingham, AuD. Chizuko Tamaki, AuD, PhD, Saunja Burt, AuD, MBA
- **Term Ending '25:** Ursula Findlen, PhD, Kaitlyn Kennedy, AuD, Lachelle Lazarus, AuD
- **Term Ending '26:** Kwame Curtis, AuD. Wafaa Kaf, MBBCh, MSc, PhD, Meagan Bachmann, AuD

Ex-Officio: Janna Orr, SAA Liaison; Patrick Gallagher, MBA, Executive Director

Staff: Larry Burner, Amy Miedema, Susan Pilch, Anne Poodiack, Rachael Sifuentes, Kitty Werner

Guests: Carol Cokely (ACAE); Council chairs Brenna Carrol (PD), Laura Gaeta (SAAS & ACAE), Vicki Gonzalez (SAAS), Becky Lewis (PD & ABA), Ginny Milne (MELD), Tracy Murphy (Advocacy), Sam Robler (Advocacy), Tricia Scaglione (AAAF), Hilary Steele (MELD), Devon Weist (AAAF)

1. The board accepted the report of the clean audit for the FY23 financials.
2. The board approved the release of the publication “American Academy of Audiology Clinical Consensus Statement: Assessment of Vestibular Function in the Pediatric Population.” The report will be presented at the upcoming BARANY Society conference.
3. The Guidelines and Strategic Documents Committee will undertake a full review of the new clinical guidelines from AAO-HNS on age-related hearing loss in consideration for endorsement. The AAO-HNS request for endorsement before publication did not allow sufficient time for the Academy’s review process, so any endorsement will be post-publication.
4. The [Academy website](#) includes the current strategic documents as well as those under development or review by the Guidelines and Strategic Documents Committee.
5. The board reviewed the council reports and updates on OKR progress.
6. The board approved modifications to the governance structure to support greater focus and efficiency within the organization. The streamlined model will also support the ability to have more short-term task forces to work on targeted deliverables. The board will discuss at a future meeting the implementation of the new structure.
7. The Honors and Awards ad hoc workgroup submitted an update on its assessment of the Academy’s awards program. The workgroup is using data collected from a brief member survey, as well as further

analysis, to consider the need for any modifications to enhance the value of the program to the membership. The 2025 awards cycle will remain the same as this year, and any changes to the program will not be considered for implementation until 2026.

8. The board accepted a recommendation from the Member Engagement and Recognition Committee (MERC) to discontinue using the term “Fellow” for the Academy’s professional membership category. The committee concluded that it is a misrepresentation to the public given what fellow means in different professions and recommended creating a member recognition program consistent with other uses of the term fellow. A proposed bylaws change will go out to the members for feedback, and the board will consider any feedback received before finalizing bylaws amendments to capture the change in nomenclature for the membership category.

9. Carol Cokely, chair of ACAE, joined the board to discuss accreditation activities and strategic priorities of the organization. The board will continue dialogue with ACAE about its activities and opportunities for enhanced collaboration with the Academy.

10. The board received updates on current advocacy priorities.

11. Staff provided updated registration data and program details for AAA 2024.

12. The board met with the council chairs (current, elect, and past) for a discussion about the root issues surrounding identified challenges to the Academy and the profession.