

**American Academy of Audiology
Board of Directors Virtual Meeting
February 20, 2025**

Member Summary

President: Patricia Gaffney, AuD, MPH

President-elect: Dave Zapala, PhD, AuD

Immediate Past President: Bopanna Ballachanda, PhD

Board Members:

Term Ending '25: Lachelle Lazarus, AuD

Term Ending '26: Kwame Curtis, AuD, Wafaa Kaf, MBChB, 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

Guest: Ethan Platt, AuD

Staff: Kitty Werner

- Ethan Platt, Chair of the DEIB Committee, joined the board to discuss the DEIB committee activities focused on recruitment efforts. The board affirmed this work as an extension of work initiated previously by the Inclusion, Representation and Equity (IRE) Steering Group but also having a broader scope. The board directed the DEIB Committee to draft a message supporting workforce diversity in the interest of the health of the nation.
- The board considered the recommendation of the Clinical and Scientific Excellence Council for the Academy to adopt the inclusive language guidance prepared by the American Psychological Association (APA). The Guidelines and Strategic Documents Committee and the editors of JAAA identified the need to have guidance to give to authors that would be the standard to use in Academy publications. The board recognized the value of having consistency in language but also urged flexibility if individual authors have workplace restrictions that may necessitate the use of specific terms. The board approved the adoption of the APA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Inclusive Language Guide (2nd Ed.) for Academy publications.
- SAA President Lindee Alvarez reports on the strong registration and planning for the SAA Conference to be held in conjunction with AAA 2025.
- Academy President Patricia Gaffney reviewed with the board the responsibilities during AAA 2025.