

Into The Woodlands...An Audiology Fairytale

2018 Session Summaries

“Unraveling the Mystery of Dizziness and Disequilibrium”

Tier 1

Samuel N. Bittel, AuD

Topic/Content: Vestibular diagnostics and treatment

Audiologists who evaluate/treat patients with dizziness/disequilibrium must have a firm grasp on the workings of the peripheral vestibular system. This presentation will give an overview of anatomy/physiology, address basic laws that govern vestibular science, describe common conditions, discuss treatment options, and present several case studies. Synthesizing clinical findings to help create an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan will be discussed.

“Once Upon a Walk in Someone Else’s Glass Slippers”

Tier 1

Laurel Gregory, M.A.

Topic/Content: Practice Management

Like glass slippers, our personality styles are not one size fits all. Our styles influence how we communicate, interact and react with our co-workers and patients, both positively and negatively. Like great dancers, we also need to learn our partners’ styles. Come learn your personality profile and how it influences your interactions with others, recognize the personality styles of your coworkers and patients and learn to modify or “style step” your communication and actions.

“How to Incorporate Au.D. Assistants into Your Busy Practice”

Tier 1

Nichole Kingham

Topic/Content: Practice Development

The Audiology Assistant is an underutilized tool in the busy hearing healthcare clinic for boosting productivity and improving patient care. This course will illustrate how a busy practice can successfully train and incorporate an audiology assistant and will give examples of how productivity and patient care can be improved. We'll also discuss the top 10 mistakes front desk managers make and how Audiology Assistants can make it easier to mind those gaps.

“Ethical Considerations for Future Developments”

Ethics

Steve Madix, Ph.D.

Topic/Content: Ethics

The landscape of hearing healthcare is always evolving, but the implications of OTCs, audiology assistants, and potentially newly defined roles for audiologist adds relatively new wrinkles to how we might potentially approach or consider the ethics of how we practice.

“Hot Topics in Educational and Pediatric Audiology”

Erin Schafer, Ph.D. (and contributor Cheryl DeConde Johnson)

Topic/Content: Pediatrics

This presentation by members of the Educational Audiology Association (EAA) will provide information and allow for discussion on three hot topics in educational and pediatric audiology: legislation; management of children with mild, minimal and unilateral hearing loss; the latest and greatest information on remote-microphone technology for children with hearing loss.

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“Real-World Implementation of the Pediatric Minimum Speech Test Battery”

Andrea Warner-Czyz, Ph.D.

Topic/Content: Pediatric, best practices

Assessment of patient outcomes and documentation of treatment efficacy is an essential component of (re)habilitative audiology. Until recently, no standardized protocol existed for speech perception assessment in children with hearing loss. The Pediatric Minimum Speech Test Battery fills this gap, allowing tracking of performance of children using various auditory technologies for comparison within-subjects, between-subjects, and across facilities, to aid in clinical decision-making.

“Amplification and Normal Hearing”

Douglas L. Beck, Au.D.

Topic/Content: Cognition, Amplification

Many people cannot understand speech in noise. Appreciably, given hearing loss, it makes sense to fit appropriate amplification to make more sounds audible. However, 15% of adults with normal hearing have difficulty understanding speech in noise. Similarly, approximately 20-25% of people with unrelenting tinnitus have normal hearing. In this presentation, we'll review and discuss issues relating to fitting amplification on patients with normal hearing.

“Pediatric Issues in Amplification”

Douglas L Beck, Au.D.

Topic/Content: Cognition & Amplification

Diagnosing and managing children with hearing loss can be challenging. In this presentation, we will examine the peer-reviewed and published literature to fully explore multiple issues in hearing aid amplification, with specific regard to fitting children with sophisticated hearing aid amplification.

“Impact of Music on the Social and Emotional Well-Being of Adolescents with Hearing Loss”

Stephanie L. Fowler and Kim Fiorentino, Au.D.

Topic/Content: Pediatrics, Psychosocial Development, Quality of Life

Adolescents with hearing loss (HL) have higher rates of mental health and social problems than hearing peers. Hearing adolescents use music as an emotional coping strategy and social interaction tool, but adolescents with HL may not use this strategy due to limitations of the acoustic signal in a damaged auditory system. This talk reviews the literature investigating engagement with music in adolescents with and without HL and presents unique cases of adolescent musicians with HL.

“Internet-Based Intervention for Adults with Tinnitus”

Vinaya Manchaiah, Ph.D.

Topic/Content: Tinnitus / Audiologic Rehabilitation

Specialist tinnitus services are in high demand as a result of the negative effect tinnitus may have on quality of life. Additional low cost and clinically effective tinnitus management routes are imperative. One such route is providing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for tinnitus via the Internet (iCBT). This talk details the project that to develop and evaluate the Internet-based guided iCBT for adults with tinnitus distress.

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“If There Are So Many Changes to Our Profession, Why Do We Have the Same Old Problems?”

Professional Panel including Brian Francis from TDLR

Topic/Content: Professional

- Legislative changes affecting the practice of audiology have been reported to help the profession, yet we still have the same problems regarding reimbursement.
- More changes in the policies for services provided for the Medicaid program have been made yet there are no providers.
- Has the increase in the number of third party providers helped or hurt the profession?
- Proposed legislation in Texas will be discussed.
- OTC hearing aids are a reality – One year later.

“Amplification Tech Talk Round Table”

Moderator: Steve Madix, Ph.D.

Topic/Content: Hearing Aids

In this lively panel discussion, industry representatives will discuss some of the features of their hearing aids, describing the evidenced-based patient benefit. We'll try to avoid marketing jargon, and provide a bare-bones approach to what we know works, what we think works and what might not work at all.

“Over The Counter Hearing Aids: Perspectives and Opinions”

Gary Rosenblum

Topic/Content: Hearing Aids

Over the counter hearing aids are here. FDA guidelines for consumer safety, labelling and distribution are due in 2020, yet consumers are currently able to purchase OTC. In this presentation, we'll review definitions, guidelines and processes associated with OTC, as well as access to, and affordability of, hearing aids, as these were major “push points” prior to the new law. We shall offer solutions the Hearing Care Professionals (HCP) can implement to better address and manage OTC.

“We want YOU to get paid!”

Lisa Christensen, Au.D. and Laurie Lamb, OT/MSCPM

Topic/Content: Coding and Billing

Coding, reimbursement, and the process for insurance approval pertaining to audiology is a dynamic and sometimes complex process. This process only becomes more dynamic when working with pediatric patients and payers such as Medicaid. This presentation will help you learn to navigate this dynamic system from both operational and clinical perspectives to help YOU get paid.

“What Are You Doing About Pediatric Noise Exposure?”

Sarah Grinn, Au.D.

Topic/Content: Pediatric Noise-Induced Hearing Loss

Audiologists are equally qualified to amplify sound as they are to attenuate it. This presentation will address 1) selection, fitting, verification, and billing of hearing protection devices, 2) the "epidemic" of music-player hearing loss, and 3) strategies to elicit hearing protection inquiries in the clinic. A review of current noise-induced pediatric hearing loss research will be presented alongside appropriate ways to disseminate this information throughout a clinical appointment.

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“Case Study Fairytales”

Shawna Jackson, Au.D.

Topic/Content: Case Studies: Tinnitus and Hearing Aids

Audiology is a changing profession and there is public demand to raise our standard of care. Encountering challenging patients can be frustrating but are worth the effort when a successful outcome can be achieved. These cases may not be a delightful fairytale; however, with the right approach both diagnostically and in management your professional value could help patients live happily ever after. Cases in tinnitus, sudden sensorineural loss, pediatrics, and more will be covered.