

American Academy of Audiology
Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual
January 23, 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 Bauchman, AuD

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

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

Council & Partner Chairs Guests: Brenna Carroll, Cheryl Edward, Laura Gaeta, Vicki Gonzalez, Becky Lewis, Samantha Lewis, Ryan McCreery, Tracy Murphy, Samantha Robler, Kristin Samuelson, Tricia Scaglione, Hillary Steele

**absent*

1. Board members and other volunteer leaders will use their communication networks as a strategy to highlight activities and updates within the Academy. This strategy is part of an ongoing effort for increased member outreach.
2. Council leaders joined the Academy board for a discussion on how to enhance member value by focusing the Academy's priorities on activities that are most impactful to members. Part of this ongoing discussion will be to address the effectiveness of the organizational structure in advancing the highest priorities for the organization and its members.
3. The Academy board engaged in a strategic discussion about the importance of focusing and prioritizing activities to have the most tangible impact on issues of greatest importance to members and the organization. To focus on effective interventions, however, will necessitate a clear understanding of the root causes of these issues. The Academy leadership will continue this discussion and delve deeper into the core of the most critical issues that the profession faces and to ensure that we optimize Academy resources to focus on the highest priorities.
4. Advocacy efforts continue to advance the Medicare Audiology Access Improvement Act by securing additional Congressional support and other endorsements with the hope of securing the inclusion of the bill with larger legislation or movement as a stand-alone bill. Other current advocacy efforts include addressing changes in policy coverage, pursuing appointments of audiologists to national policy boards, and seeking recognition of audiology as a stem profession.

5. AAA 2024 will feature over 150 educational sessions, 170 posters, 2 general sessions, peer-to-peer engagement activities, and other learning opportunities. The new “Beyond the Booth” series offers professional development focused on early-career audiologists looking for more guidance and training to advance their careers. Dr. Abraham Verghese, author of *The Covenant of Water*, will be the keynote speaker for the opening session.
6. The board reviewed the council and OKR reports to monitor work in advancing the current strategic priorities.