



South Carolina Academy of Audiology

QUARTERLY UPDATE

FALL 2017

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At the 2017 AuDacity conference, ADA President, Dr. Angela Morris, presented the **South Carolina Academy of Audiology (SCAA)** with the President's Service Award for Advocacy, to recognize SCAA's contributions to ADA's advocacy efforts in support of its mission.

"The South Carolina Academy of Audiology was the first organization to endorse the Audiology Patient Choice Act in 2013," noted Dr. Morris. "Since that time, SCAA and its members have worked tirelessly to promote this legislation to audiology members and members of Congress. We cannot thank them enough for their hard work!"



2018 CONFERENCE
LOCATION:
CHARLESTON, SC

*Alone
we are
strong,
Together
we are
stronger.*

The 2017 AuDacity Conference brought together some of the best and brightest audiologists within the profession! On Tuesday, September 26th, several outstanding audiologists were recognized for their significant contributions to the profession of audiology.

Dr. Angela Morris, ADA President, presented **Kristin Davis, Au.D.** and **Alexandra Tarvin, Au.D.** with the Craig W. Johnson Audiology Advocate Award, which was established to honor the memory and accomplishments of Craig W. Johnson and to recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to the profession of audiology through federal and/or state advocacy.

According to Dr. Morris, "Drs. Davis and Tarvin have been instrumental in advancing the Audiology Patient Choice Act in Congress. They have mobilized legislators and audiologists to secure public policy changes that will improve patient care and provide professional parity for audiologists with other clinical doctoring professionals. Dr. Davis and Dr. Tarvin are the examples to follow for effective advocacy to move the profession forward."



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Kati Hinrichsen, AuD, CCC-A (Summerville, SC)



- ◇ Originally a farm kid from South Dakota who found audiology through friends and family members with hearing loss
- ◇ Completed AuD at the University of Nebraska with research and clinical experience from Boys Town National Research Hospital
- ◇ Specializes in pediatrics; completed her externship at the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia
- ◇ Seeking warmer weather, she migrated to SC in 2011; based in Summerville with Charleston ENT
- ◇ Works with all ages, but still loves pediatrics and does a lot of ABR testing
- ◇ In her free time you'll find her backpacking, traveling, or seeking out a concert!

**SOUTH CAROLINA
ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY**





SCAA partners with Special Olympics South Carolina Healthy Hearing

“Special Olympics is a global movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, where every single person is accepted and welcomed, regardless of ability or disability. We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place -- one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time.”

The mission of Special Olympics Healthy Athletes is designed to help Special Olympics athletes improve their health and fitness, leading to enhanced sports experience and improved well-being. All screenings and information are completely free to all registered Special Olympics South Carolina athletes. The Healthy Hearing program was founded in 1999. South Carolina is fortunate to have many healthy athletes programs including Fit Feet, Fun Fitness, Healthy Promotion, Healthy Hearing, Opening Eyes, and Special Smiles.

SCAA has partnered with Special Olympics South Carolina to participate in the Healthy Athletes program. Through this program, we will screen 150+ athletes at each Special Olympics event with the long-term goal of increasing that number significantly. Currently, there are two state events. The fall games are held in November in Greenville, SC and the spring games are held in May in Ft. Jackson, SC. Each event has upwards of 1000 people in attendance counting volunteers, parents/loved ones, and athletes. In the future, we hope to be more involved with Special Olympics at the local level as well. Each event will require many volunteers to help with set-up, tear down, and audiology screening of the athletes. This is a phenomenal way to give back to the community and increase SCAA and audiology's visibility across the state. In order to volunteer, you will need to be trained on the processes and protocols prior to your first event. A training date will be held prior to this to ensure everyone has a good knowledge of what to expect. After screenings are completed, referrals will be made for those athletes that require further medical evaluation. SCAA looks forward to growing this program for years to come and we appreciate your involvement and support.

