

# CONNECTED CARE

*A Winning Hand!*



**JOINT DEFENSE  
VETERANS AUDIOLOGY  
CONFERENCE**

March 10-12, 2014  
The New Tropicana • Las Vegas, NV

# JOINT DEFENSE VETERANS AUDIOLOGY CONFERENCE

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## Special Events:

**Student Experience**

**6th Annual Concha Bowl**

**Concha Bowl Reception**

**Cheers! MAA Social Hour**

*We would like to send a special thank you to our exhibitors!*

Please see handout with exhibitor information and a map of the exhibitor hall.

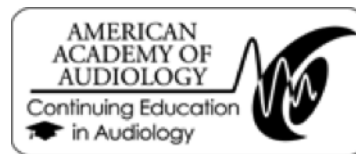
Please be sure to visit with our exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall! Our exhibitors are key to the success of our program, so be sure to stop by their booths and thank them for their attendance!



Unitron Hearing is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

(ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. **See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area.** ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This course has been approved for 1.8 ASHA CEUs. (Intermediate level, Professional area)



JDVAC is approved by the American Academy of audiology to offer Academy CEUs for this activity. The program is worth a maximum of

1.8 CEUs. Academy approval of this continuing education activity does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedures. Any views that are presented are those of the presenter/CE Provider and not necessarily of the American Academy of audiology.

## Reminders

Please turn off or silence all cell phones. Remember to sign in each day on the attendance sheet. At the conclusion of each session, a CEU code will be given. Please record this code on your CEU sheet.

## Continuing Education Information

AVAA and MAA would like to thank Unitron for facilitating ASHA CEUs for JDVAC 2014!

# WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENTS

**Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas!** Can you believe it's already the sixth annual Joint Defense Veterans Audiology Conference? Our Fabulous JDVAC planning committee has worked countless off-duty hours preparing this conference and we are confident we are bringing you a Fabulous learning opportunity! We are certain we have many exciting presentations and exhibitors to distract you from the bright lights of the Strip and the loud sounds of the casinos.

JDVAC began as a collaborative effort between the Military Audiology Association (MAA) and the Association of VA Audiologists (AVAA) in an effort to strengthen the relationships and enhance the education for audiologists of the VA and DoD (Department of Defense). Each year the conference has grown in both size and stature. We want to thank you, our attendees, for helping us become the leading hearing healthcare conference destination for VA and DoD audiologists.

JDVAC 2014 "Connected Care: A Winning Hand" serves to provide a platform for increased collaboration between our audiologists. As we see cooperative initiatives implemented, such as IDES, joint basing, and DOEHRs access in VA centers, it becomes increasingly clear that we are all becoming more connected. Our DoD and VA partners work alongside our industry partners to provide hearing healthcare services to our armed service members and veterans that is second to none.

We are excited about this year's agenda, and we are excited to have you in attendance. Enjoy the New Tropicana, Las Vegas, and PLEASE be sure to spend as much time with our exhibitors as you can.

We appreciate your commitment to our organizations, to our profession, and your dedication to the heroes we serve!



M. Joel Jennings, CPT(P), USA  
President, MAA



Sarah Draplin, Au.D.  
President, AVAA

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## THANK YOU!

*A very special THANK YOU to the following people for their assistance in making the 2014 JDVAC happen!*

**Program Chairs** – Scott Forbes and CPT(P) Joel Jennings

**Education Committee** – Sean McClenney, Chair; Christine Ulinski, Co-Chair

**Presentations** – Scott Forbes and CPT(P) Joel Jennings, Chairs; Christine Ulinski, Maureen Wargo, LT Amy E. McArthur

**Field Presentations Subcommittee** – Christine Ulinski, Chair; Edward Abalos, MAJ Melissa Leccese, MAJ Jillyen Curry-Mathis, Karen Stewart, Sarah Fillon Thompson.

**Poster Session** – Karen Sugiura, Chair; LT Amy E. McArthur, Karen Stewart, MAJ Brandon M. Tourtillott, Jana VeraSforzza

**Printed Program** – Danielle Harper, Chair; Nanette Lee, Co-Chair

**Registration** - Rose White, Chair; Lori Howe, Co-Chair

**Exhibitors** – LTC Amy Blank, Chair; MAJ Brandon Tourtillott, Co-Chair

**Continuing Education** – Christopher Galizio and Susan Lloyd, Co-Chairs

**Concha Bowl** – Aneda Baker, Chair; Kathleen Conley, Hope Gillison, Melissa Johnston, MAJ Andy Merkley, Susan Lloyd

*A very special thank you to MAJ Melissa Leccese for providing the equipment for the Concha Bowl.*

**Student Experience** – Hope Gillison, Chair; Crystal Mata, Co-Chair

# OFFICERS

## AVAA 2013-2014 Officers

**President:**

Sarah Draplin, Au.D.

**President-Elect:**

Sean McClenney, Au.D.

**Past-President:**

Scott C. Forbes, Au.D.

**Secretary:**

Jamie Sklarski, Au.D.

**Treasurer:**

Tina Penman, Au.D.

**Member at Large:**

Angela S. Pond, Au.D.

## MAA 2013-2014 Officers

**President:**

CPT(P) Joel Jennings, USA

**Vice-President:**

LT Amy McArthur, USN

**Secretary:**

Maj Brandon Tourtillott, USAF

**Member at Large:**

MAJ Jillyen Curry-Mathis, USA

**Past President:**

LTC Amy Blank, USA

### AVAA Mission Statement



The Association of VA Audiologists (AVAA) is an employee organization that was established in 2001 to address the professional needs and concerns of audiologists within the Veterans Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The goal is to achieve and maintain the highest quality of patient care, training, and research by individual audiologists and the programs in which they are housed. It is also the purpose of the AVAA to promote audiology within the VA and outside the VA at regional, state and national levels and to establish professional and working ties with other related governmental and/or professional groups.

### MAA Mission Statement



The Military Audiology Association's mission is to ensure operational readiness and quality-of-life to the Fighting Force and eligible beneficiaries by providing cost-effective hearing health care through state-of-the-art audiological services, including prevention, medical surveillance, education, and research. We will strategically place military audiologists to support the Fighting Force for success on the modern battlefield. Military audiologists are recognized as primary experts and providers of hearing health care. We will achieve pre-eminence in preventing disease-non-battle-injury. We will emerge as leaders in preventive medicine activities by promoting education and research to enhance operational readiness.

