

**American Academy of Audiology
Board of Directors Virtual Meeting
October 17-19, 2024**

Member Summary

President: Patricia Gaffney, AuD, MPH

President-elect: Dave Zapala, PhD, AuD

Immediate Past President: Bopanna Ballachanda, PhD

Board Members:

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

Term Ending '27: Brenna Carroll, AuD, Maria Pomponio, AuD, Greta Stamper, AuD, PhD

Ex-Officio: Lindee Alvarez, SAA Liaison; Patrick Gallagher, MBA, Executive Director

Staff: Larry Burner, Stephanie Dumey, Anne Poodiack, Mary Lynn Rynkiewicz, Rachael Sifuentes, Kitty Werner

Guests: Courtney Glavin, AuD, PhD, former chair of the Leadership Development Committee; Kelly King, AuD, Program Officer from the National Institute for Deafness and Communication Disorders; Tracy Murphy, AuD and Samantha Robler, AuD, PhD, Advocacy Council chair and chair-elect; Hillary Steele, AuD, past chair of the Membership Engagement Council; Scott Yokum, PNC Bank & Investments; Joanne Zurcher, incoming staff member

- ☐ The board reviewed the expansion of the councils and their increased responsibilities with the governance of the organizational activities and advancing strategic initiatives.
- ☐ Kelly King, AuD, joined the board to provide a general overview of the National Institute of Deafness and Communication Disorder's goals and its role as the lead federal agency promoting hearing loss as a public health issue.
- ☐ The board discussed state efforts to expand the audiologist's scope of practice and the role of the Academy in addressing the implications of scope expansion. The board recognized that having the ability to do more offers increased efficiency for the patient experience and allows flexibility, particularly in rural areas. The Academy's *Code of Ethics* document includes broad language that supports role expansion but also dictates that audiologists perform only those services, such as those involving greater clinical decision-making, in which one is prepared. The board provided feedback on a draft policy statement relevant to states' efforts for scope of practice expansion.
- ☐ A review of the evolution of AuD education led to a discussion of current issues driving questions about the AuD model. A Clinical Educator Task Force will be formed to assess the needs of clinical faculty/preceptors that the Academy might address.
- ☐ Courtney Glavin, a council member and former chair of the Leadership Development Council, joined the board to discuss efforts to fortify the Academy's leadership pipeline.
- ☐ The Academy's investment advisor from PNC provided an overview of the Academy's investment portfolio and advised that the asset allocation is consistent with the organization's investment policy. The board reaffirmed the investment policy.
- ☐ Larry Burner, Senior Director of Finance and Administration, reviewed the board's fiduciary responsibilities and provided a brief orientation.
- ☐ The Advocacy Council leaders and new staff joined the board to discuss current advocacy efforts.

- Patrick Gallagher, Executive Director, led the board in discussing strategy and refining the focus of the organization on those activities that may be the most impactful. The board supported an overarching, revised mission statement: “Dedicated to achieving recognition of audiologists as the experts in balance and hearing health care and the field of audiology as an independent clinical specialty that is integral to the clinical healthcare team.”
- Lindee Alvarez, president of the SAA, reported on restructuring within the board and committees of SAA and the current activities.
- The board approved the recommendation of the Fellow Task Force for a program of distinction that will award the Distinguished Fellow recognition. The board charged the task force with developing an evaluation rubric and nominations process for recognition.
- The board accepted the recommendations of the Honors & Awards Task Force for a revision to award categories effective for the 2025-6 cycle.
- The board approved the formation of a task force to review the AAA Foundation scholarship process and guidelines for the 2025 cycle.
- The board discussed strategies to keep abreast of key issues and provide timely direction for the organization. The Academy will use member task forces to provide background information and recommendations on current topics as needed, such as artificial intelligence. The formation of new task forces requires board approval, and, in general, councils will then provide oversight of task forces and appoint members.
- The board opted to convene more frequently and has added meeting dates to the annual calendar.