

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



BRADEN BAKER – KEYNOTE ADDRESS

In June of 2017, Braden’s dog, Chewy, ate his hearing aids! After his parents lectured him on the importance of taking better care of them since they can be quite expensive, and insurance does not cover his, Braden decided to do something about it. Being a huge Ellen fan, he asked himself, “what would Ellen do?”. Braden then launched a GoFundMe campaign with the goal of raising money for people who can’t afford hearing aids and advertised on his moms Facebook page. Little did he know that this small idea would fuel some huge outcomes in the months to follow.

Since Braden wears Oticon hearing aids, it was a natural choice to choose The Oticon Hearing Foundation as the recipient of his funds. This relationship has allowed him to supply hearing instruments to not only individuals in the US, but in other parts of the world. Braden was able to travel with the Entheos Audiology Hearing The Call Missions group to not only Guatemala, but most recently to Zambia, Africa. The connections he’s made with other hearing impaired children and various people and groups has been unbelievable. He’s even started a campaign with his own slogan of, “find your purpose and do something with it”. He now has a website selling shirts with funding going back to the foundation. After appearing on the Ellen show last October, the outpouring of support not just financially, but emotionally has been huge in recognizing and acknowledging the needs of the hearing impaired community. There is still more work to be done and people to serve, he’s not done yet!!!



LISA CHRISTENSEN – AAA PRESIDENT-ELECT

Lisa Christensen is the Audiology Program Manager at Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Christensen has devoted a large amount of her professional career to osseointegrated devices in children. Her research in this area has led to several peer reviewed publications and lectures around the world on this topic. Her other interests include pediatric diagnostics and amplification, and acquired hearing loss in children and adults. Throughout her career, Dr. Christensen has served on numerous committees for AAA and has been involved in several state academies. In 2014, she was awarded the AAA State Leaders Active Advocate of the Year. Dr. Christensen currently serves as the President-Elect of the American Academy of Audiology.

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LAURIE LAMB, OT/MSCPM

Laurie Lamb, OT/MSCPM is the Business Operations Manager for Rehabilitation Services at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Ms. Lamb is a Licensed Occupational Therapist with an advanced degree in Clinical Practice Management with a focus in Healthcare Administration. Prior to Cook Children's, the majority of her practice has been involved with adult rehabilitation services serving as Director of Clinical Services and Director of Rehabilitation for a number of national rehabilitation companies. She has also worked as an Appeals and Denial Specialist assisting in recovery of lost revenue by writing and filing appeals based on CMS and commercial denials and has testified before Administrative Law Judges in an effort to advocate for rehabilitation services on behalf of patients and the companies that rendered services. Throughout her career, Ms. Lamb has served on various advisory boards to include the American Cancer Society, National MS Society, Mayor's Committee on Disability Awareness, as well as various payer relations committees regionally and nationally.



GARY ROSENBLUM

Gary Rosenblum is the US President for Oticon, a division of William Demant Holdings, a global leader in hearing healthcare. Oticon is one of the world's most innovative hearing device manufacturers with more than 110 years of experience putting the needs of people with hearing loss first. Oticon has spearheaded a number of technological breakthroughs which have made a significant difference for people with hearing loss. Gary is responsible for driving forward Oticon's leadership in innovation, product quality and customer support. He brings a rich understanding of how healthcare customers are adapting to a changing hearing care marketplace.



ANDREA WARNER-CYZ, PH.D.

Andrea Warner-Cyz, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Disorders at the University of Texas at Dallas. Her research centers on how young children with hearing loss who wear cochlear implants develop, from speech and language skills to speech perception to quality of life. She focuses on early markers of performance to identify pediatric cochlear implant recipients at risk for poorer outcomes in communication abilities or quality of life.



DOUGLAS L. BECK, AU.D.

Dr. Beck earned his master's at the University of Buffalo and his doctorate from the University of Florida. Beck joined Oticon in 2005 as Director of Professional Relations, from 2008 through 2015 he was Web Content Editor for AAA. In 2016, Beck became Senior Editor for Clinical Research at Hearing Review and adjunct Clinical Professor of Communication Disorders at State University of New York. In 2017 he became the Executive Director of Academic Sciences for Oticon. Beck has published 168 articles and some 1200 abstracts, interviews and op-eds written for AAA (2008-2015) and Audiology Online (1999-2005) addressing audiology and professional topics.



SHAWNA JACKSON, AU.D.