# WELCOME FROM THE VA SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System  
6900 North Pecos Road  
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89086  
(702) 791-9000

March 10, 2014

In Reply Refer To: 593/00

Dear Conference Participant:

Welcome from VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System! On behalf of the staff and leadership team of the Department of Veterans Affairs VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System, I extend to each of you a warm welcome to Las Vegas for the annual Joint Defense Veterans Audiology Conference. Las Vegas is nationally recognized as an entertainment capital and a city built on conferences. I am delighted that you have selected our city as the site for your conference.

The industry of health care is experiencing tremendous change, and the need and opportunity to provide diagnostic and rehabilitative services in the area of hearing and balance has never been greater. As the newest comprehensive medical center in the VA system, we are proud to contribute our efforts to the care of Southern Nevada Veterans, which could not be possible without advancements made in the Audiology field of health care.

I thank each of you for attending and bringing your expertise to this conference in support of America's Veterans. Best wishes for a valuable conference and I hope you have a wonderful stay in Las Vegas. Viva Las Vegas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isabel Duff".

Isabel Duff, MS  
Director

# FEATURED SPEAKERS:

## Samuel R. Atcherson, Ph.D.,

is an audiologist and associate professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in consortium with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He received his undergraduate and masters degrees from the University of Georgia and Ph.D. from the University of Memphis. He is the author of over 85 publications including 28 peer-reviewed articles, 6 book chapters, and 2 books with a third forthcoming. He has given over 100 presentations around the country on audiology- and hearing-related topics. His interests include hearing-related technologies, electrophysiology, auditory processing disorders, audiologic rehabilitation, and health literacy. Sam is alum of the 2010 Jerger Future Leaders of audiology Conference, past president of the Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Loss, past Treasurer of the Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and current Treasurer of the Arkansas Academy of Audiology. Personally, he is a bilateral cochlear implant user with over 30 years of personal hearing aid use since he was a child. He is a self-proclaimed "do-it-yourselfer," and enjoys brewing his own beer.



## Douglas S. Brungart, Ph.D.,

is the Chief Scientist of the Audiology and Speech Center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and is currently also serving as the Chief Scientist for the Department of Defense Hearing Center of Excellence. Dr. Brungart holds a B.S. in Computer Engineering from Wright State University (Dayton, Ohio), and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, MA). For 19 years, he worked as a research scientist and technical advisor for the Air Force Research Laboratory in Dayton, Ohio, where the laboratory work focused on spatial hearing, multitalker speech perception, and auditory displays. Since 2009, he has been the senior scientist of the research section at the Army Audiology and Speech Center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. During this time, he and his team have focused on the application of advanced technology to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss and other hearing and speech disorders. Dr. Brungart has authored and co-authored more than 35 peer-reviewed journal articles on auditory perception, and he has been issued ten US patents for hearing-related research.



## Colonel Mark Packer

is the Executive Director, Department of Defense, Hearing Center of Excellence, Air Force Medical Operations Agency, JBSA-Lackland, TX. In addition to advising the Assistant Secretary of Health Affairs and Surgeon Generals of the Uniformed Services on hearing health related matters, he is responsible for developing and executing the Hearing Center's congressional mandate to oversee the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of hearing loss and auditory system injury. He provides guidance and support for the five directorates to assist in their mission to partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs and other private and academic entities to ensure hearing readiness and improve the hearing health and quality of life for our service members and veterans.



Colonel Packer received a direct commission in 1991 through the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Andrews AFB, MD graduating in 1995 as a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. He completed a general surgery internship at Wright State University in Dayton Ohio in 1996, and was board certified in Otolaryngology Head and Neck surgery upon finishing his residency training in the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium in 2002. Most recently he graduated from fellowship training in neurotology and cranial base surgery at The Ohio State University in 2008, and practices as a board certified Neurotologist within the San Antonio Military Medical Consortium.

Dr. Packer has been an active clinician, instructor and researcher. He has authored ten textbook chapters, directed seven temporal bone surgical dissection courses, four humanitarian surgical ear missions in South and Central America, and co-chairs a NATO research technical group. Dr. Packer chairs and directs four working groups chartered to provide steering and technical expertise targeting solutions for hearing and balance injuries. Intermixed with his medical training and professional activities Dr. Packer had the opportunity to serve in the operational Air Force as a flight surgeon attached to the 16th Special operations squadron. Working with joint task forces in this capacity he experienced first-hand the functional paradox between hearing prevention and communication in austere noise environments.

*"Everything in your life is a gift. Sometimes, it may not be the gift you want, but you realize that your challenges are a new beginning."*  
— Retired SSG Shilo A. Harris



**Retired SSG Shilo A. Harris**, the son of a Vietnam veteran, always knew he wanted to be a soldier. Shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, he enlisted as a Cavalry Scout in the US Army. In February 2004, Harris deployed to Iraq with the 1st Infantry Division, where he participated in dangerous reconnaissance missions and armed combat.

On February 19, 2007, deployed, again, to Iraq with the 10th Mountain Division, Harris's armored vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device (IED). The explosion killed three of Harris's fellow soldiers and wounded the driver. Although Harris survived, 35% of his body was burned and he lost his ears and several fingers. Harris spent 48 days in a coma, followed by nearly three years in recovery at the burn unit of Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX.

Harris was medically retired from the Army in 2010. Today, Harris is a motivational speaker who shares his unforgettable story of triumph over adversity. He lives in South Texas with his wife and five children.

**Frank R. Lin, M.D., Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology, Geriatric Medicine, Mental Health, and Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Lin completed his medical education, residency in Otolaryngology, and Ph.D. in Clinical Investigation, all at Johns Hopkins. He completed further otologic fellowship training in Lucerne, Switzerland. Dr. Lin's clinical practice is dedicated to otology and the medical and surgical management of hearing loss. His epidemiologic research focuses on how hearing loss impacts the health and functioning of older adults and the role of hearing rehabilitative strategies in potentially mitigating these effects. In particular, his research group has demonstrated that hearing loss in older adults is strongly and independently associated with the risk of cognitive decline, incident dementia, impairments in physical functioning and mobility, and greater health care



resource utilization in multiple epidemiologic studies. He collaborates extensively with researchers across multiple fields including gerontology, cognitive neuroscience, audiology, and epidemiology, and he has collaborative working relationships with individuals in industry, government, and non-profit advocacy organizations. His research has been extensively covered in the media including the New York Times and the BBC, and he has appeared on CBS This Morning and the Charlie Rose show.