SAVE THE DATE:

2018 Annual Conference

Courtyard Marriott, 125 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC

SPEAKERS:

Debbie Abel, AuD

Debbie Abel, AuD, received her Bachelor and Master's degrees from Kent State University and her AuD from the Arizona School of Health Sciences. She spent 13 years in private practice in Alliance, OH and recently became the manager of Coding and Contracting Services for Audigy. She is also associated with Arch Health Partners in Poway, CA, where she provides audiologic services on a limited schedule. Dr. Abel is an adjunct assistant professor at A. T. Still and Salus Universities. Formerly the Academy of Audiology's Senior Specialist, Practice Management, she was the Director of Reimbursement and Practice Compliance and served as an Academy Board member-at-large and as the chair of the Academy's Coding and Reimbursement Committee and a member of the Academy's Ethical Practice Board. She currently sits on the Practice Compliance Committee and is serving on the board of the American Academy of Audiology Foundation.

Jason Wigand, AuD

Jason P. Wigand, AuD, CCC-A is an assistant professor, audiologist, and clinical director of the cochlear implant program at the University of South Carolina's Speech & Hearing Research Center. He received his AuD from The Ohio State University. As a researcher, audiologist and late-deafened adult and bilateral cochlear implant recipient, Dr. Wigand is passionate about helping and educating adult and pediatric hearing-impaired patients and their families. He has provided care in both private practice and non-profit settings and is continually engaged in contributing to the research and collaboration needed to forward the practice and profession of audiology as the primary provider of care for individuals with balance and hearing-impairments.

Richard Gans, PhD

Founder and executive director of The American Institute of Balance, one of the largest balance centers in the U.S.A., Dr. Gans received his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in Auditory-Vestibular Physiology. For over 20 years he has been a leader in the development of vestibular evaluation and rehabilitation techniques, including tests of oscillopsia and postural stability as well as BPPV treatment. He has presented or published over 150 programs and papers worldwide in the area of equilibrium disorders. He is the author of 8 textbook chapters and texts ranging from diagnostic vestibular testing, vestibular rehabilitation, BPPV treatments and pediatric vestibular evaluation. Thieme Medical Publishers will publish his upcoming textbook, Evaluation and Management of Balance Disorders in Children and Adults. His most current research is in the areas of pediatrics, migraine and psychiatric aspects of dizziness. Dr. Gans served as the President of the American Academy of Audiology (2004-2005) and continues to be active in professional and governmental issues. He is an adjunct professor at Nova Southeastern University and the University of South Florida.

Meredith Holcomb, AuD

Meredith Holcomb, AuD, CCC-A is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery and the Clinical Director of the Cochlear Implant Program at the Medical University of South Carolina. She received her AuD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006. For the past 12 years, she has worked with adult and pediatric cochlear implant patients. Dr. Holcomb serves on the Board of Directors for the American Cochlear Implant Alliance and the Audiology Advisory Council for Advanced Bionics Corporation. She is the President-Elect for the South Carolina Academy of Audiology and the SC representative for the ASHA Audiology Advisory Council. She is also a faculty member for the Institute for Cochlear Implant Training.



CEU OPPORTUNITIES:



- SCAA 2018 January 18-19 Charleston
- MUSC Pediatric Audiology Conference March 23, 2018 Charleston
- Audiology Now! April 18-21 2018 Nashville

The Clinic Corner:



Making Acoustics Our Friend

Ahh, acoustics! How about psychoacoustics? Indeed, most of us could not confidently teach a lesson about these topics without some time to refresh and dust off our textbooks! However, it is worth reconsidering the basics.

When troubleshooting for sound quality issues, problems are often related to the patient's perception of loudness or pitch; it is our job to figure out which it is and how to fix it!

We all know the powerful difference that earmold or dome size adjustments make. That is acoustics at work! The ear canal is a place of resonance where sounds are naturally boosted. We want to be careful not to over amplify in open hearing aid fittings or under amplify in occluded fittings. Real ear measures are our most objective way of accounting for the effects of acoustical changes we make.

Consider the difference just a few decibels make on the perception of sound. An SPL change of 10 dB has the perceptual change of being twice as loud! That means a "non-significant" change on our audiogram may indeed be significant after all and warrant reprogramming! Get your patients on board with aiming for optimal hearing and it might make all the difference for you and them! Keep these suggestions mind:

- With greater degrees of low frequency hearing loss, occluding the ear canal may help naturally boost the low frequency gain. You may look to fit a larger dome, based on the physical size of the patient's ear canal.
- Increased feedback often results from sound "leakage" due to greater need for additional gain, especially in the higher frequencies, with increasing degrees of hearing loss severity.
- Patient performance with directional microphones is best when they stay within about 6 feet of the sound source.