Shawna Jackson is an audiologist and faculty associate for the Callier Center at University of Texas at Dallas. She has significant experience in working with difficult to treat patients in diagnostics and rehabilitation. Currently, Dr. Jackson's primary role at the Callier Center includes clinical management of special populations including tinnitus.



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LAUREL GREGORY, M.A.

Laurel is Director of Training & Development at Entheos Audiology Cooperative, providing workshops, training and growth opportunities with a focus on culture building & employee engagement. Prior to Entheos, Laurel worked in the field of audiology for over 25 years as a private practice audiologist, research audiologist, Manager of Clinical Research (ReSound and Starkey), Director of Product Management (Starkey) and Chief Engagement Officer at Skafold Consulting. Laurel has presented on the topic of career and team engagement at several state and national conferences- including AAA and ADA, and at various Universities.



STEPHANIE FOWLER

Stephanie L. Fowler is an audiology extern at the Callier Center for Communication Disorders and doctoral student at The University of Texas at Dallas. Her research focuses on the role of music in quality of life in adolescents with hearing loss.

KIM FIORENTINO, AU.D.

Kim Fiorentino, AuD, is a Pediatric Cochlear Implant Audiologist and Faculty Association at The University of Texas at Dallas Callier Center for Communication Disorders.



VINAYA MANCHAIH, PH.D.

Dr. Vinaya Manchaiah serves as the Jo Mayo Endowed Professor at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. He has worked in various clinical, educational, research and administrative roles in hearing healthcare. His research mainly focuses on promoting self-management in people with hearing and balance disorders with the applications of eHealth.



STEVE MADIX, PH.D.

Steve Madix is an Associate Professor of Audiology at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA. Dr. Madix has been very active in Audiology advocacy both at the state and national level. He is the founding President of LAA and serves on many AAA committees. Dr. Madix was a participant in the 2014 Jerger Future Leaders of Audiology Conference (JFLAC) which is sponsored by the American Academy of Audiology His other professional interests include hearing screenings and the use of technology with hearing screenings and advocacy of the hearing profession.



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SAMUEL N. BITTEL, AU.D.

Dr. Bittel is the vestibular program director for Hearing & Balance Specialists of Kansas City. He is also an assistant professor in the audiology and neurology departments at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He teaches the doctoral audiology vestibular course, supervises graduate audiology research and clinic, and lectures to neurology staff, residents, and fellows on electrophysiology and vestibular evaluation/treatment. Dr. Bittel regularly publishes and lectures nationally on topics related to vestibular evaluation and management. His current work includes a forthcoming book chapter in a vestibular-specific text. He serves in leadership roles in numerous state and national audiology organizations.

NICHOLE KINGHAM, AU.D.

Dr. Kingham currently works with Practice Development Groups to help implement an Audiology Assistant or Technician into private practice Audiology and medical Ear, Nose and Throat clinics. She has spoken in many different venues, including state academy conferences, ADA, AAA, Phonak and GNReSound Practice Development, ELITE Front Desk Training, University of Washington and the Washington Audiology Alliance. Dr. Kingham was awarded a master's degree in Audiology at the University of Washington and obtained her clinical doctorate from A.T. Still University. She was awarded the Future Leaders in Audiology Award in 2012 and is the Past President of Washington State Audiology Academy. She is a current member of the AAA Audiology Assistant Subcommittee. Dr. Kingham has worked in private practice since 2003, where she hired the first Audiology Assistant in Washington State and has trained and promoted Audiology Assistants since 2009. She also owns and operates a successful practice in Issaquah, Washington.



SARAH GRINN, AU.D.

Dr. Sarah Grinn is a Ph.D. candidate at UT Dallas under the mentorship of Dr. Colleen Le Prell. Dr. Grinn holds an Au.D. from the University of Florida, with a primary clinical interest in diagnostic audiology. Her research interests include identifying mechanical, external ear properties that may contribute to individual susceptibility to noise-induced hearing loss, in addition to identifying electrophysiological and functional correlates of noise-induced auditory injury. Dr. Grinn is a committed contributor to progressive gold-standards for evidence-based clinical care, and progressive regulatory protection of populations at risk for noise-induced hearing loss.

ERIN SHAFER, PH.D.

Dr. Erin C. Schafer is a Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Audiology at the University of North Texas, where she has been a faculty member since 2005. She received her Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2005. Her research programs focus on the assessment and (re)habilitation of adults and children with hearing loss and auditory disorders.