**Elaine Mormer, Ph.D.**, serves as the audiology Clinical Education Coordinator in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders, at the University of Pittsburgh. Her Ph.D. is from the University of Pittsburgh and her Masters degree, in audiology, is from the University of Massachusetts.



Her research addresses the formation of self-report outcome responses in first time hearing aid users. She teaches audiology courses and provides clinical instruction to beginning audiology students. Dr. Mormer has presented continuing education programs at several national conferences on a variety of topics related to clinical education, hearing assistance technology, and evidence-based practices. She has served as a consultant to several university programs regarding methods for optimizing and tracking clinical education. She served on the Standards Review Committee for the Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education in 2013, and is the 2014 Co-Chair for the annual conference of the Council of Academic Programs in CSD. Dr. Mormer is the lead author on the article, "An Evidence Based Guide to Clinical Instruction in Audiology," published in 2013 in the Journal of the American Academy of Audiology. In October 2013, Dr. Mormer received the University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award.



# JOINT AND CONCURRENT SESSIONS

## Monday-March 10, 2014

### Joint Sessions – Cohiba 8-11

*Time: 8:00-8:30*

**Title: Announcements**

*Time: 8:30-9:30*

**Title: Practicing in a Mobile World: Are there APP(lications)S for Audiology?**

*Presenter(s): Samuel R. Atcherson, Ph.D.*

Today's world is fast becoming digital, portable, and wireless. Handheld tablets and other portable devices have the potential to transform clinical practice. Hearing-related apps are already available, with more on the horizon. This session will review some of the currently-available hearing-related apps, the potential benefits and pitfalls regarding the use of these apps, and the evidence base concerning their applications to audiology. In order to maximize your experience, please bring your own portable device.

**Break 9:30-10:00**

### Breakout Sessions:

Cohiba 6

*Time: 10:00-11:30*

**Title: Lessons Learned: Transitioning through the Army Audiology Team (work in progress)**

*Presenter(s): CPT Jessica A. Scott*

The Army Audiology Team is composed of Active Duty Audiologists, Department of the Army Civilians, and Army Externship Program Students. The focus of this presentation is identification of clinical and readiness areas demonstrating success, as well as areas in need of improvement. The goal is to open a discussion and facilitate brainstorming for possible, attainable solutions. The end state would be to have increased teamwork allowing for more effective patient care while increasing provider efficiency.

MAA - 1

Cohiba 7

*Time: 10:00 to 10:20*

**Title: Hearing Readiness Reporting Tool**

*Presenter(s): LCDR Jason Jones*

Enterprise Safety Applications Management System (ESAMS) could be the future of reporting Department of the Navy measures of effectiveness for Hearing Conservation. This lecture will demonstrate the capabilities of ESAMS, and the progress made in bringing this technology to Navy Audiology. Lessons learned from pilot programs and the expected effort required by Navy Audiology will also be discussed.

MAA - 2

Cohiba 7

*Time: 10:20 to 10:40*

**Title: Using Performance Improvement Initiative to Increase Mobile Testing Service Utilization**

*Presenter(s): LT Amy E. McArthur, MSC, USN, CCC-A*

This presentation will look at how Performance Improvement Initiative was used to improve utilization of mobile audiometric testing services onboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. It will explore how a simple change in business philosophy, from one of "reservation" to one of "confirmation" resulted in a significant improvement in service utilization.

MAA - 2

Partagas 2

*Time: 10:00 to 11:30*

**MAA-3 Session Title: TBD**

Cohiba 8-9

*Time: 10:00 to 11:00*

**Title: National Program Update**

*Presenter(s): Lucille Beck, Ph.D.*

This presentation will cover current challenges to VA audiologists and anticipated changes in policy including new VAI2, data from hearing aid outcome measure (VA-wide) and its impact on best practice with hearing, strategic initiatives which may impact on clinical care and audiology services, telehealth initiatives and their impact on delivery of audiological services in the VA, and educational opportunities that are available for VA audiologists.

VA Session

*Time: 11:00 to 11:45*

**Title: AVAA Business Meeting & Awards**

*Presenter: Sarah Draplin, Au.D.*

**Lunch/Exhibit Hall 11:30-1:00**

*Cochlear Implant Audiologists Lunch Meeting – Partagas 2*

Cohiba 6

*Time: 1:00-1:20*

**MAA led sessions – Cohiba 6**

**Title: The Role of the QuickSIN and Other Speech in Noise Tests When Determining Fitness for Noise Hazardous Duty**

*Presenter(s): Caton A. Harris, Au.D.*

The QuickSIN data along with the other diagnostic audiogram results is an initial glance into determining whether or not the QuickSIN is an appropriate speech in noise test for military personnel. It is recommended much more data be compiled to gain a better understanding of the appropriateness of the QuickSIN being used as the speech in noise test for military personnel.

MAA led sessions

*Time: 1:20-1:40*

**Title: VCNO/SG Noise Abatement and Hearing Readiness Project**

*Presenter(s): CDR Joel Bealer*

Presentation will provide an update to the Navy's Hearing Conservation and Noise Abatement Program directed by the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. Attendees will learn the current status of the various program elements in an attempt to share best business practices across the services.



*Time: 1:40-2:00*

**Title: Sound Awareness for Everyone: How the University of Iowa promotes safe listening habits and how this can be applied to military populations.**

*Presenter(s): Jamie DeLuca, Capt, USAF, MA*  
University of Iowa-Sound Awareness For Everyone (UI SAFE) promotes awareness of safe listening habits among adults, teens, and children. This presentation will discuss the methods used to present hearing health information to the community as well as discuss current and future expansion, how the goals of UI SAFE are being accomplished, and how these can be applied in military populations.

*Time: 2:00-2:20*

**Title: MEPRS and RVUs - What Are They and Why Are They Important?**

*Presenter(s): COL Vickie Tuten, Au.D.*  
Making sense of MEPRS codes and RVUs is essential to achieving consistency in best practices and assisting us in procuring adequate resources to get the job done. These systems do not exist within a vacuum and this presentation will provide an introduction to each of the systems and the importance to proper documentation.

