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AVAANews



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ROSE WHITE, EDITOR

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

by Sean McClenney, AuD
AVAA President



Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter of the Association of VA Audiologists (AVAA). AVAA was established 13 years ago to address the professional needs and concerns of audiologists

within the Veterans Health Administration. The goal of AVAA is to achieve and maintain the highest quality of patient care, training, and research by individual audiologists. AVAA also promotes audiology within the VA and outside the VA at regional, state and national levels by establishing professional and working ties with other related governmental and/or professional groups.

As non-profit organization, the AVAA strives to provide educational opportunities for its members to keep them abreast of advances in technological developments affecting Audiology and its practice and to help meet CEU requirements. Our main method for providing education is the Joint Defense

Veterans Audiology Conference which we plan annually with the Military Audiology Association. AVAA endeavors to be a conduit for information on programs and policies instituted on a national level that may have local ramifications, seeks consensus on significant professional issues, and recognizes outstanding achievement of its members.

We hope that this newsletter provides you with information on how AVAA is working for its members. Each issue will also feature a section highlighting members of AVAA. We hope that this section will allow our association to grow in new ways as we learn more about our colleagues. In this issue, you will also find updates on JDVAC 2015 including a preliminary agenda, registration and hotel information, and recommendations regarding the ACES process. JDVAC 2015 is fast approaching and our conference committee has been busy planning an outstanding education experience. We look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando!

-Sean



JDVAC 2015 coming soon!

Are you ready for the only conference that directly addresses issues for Military and VA Audiologists? See the article for all the details!

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Who Knew?

Two faces. You may know them, you may not. After reading this light-hearted look into their lives, you won't forget them!

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JDVAC 2015 fast approaching

by Rose White, AuD
AVAA Secretary

JDVAC 2015 is soon approaching. The planning committee has put together an exciting agenda for our program this year. If you have not registered, there is still time! A few details are listed below. For a full list of details and links, please visit the AVAA website: www.myavaa.org

Registration is open now at <https://www.kdregistration.net/jdvacind.php>
Don't delay! February 15th is the last day to sign up without a late fee.



Ready for the Concha Bowl???? Bring a team or just join one! It's a highly anticipated event and a "can't miss"! Check your agenda for time and place.

Fun "Beyond the Ears" fact: Walt Disney World Orlando opened in 1971 and has 52.5 million visitors a year.

Hotel registration block is open. Online registration can be accessed at http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/M/MCOUNDT-JDV-20150228/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

SpotMe will be back again this year! Register before February 15th to receive your instructions on accessing SpotMe before the conference begins! This interactive tool allows you to build your personal agenda, contact participants, and view vendor information on your personal mobile device, laptop, or tablet. Don't have a device?

Indicate you need a loaner device during your registration and one can be provided for you. Sign up now, devices are limited!

Need CEUs? JDVAC is an excellent source for obtaining education hours. CEU approval has been requested from AAA and ASHA.

More information is located at the links provided. If you don't see the answer to your question, don't be afraid to ask! Contact AVAA via email at AssnVAAuds@gmail.com.

AVAA Unveils New Website

Did you know www.myavaa.org has undergone some major renovations recently?? Not only has the appearance changed, but the content and organization of the website have changed also. It is possible to now become a member and make dues payments online.

Updates and new content will be coming soon, so don't forget to check the website for information!

If you have any suggestions for website or newsletter content, please contact AVAA at AssnVAAuds@gmail.com

Want to attend JDVAC at no cost??? See the AVAA website for details!!!!

Like us on Facebook!!





What is Who Knew? Hold onto your audiometers, fellow colleagues. On the next two pages you will find a look into the lives of a couple of VA Audiologists you may know already, but we doubt you know everything! First, we asked them to give us a brief description of themselves. We also asked ten questions and got candid answers. The results? Probably more than you bargained for. Who Knew? that we had such great personalities in the VA???

Colleen Noe, PhD

Deputy Chief of Staff,
Mountain Home, TN VAMC

Rehabilitation Specialist,
National ASP Program Office

While working on my master's degree at East Tennessee State University I did a traineeship in the audiology clinic at the Mountain Home VAMC. My CFY was at Ohio State University hospitals and OSU Speech and Hearing Clinic, primarily as a pediatric audiologist. While finishing my Ph.D. at Ohio State I completed a VA pre-doctoral fellowship at the Dayton, OH VAMC before taking a temporary position on an NIH grant at Mountain Home. I became a staff audiologist in the mid-1990s and spent nine years as the Service Chief. During those years the VA and ETSU developed the AuD program at ETSU with the VA clinic as the primary training site. Working with students has always been a rewarding part of my career and something I miss in my new role. I'm very proud to have many former students in the VA system! For the past two years I have been the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Mountain Home, VAMC and a Rehabilitation Specialist for the National ASP Program Office. At Mountain Home, I work with the Chief of Staff to provide guidance to the medical and allied health services. I have direct oversight of Audiology and Speech, Dental, Lab & Pathology, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, and Radiology. I fill in as Acting Chief of Staff and, on occasion, as Acting Medical Center Director. I also see patients in the Audiology clinic to maintain my privileges. For the program office I am involved in strategic planning and program development. Some of my projects include the national hearing aid contract and standardizing practices for health technicians. During my free time I work with two great organizations: Rotary International and Girls Incorporated. I spend as much time with my friends and family as possible, I love board games, college football (Go Buckeyes!), and I must feel an ocean breeze at least once a year. I also love to travel. During the past few years I have visited Ireland and Italy. My dream retirement plan is to move to the beach and open a wine and craft beer store.