*Time: 2:20-2:40*

**Title: Air Force Hearing Conservation Program Office Initiatives**

*Presenter(s): Quintin A. Hecht, Capt, USAF, BSC, Au.D.*  
Hearing conservation is in the spotlight now more than ever due to sequestration and rising VA claims for hearing loss and tinnitus. Even more important is the mission-essential need for safe and effective war fighters. This presentation will discuss hearing conservation surveillance and data management strategies currently being employed in addition to research studies that our office is engaged in.

*Time: 1:00-1:45*

**VA led Session –Cohiba 8-9**

**Title: Open Access...It Can Work!**

*Presenter(s): Casey Cordell, Au.D., Roxann Storms, Ph.D.*  
Open-access, or same-day appointments, is a healthcare model that is underutilized in the VA system. However, once initiated the advantages are: no wait times, missed opportunities, no-shows and cancellations. Essentially, veterans who want to be seen will arrive when it is convenient to their schedule. This presentation describes the process by which the Kansas City VAMC converted their evaluation clinic to open access and the successes and challenges that manifested as a result.

*Time: 1:45-2:30*

**Title: Improving Audiology Access with a New Service Delivery Model – Bay Pines VAHCS**

*Presenter(s): Rachel McArdle, Ph.D.*  
With limited budgets for more staff, increase in demand, decrease in the services health technicians can provide independently, the implementation of PACT, and a performance measures to decrease wait times, Bay Pines audiology redesigned how we deliver care. This presentation will discuss an open access model for established patients. Supporting data will be provided.

**Break 2:45-3:00**

*Time: 3:00-3:20*

**Title: The First U.S Army Noise Induced Hearing Injury Data Summary: Useful Data for Surveillance and Intervention Planning**

*Presenter(s): Thomas Helfer, Ph.D.*  
On Aug 27, 2013, the first 5 year US Army Active Duty NIHI data summary was posted on the public facing web page of the US Army Public Health Command. This first posting represents the initiation of Army NIHI surveillance by recurring annual and quarterly reports.

*Time: 3:20-3:40*

**Title: Remote Ordering Entry System (ROES) at Naval Medical Center San Diego**

*Presenter(s): Cynthia Kirby, Au.D.*  
Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS) began using the Veteran's Remote Ordering Entry System (ROES) in AUGUST, 2012. Discussion will include the impact ROES has had on the ordering and procurement of hearing aids for active duty personnel and the salient features available in ROES. Analysis of the process improvement to include patient care benefits and procurement outcomes will be examined, following one year of implementation.

*Time: 3:00-4:30*

**Title: C&P, ACE, Separation Health Assessment & DOEHRs-HC Updates**

*Presenter: Kyle Dennis, Ph.D., LCDR Jason Jones, MAJ Kara Cave, Capt. Quintin Hecht*  
This workshop will update audiologists on policies and developments regarding C&P exam and opinions, separation health assessments, and Acceptable Clinical Evidence (ACE) procedures. It will include a panel discussion by DOD audiologists concerning DOEHRs-HC and time for open discussion.

*Time: 3:00-5:00*

**Title: Student Experience**

This is a time for the students to learn from Military and VA personnel about the application process of becoming an employee. Students will have the opportunity to ask the presenters questions.

**MAA Business Meeting 4:00-5:00**

*Cohiba 6*

*5:00-6:00*

**Reception**

This is a great time for students to network with current audiologists that are working in the field and to obtain information on the application process for a career with the DoD/VA.

**Cohiba 5**

**Concha Bowl 6:00-8:00**

*Cohiba 5*

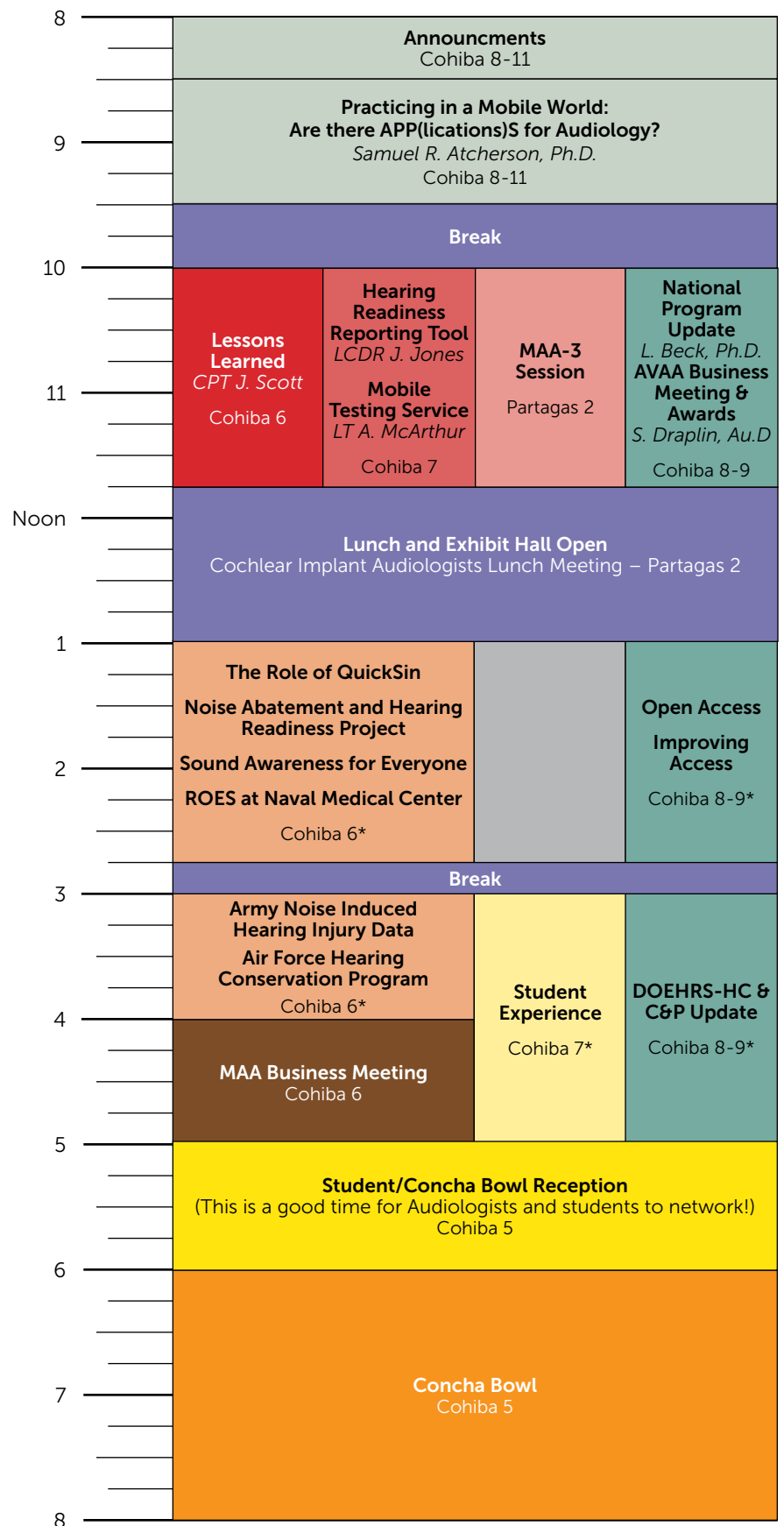
*Continued on page 14*

# JDVAC AGENDA

Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 2014

## Color Key

- MAA Led Sessions
- MAA-1 Sessions
- MAA-2 Sessions
- MAA-3 Sessions
- VA Led Sessions
- Concurrent Sessions
- Concurrent Sessions
- Concurrent Sessions
- Break/Poster Sessions
- Joint Sessions
- Student Experience



## Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2014

<b>Announcements</b> Cohiba 8-11			
<b>Auditory Fitness for Duty</b> <i>Doug Brungart, Ph.D.</i> Cohiba 8-11			
Break/Grand Opening of Poster Session			
<b>HCE Update</b> <i>Col Mark Packer, M.D.</i> Cohiba 8-11			
<b>A Soldier's Story</b> <i>SSG Shilo A. Harris, USA (Ret.)</i> Cohiba 8-11			
Lunch, Poster Session, and Exhibit Hall Open			
<b>NCRAR</b> Au.D. Externships – The Future From Bench to Phase 3 Cohiba 8-11*	<b>ICD-10 Coding</b> Cohiba 5*	<b>CHHP</b> Baseline Revision Acceptable Clinical Evidence Tech Review Cohiba 6*	<b>Central Processing Disorders</b> Cervicogenic Vertigo Implantable Technology Army & VA Audiology Cohiba 7*
Break and Poster Session			
<b>VA Chief &amp; Supervisor Open Forum</b> Cohiba 8-11*	<b>Tech Review</b> Cohiba 5*	<b>Vestibular Dysfunction HCE's Pharm. Interventions</b> Cohiba 6*	<b>Ototoxicity Monitoring</b> Cohiba 7*
		Exhibit Hall / Poster Session	
<b>Cheers! - MAA's Social Hour</b> Tropicana Lounge			

\* Please see full listing for names of presenters.

## Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 2014

<b>Announcements</b> Cohiba 8-11			
<b>Hearing Loss and Healthy Aging: A Public Health Perspective</b> <i>Frank R. Lin, M.D., Ph.D.</i> Cohiba 8-11			
Break			
<b>Evidence Based Practice in Clinical Education</b> <i>Elaine Morner, Ph.D.</i> Cohiba 8-11			
Lunch and Exhibit Hall Open			
<b>Bedside Sound Generator</b>	<b>Nuts &amp; Bolts of Teleaudiology</b> Cohiba 5*	<b>Hearing Loss Concerns</b>	<b>Deployed Research</b>
<b>Hearing Critical Tasks</b>		<b>DOD/VA Auditory Research</b>	<b>Hearing Injuries</b>
<b>A Holistic Approach</b> Cohiba 8-11*		<b>Automated Adult Hearing Screening</b> Cohiba 6*	<b>Humanitarian Missions</b> Cohiba 7*



See you at  
**JDVAC 2015!**

# Tuesday - March 11, 2014

## Joint Sessions – Cohiba 8-11

*Time: 8:00-8:15*

**Title: Announcements**

*Time: 8:15-9:30*

**Title: Development of Auditory Fitness for Duty Standards for Military Operations**

*Presenter(s): Doug Brungart, Ph.D.*

Hearing is a critical sense that is absolutely essential to a service member's ability to effectively operate in military environments. Unfortunately, the battlefield is an extremely noisy environment, and as a result, hearing loss and other hearing-related injuries are the most frequently occurring permanent injuries in the deployed military force. This means that there is an extremely pressing need within the military medical community to evaluate the auditory abilities of hearing impaired soldiers and quickly and accurately determine whether they are fit to return to normal duty. Current military hearing profile standards are based on pure-tone audiometric thresholds and, in some cases, performance in a speech-in-noise recognition task. However, these standards are of limited value to medical retention boards because they fail to provide a concrete link between the patient's performance on the audiometric test and that individual's ability to perform military tasks. In order to address this problem, we are now conducting a series of experiments designed to evaluate the impact that hearing impairment has on the ability to successfully complete military operations. By combining the results of these experiments with advanced techniques for the clinical assessment of hearing impairment, we hope to develop improved hearing profile standards that provide a direct link between a service member's hearing impairment and his or her performance in operational tasks.

## Break/Grand Opening of Poster Session/Exhibit Hall 9:30-10:00

*Time: 10:00-11:00*

**Title: HCE Update**

*Presenter(s): Col Mark Packer, M.D.*

The DoD Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE) leads efforts in hearing loss prevention through the promotion of a COMPREHENSIVE HEARING HEALTH PROGRAM (CHHP). The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the CHHP elements and to provide attendees information about the various educational materials available on the HCE website to assist DoD audiologists in promoting CHHP.

*Time: 11:00-12:00*

**Title: Steel Will... A Soldier's Story**

*Presenter(s): SSG Shilo A. Harris, USA (Ret.)*

Shilo Harris was deployed to Iraq for two tours. On the second tour, 2/19/07, his armored vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device (IED), and he spent nearly three years recovering from his injuries. Today's presentation will be about his unforgettable story of triumph over adversity.

## Lunch/Poster Session/Exhibit Hall 12:00 to 1:00

## Concurrent Sessions

Cohiba 8-11

*Time: 1:00-1:30*

**Title: National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) Overview**

*Presenter(s): Tina Penman, Au.D.*

This presentation will review the history and mission of National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) located at the Portland VA Medical Center. An update on current studies will also be discussed.