- Night owl or early bird?
 - Extreme night owl and boss insists on 7:15 am meeting. Ughhhh.
- What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen?
 - In the US – Great Smoky Mountain National Park in the Fall; Outside the US – Taormina on the island of Sicily
- What is the farthest destination you have ever traveled from home?
 - Prague
- Who influenced you most when you were a child? Why?
 - My parents – Bud and Mary Noe. My Mom provided a warm home filled with love and support and my Dad taught us the value of a strong work ethic and to respect everyone. They are both my moral compass and two of my best friends.
- What is your favorite word?
 - Really? (said with attitude)
- If you could go back and change one thing from high school or college, what would it be?
 - Nothing. Every success and mistake has led me to where I am today.
- Ever broken a bone? How?
 - Yes! I was in a motorcycle accident in 2008. I broke my right wrist and fractured my left elbow and left foot.
- How many brothers and sisters do you have?
 - My older brother and his family live in Columbus, OH and my younger sister and her family live in Knoxville, TN,
- How many children do you have?
 - I'm still single, but have the three most amazing nephews whom I simply adore.
- How far is your commute to work? Is it difficult?
 - 8 minutes. 9 minutes in heavy traffic.



Chris Galizio, AuD

Audiologist
Hearing Aid Program Manager
Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC

WHO KNEW?

My name is Christopher Galizio, I am an audiologist at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC. I am the hearing aid program manager. Outside of work I am in a “garage folk” band called Nora’s Good Eye. I have been married to Elyse for 4 years and we have a rambunctious 9-month-old named Edwin. Three curmudgeonly cats also grace our home.

- What do you do in your spare time?
 - I play electric and acoustic guitar and build my own guitar effects pedals.
- Which town do you consider your hometown?
 - My hometown will always be Kent, Ohio. I was raised there and went to Kent State.
- Are you a dog person or a cat person?
 - Most definitely a cat person.
- What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen?
 - Luskentyre Beach, Isle of Harris, Scotland. It looks like a Caribbean beach but in Scotland. And the water is cold.
- Favorite movie of all time?
 - The original Star Wars trilogy.
- What vegetable do you not like?
 - All of them.
- What country other than the US would you move to?
 - Iceland. Weirdest and coolest place I have ever been.
- How far is your commute to work? Is it difficult?
 - 20 miles, approximately a half hour. Things get interesting when the snow falls.
- What is your favorite word?
 - How about a phrase: Fast and Bulbous!

A special thanks to Colleen Noe and Chris Galizio for being enthusiastic and answering a bunch of crazy questions!

Disclaimer: No audiologists were harmed in the production of this newsletter.

We are looking for contributions for the next issue of the AVAA News (including a name for our newsletter!). Ideas for articles, burning questions, and information you’d like to share with the AVAA membership are welcome. Know someone that needs to be profiled in “Who Knew?”? Let us know! See the AVAA website for contact information.

Telehealth Update

by Chad Gladden, AuD

submitted by Rachel McArdle, PhD

The primary focus of the teleaudiology expansion initiative was to increase the sites providing remote programming and fitting of hearing aids, while also providing the ability to complete remote audiometric procedures. As of August 2014, 57 of the 61 expansion locations were deemed operational. The remaining four sites are expected to become operational in December 2014.

The workload goal for FY 14 was 15,000 CVT encounters. As of Sept 30, 2014, we exceeded that goal with a total number of CVT encounters reaching 16,037. Equally as remarkable as the number of CVT encounters is the 50% increase in Veterans receiving teleaudiology care (FY 14= 10,776 Veterans, FY 13=7,200 Veterans). Additionally, teleaudiology workload activity is being reported in 20 of 21 Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) which is an increase from 17 VISNs in FY 13.

It is important to note that the impressive workload output and Veterans served is not just a result of the teleaudiology pilot/expansion project but also has been impacted by a number of other pilot, rural health, and facility initiatives. There are over 120 telemedicine carts with audiology peripherals that have been ordered or deployed nationally, suggesting that nearly half of the equipment available out in the Field has come from local or funding not provided by Telehealth Services.

In addition to the teleaudiology expansion initiative, all ten (10) pilot sites had equipment upgrades to ensure they had the same suite of equipment as expansion sites. This included speech mapping capabilities that were not available with original purchase. This also required migration to Windows 7 Gold Image workstation and installation of software packages through Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM) to ensure consistency with standard network configuration that did not exist when the pilot began. This lack of standardization created significant variability in site-to-site performance, limited the use of the enterprise desktop sharing application (Lync), and impeded the ability of staff to effectively receive software updates and basic troubleshooting support through the National Telehealth Technology Helpdesk. This upgrade, although critical to adhering to the standardization needs and enterprise infrastructure, created significant delays in deployment of the remote audiometry initiative within the original pilot sites. Integration of the prototype sound level meter was another factor in delaying the reception of anticipated outcome data.

Pilot results, per established protocol (air conduction thresholds, 10 ears/site), have been reportedly completed at six (6) of ten (10) sites tasked with moving remote audiometry phase forward. Data analysis of clinical outcomes is being completed and results will be released to Program Office and Telehealth Services as soon as report can be written. There is a current effort to move into a full diagnostic test battery. In addition to protocol adjustments and supplemental materials, contact has been made with the Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT) National Training Center to consider creating a national curriculum for remote audiometry.

In the next issue.....

JDVAC 2015 highlights

more Who Knew?

AVAA Election results

Spotlight! (for details, see the next issue!)

Coming soon! (Watch for announcements!)

❖ **AVAA Elections**

❖ **AVAA Award nominations**

❖ **February 15th is the deadline for JDVAC early registration. Don't miss it!**