*Time: 1:30-2:00*

**Title: Au.D. Externships - The Future**

*Presenter(s): COL Nancy L. Vause, Robin Pinto, Au.D., LT Jessica Snyder, Tina Penman Au.D., & Angela Pond, Au.D.*

Since the inception of the Doctor of Audiology degree, the Veteran's Administration and Walter Reed's military and civilian audiologists developed and implemented the Au.D. requirements with their academic partners, including the 4th year clinical externship. While the ASHA Council on Academic Accreditation oversees and inspects academic Au.D. programs, clinical externship sites do not require any accreditation or oversight. Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Audiology and Speech Center (ASC) developed a comprehensive Army Externship Program (AEP) ensuring broad clinical competency. This session presents an overview of the clinical externship experiences for all WRNMMC ASC AEP graduates. Additionally, this session will outline recommendations for developing accreditation requirements for 4th year externship sites. The presentation will also discuss future opportunities to strategically leverage joint and interagency Au.D. externship resources.

*Time: 2:00-3:00*

**Title: From Bench to Phase 3**

*Presenter(s): CPT Rebecca S. Ludwig, Au.D., Kathleen C.M. Campbell, Ph.D., CCC-A, MAJ Jillyen E. Curry-Mathis*

D-methionine is the only pharmacologic otoprotective agent in FDA approved Phase 3 clinical trials to prevent NIHL in the US military. Dr. Campbell and CPT Ludwig are collaborating on this clinical trial at Ft. Jackson. They will review the bench to bedside research process behind this agent including safety and efficacy data for both steady state and impulse noise exposures.

Cohiba 5

*Time: 1:00-2:00*

**Title: ICD-10**

*Presenter(s): Kyle Dennis, Ph.D.*

This presentation will provide a brief overview of ICD-10-CM, Focused presentation of audiology codes, and practical examples of codes audiologists will commonly use, with exercises.

*Time: 2:00-2:45*

**Title: CODING: Are we consistent as one VA?**

*Presenter(s): Kathleen Conley, Au.D. and Maureen Wargo, Au.D.*

Coding is an important factor in daily clinical practice. Inaccurate coding can have ramifications with consequences ethically and financially regarding workload, performance evaluations and funding. Coding is updated routinely and will be changing again once ICD-10 is implemented.

*Time: 1:00-1:30*

**Title: Comprehensive Hearing Health Program (CHHP)**

*Presenter(s): Kathy E. Gates, Au.D., COL (Ret.), USA and Col Mark Packer, M.D.*

The DoD Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE) leads efforts in hearing loss prevention through the promotion of a COMPREHENSIVE HEARING HEALTH PROGRAM (CHHP). The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the CHHP elements and to provide attendees information about the various educational materials available on the HCE website to assist DoD audiologists promoting CHHP.

*Time: 1:30-2:00*

**Title: Baseline Revision**

*Presenter(s): MAJ John A. Merkley, Au.D.*

Knowing when to revise the baseline audiogram in a hearing conservation program is challenging, especially when managing a hearing program with multiple test sites and little to no direct oversight of the testing process. This presentation will present a formula for revising baselines in collaboration with professional supervisors, para-professionals, audiometric technicians, and other Hearing Program team members.

*Time: 2:00-2:30*

**Title: Acceptable Clinical Evidence - A Vital Tool for C&P Efficiency**

*Presenter(s): Aaron Penn, Au.D.*

Audiology clinics at VA hospitals face access problems. Much of the demand comes from C&P. The current C&P construct is inadequate to meet the high demands in VA audiology clinics. Acceptable Clinical Evidence (ACE) can be utilized to offset high demand. This presentation will demonstrate how to start an ACE program and how to improve existing programs.

*Time: 2:30-3:00*

**Technical Review** 10 minute presentations for all exhibitors

*Presenter(s):*

**ReSound** – *ReSound Technology Talk* – Lisa MacKay

**Unitron** – *Acclimatization to Amplification*

– Donald Hayes

**Siemens** – *Advances in Signal Classification Algorithms*

– Thomas Powers

*Time: 1:00-1:30*

**Title: Identifying Central Processing Disorders in Patients with Previous Blast Exposure**

*Presenter(s): Melissa A. Papesh, Au.D, Ph.D.*

The long term auditory effects of blast exposure are not well understood. This presentation will report on common deficits found in previously blast-exposed Veterans with regard to central auditory processing based upon current research findings. Test measures discussed will include both common clinical measures of central auditory processing as well as additional behavioral and electrophysiological measures.

*Time: 1:30-2:00*

**Title: A Retrospective Record Review of Cervicogenic Vertigo in a Traumatic Brain Injury Population**

*Presenter(s): Cara Makuta, Au.D. and Carlos Esquivel, M.D.*

The study purpose was to review the subjective patient outcomes as a result of changing therapy techniques to treat cervicogenic dizziness. A retrospective chart review of 183 patients who have been diagnosed with TBI and were receiving physical therapy at BAMC was conducted. The results suggested cervical proprioceptive retraining with laser (CPRE-L) was more successful than traditional therapy approaches.

*Time: 2:00-2:30*

**Title: Implantable Technology for Complex Hearing Loss Cases**

*Presenter(s): Carlos Esquivel, M.D, Col Mark Packer, M.D., Joyce Crawford, Au.D., Cara Makuta, Au.D.*

Overview of best practices for hearing aid fitting to insure outcomes are maximized prior to surgical options. Audiologic and otologic cases that are potential middle ear implant candidates. A suggested matrix to help determine the appropriate implant. Rationale for middle ear implants for our warfighter who suffers from auditory injury as a result of blast exposure and/or head trauma.

*Time: 2:30-3:00*

**Title: Army & VA Audiology at Ft. Carson – Connecting Care**

*Presenter(s): MAJ John A. Merkley, Au.D. and Patricia A. Polizzi, Au.D.*

The Army Hearing Program at Ft. Carson is co-located with the VA audiologist providing compensation and pension (C&P) and integrated disability evaluation system (IDES) for current and former service members throughout the region. This partnership, formed out of congressional mandate and for better utilization of audiometric resources at Ft. Carson has been hailed as a best practice, but comes with both benefits and consequences. This presentation will provide VA and DOD audiologists a look at the partnership, staff collaboration, mission, benefits, and limitations. Specific items to be discussed are resource and record sharing across the two entities, duplication of services, and ideas for improvement.

**Break/Poster Session 3:00-3:30**

## Concurrent Sessions

Cohiba 8-11

**Time:** 3:30-4:30

**Title:** VA Chief & Supervisor Open Forum

*Presenter(s): Colleen Noe, Ph.D., Rachel McArdle, Ph.D. and Charles Martinez, Au.D.*  
(No CEUs available)

Cohiba 5

**Time:** 3:30-4:30

**Technical Review**

10 minute presentations for all exhibitors

*Presenter(s):*

*Med-El – Med-El Technology Talk – Louise Loiselle Starkey – Product Spotlight – Julie Dunphy Sonitus Medical – Bone Conduction via the Teeth – Lily Woodby Bernard, Au.D. Phonak – Roger: Phonak’s New Wireless Transmission Solution – William Lesiecki, M.A.*

Cohiba 6

**Time:** 3:30-4:00

**Title:** Vestibular Dysfunction in Pilots: Follow-up Results and Consequences on Return to Duty

*Presenter(s): Robin Pinto, Au.D.*

This presentation will review the literature discussing vestibular testing in pilots. Also, case studies of pilots and aircrew from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Audiology, ENT and Physical Therapy clinics, seeking return to duty status after a peripheral vestibulopathy will be shared.

**Time:** 4:00-4:30

**Title:** HCE’s Pharmaceutical Interventions for Hearing Loss Working Group (PIHL) Overview

*Presenter(s): Tanisha Hammill, M.A., M.P.H.*

The Pharmaceutical Interventions for Hearing Loss (PIHL) has stood up to serve as the DOD voice for pharmaceutical development issues, as a stable body which represents the needs of the DOD, the service members and their family members as these technologies continue to evolve.

Cohiba 7

**Time:** 3:30-4:30

**Title:** An Evidence-Based Technique and its Application in an Interdisciplinary Ototoxicity Monitoring Program

*Presenter(s): C. Evie Ortiz, Au.D., Marilyn Dille, Ph.D., Therese C. Walden, Au.D.*

There is a lack of standard-of-care protocols for ototoxicity monitoring. This can be attributed to lack of consistency in referral patterns, effective test protocols, educational programs, and more. We will present an evidence-based test technique and demonstrate its application in an interdisciplinary clinical setting. We will discuss educational modules designed to standardize referral processes and improve patient and provider education.

## Poster Sessions

**4:30-5:30**

**Title:** Trauma Induced Auditory Processing Disorder: Overview of the Evaluation and Treatment Process at the Cincinnati VAMC

*Presenter(s): Mary Kelly Bone, Au.D., CCC-A*

**Title:** SoundBite

*Presenter(s): Jessica Juarez, Au.D.*

**Title:** Traumatic Ear Injuries Among U.S. Military Personnel, 2002-2011

*Presenter(s): Michael Lo, MSPH*

**Title:** The Care and Feeding of the 4th Year Audiology Student

*Presenter(s): Dana L. Culligan, Au.D. and Andrew J. Seitz, Au.D.*

**Title:** A Treatise on the Thresholds of Inter-Octave Frequencies 1500, 3000, and 6000 Hz

*Presenter(s): Rachel McArdle, Ph.D.*

**Title:** The Effects of Interdisciplinary Treatment on Tinnitus in Active Duty Service Members with mTBI/PH: A Four Week Diagnostic Approach

*Presenter(s): LT Jessica Snyder, Au.D.*

**Title:** Aviation Functional Hearing Assessment

*Presenters: Robert N. Staton, Au.D., DAC and MAJ(P) David S. McIlwain, Au.D.*

**Title:** Auditory and Vestibular Effects of Repeated Blast Exposure in Breacher Personnel

*Presenter(s): Holly Burrows, Au.D.*

**Title:** Ototoxic Monitoring and Detection Program

*Presenter(s): 1LT Binna Lee, B.A.*

**Title:** An Item Analysis of the Maryland CNC Word Lists on Listeners with Normal Hearing and Listeners with Hearing Loss

*Presenter(s): Richard H. Wilson, Ph.D.*

**Title:** Hearing dogs: How to Assist Veterans - The Role for the Audiologist

*Presenter(s): Nannette Gwinner, Au.D. and Cynthia Fogarty, Au.D.*

**Title:** Music Listening Levels and Noise Risk Assessments for Students at the University of Florida

*Presenter(s): Yunea C. Park, B.A., B.S.*

**Title:** Evaluation of Binaural Telephone Coupling Strategies

*Presenter(s): Brittany Mauney, M.S. and Lydia Dudley, M.S.*

**Title:** A Holistic Approach to Hearing Healthcare for Veterans

*Presenter(s): Michele Boyd, B.A.*

**Title:** Rod Sensitivity and Spatial Skill in OEF/OIF patients with TBI

*Presenter(s): Tiffany Brewer, B.S., Caitlin Hostetler, B.S., and Charles Swank, Au.D.*

**Title:** Comparison of Annual Audiograms and Significant Threshold Shift Rates of USMC Personnel During 2009-2011 to 2012-2013 Following Implementation of MARADMIN 010/12

*Presenter(s): OC1 Krystal Rapp and OC1 Nathan Ortiz*

*(continued on next page)*

**Title: HIT me: Revamping the Clinical Vestibular Protocol**

*Presenter(s): Julie Lincoln, Au.D., Jenni Mullins, B.S., and Kathleen Korpieski, B.A.*

**Title: Association Between Chronic Pain and Tinnitus**

*Presenter(s): Emily J. White, Au.D.*

**Title: Field Evaluation of the Military Hearing Preservation Training Kit**

*Presenter(s): Kelly Watts, Au.D.*

**Title: Cochlear Implant Performance in the Veteran Population**

*Presenter(s): Maureen Wargo, Au.D., MBA*

**Title: Patient Satisfaction and Outcomes of a Hearing Aid Repair Clinic**

*Presenter(s): Cara DePalma, Au.D., and David Jedlicka, Au.D.*

**Cheers! - MAA's Social Hour  
5:00-6:30 - Tropicana Lounge**

## Wednesday

### Joint Session – Cohiba 8-11

*Time: 8:00-8:15*

**Title: Announcements**

*Time: 8:15-9:45*

**Title: Hearing Loss and Healthy Aging: A Public Health Perspective**

*Presenter(s): Frank R. Lin, M.D., Ph.D.*

Age-related hearing loss (ARHL) in older adults is often perceived as being an unfortunate but relatively inconsequential part of aging. However, the broader consequences of hearing loss for the health and functioning of older adults are now beginning to surface in epidemiologic studies. I will discuss recent epidemiologic research demonstrating that hearing loss is independently associated with accelerated cognitive decline, an increased risk of incident dementia, and poorer physical functioning. Current and planned studies to investigate the impact of hearing rehabilitative interventions on reducing cognitive decline and the risk of dementia in older adults will be discussed. Finally, I will provide some thoughts on future trends in addressing hearing loss as a public health problem that may fundamentally shift our current paradigm of hearing health care.

**Break/Exhibit Hall 9:45-10:30**

*Time: 10:30-12:00*

**Title: Evidence Based Practice in Clinical Education**

*Presenter(s): Elaine Mormer, Ph.D.*

This session will provide clinicians with an evidence-based approach to the elements and methods of clinical teaching in student practicum experiences. Participants will be provided with some practical tools they can use during current or future clinical teaching encounters.

**Lunch/Exhibit Hall 12:00-1:00**

## Concurrent Sessions

Cohiba 8-11

*Time: 1:00-1:30*

**Title: The Bedside Sound Generator: A Valuable Tool for Tinnitus Management**

*Presenter(s): Steven L. Benton, Au.D.*

Soothing/background-sound generating devices for bedtime use are recommended in PTM; however, no studies have evaluated tinnitus outcomes among patients who have received these devices. We will present outcome data from three subject groups (220 total) that confirm the value of bedside sound generators as a tool in the management of tinnitus.

*Time: 1:30-2:00*

**Title: Hearing Critical Tasks in the Military**

*Presenter(s): Kari Buchanan, M.P.H.*

Hearing is necessary for efficient and accurate communication and contributes to the high level of situational awareness that is needed for survivability and lethality. This presentation discusses hearing critical tasks and the related functional hearing capability as related to the occupational specialties in each service. The information can be used to improve hearing conservation programs and training.

*Time: 2:00-3:00*

**Title: A Holistic Approach**

*Presenter(s): MSgt Sean Lehman, USAF (Ret.), Susan Logan, Au.D., MSG Bobby S. Ehrig, USA (Ret.), CPT Mark Brogan, USA (Ret.), MSgt Donald Doherty, USMC (Ret.), CPT E. Anthony Seahorn, USA (Ret.)*

For a demographic of proud military individuals, hearing loss presents very unique and personal challenges. This panel discussion is an open forum in which veterans with hearing loss and hearing healthcare professionals share information and experiences that encourage holistic solution portfolios while advancing successful, lifestyle-based end-user outcomes.

Cohiba 6

*Time: 1:00-3:00*

**Title: The Nuts and Bolts of Setting Up a Teleaudiology Program – Panel and Live Demonstration**

*Presenter(s): Gail Takahashi, Ph.D., Margaret F. Peak, Ph.D., Chad Gladden, Au.D., Erica Dombrowsky, Au.D., Darrin Worthington, Au.D., Pattianne Miller*

Expert panel members will detail what it takes to set up a Teleaudiology clinic. Service delivery models and the use of technicians (TCTs vs. dedicated audiology health technicians) will be discussed. Problems encountered and proposed solutions will be presented. This presentation will include a live demonstration of a Teleaudiology fitting session.

*Time: 1:00-1:30*

**Title: What Effect of Hearing Loss Concerns You the Most?**

*Presenter(s): LT Joseph Pratt*

The content of the research came from a questionnaire in which military personnel rated their number one concern with obtaining a hearing loss from a list of particular effects. By knowing what military personnel find negative about hearing loss, an emphasis on those points can be targeted during training and education for wearing hearing protection. By keeping the attention of those being trained, a potential decrease in the number of people with a hearing loss may be seen.

*Time: 1:30-2:00*

**Title: DoD/VA Auditory Research Working Group Overview**

*Presenter(s): Tanisha Hammill, M.A., M.P.H.*

The Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE) has re-organized and expanded the DOD/VA Auditory Research Working Group to become a newly structured collaboration among all DOD and VA research laboratories, medical treatment facilities (MTFs), Public Health Commands and other collaborating agencies with a direct or peripheral focus in auditory or vestibular research. The ARWG overarching aim is to foster knowledge sharing, facilitate greater communication, coordination, awareness and transparency between community members and promote accomplishments and best practices.

*Time: 2:00-2:30*

**Title: Development and Assessment of an Automated System for a Randomized Control Trial on Adult Hearing Screening**

*Presenter(s): M. Patrick Feeney, Ph.D.*

Three automated adult hearing screening methods were developed for a randomized clinical trial. Results for 60 subjects are presented. There was a trend for subjects who had the screening method that incorporated an educational component and an automated audiogram to be more motivated to seek additional testing by an audiologist compared to those who utilized a puretone or digits-in-noise screening.

*Time: 1:00-1:30*

**Title: Deployed Research and Clinical Audiologic Care**

*Presenter(s): Maj Brandon Tourtillott, Ph.D.*

Theater based research and clinical care is intended to improve our understanding of issues related to combat operations as well as provide necessary medical care for injured service members. This presentation will discuss the unique challenges of conducting research in theater as well as highlight the need for audiologic services within the theater of operations.

*Time: 1:30-2:00*

**Title: Hearing Injuries, Noise Exposures and Cost Burden of Hearing Loss in the Military**

*Presenter(s): Andrew Senchak, M.D.*

This session will present data from an ongoing, multi-year effort to fully assess prevalence, incidence and economic burden of hearing loss in the Department of Defense, sponsored by the DOD Hearing Center of Excellence.

*Time: 2:00-2:30*

**Title: Humanitarian Missions: An Audiological Approach**

*Presenter(s): Quintin A. Hecht, Capt, USAF, BSC, Au.D.*

Humanitarian missions involving otolaryngology and audiology have been taking place for decades throughout the world, primarily in Central and South America. The audiologist's purpose and impact is often misunderstood and or not utilized optimally. This presentation will discuss lessons learned from the past and recommendations for the future regarding the audiologist's capabilities, role, and impact.



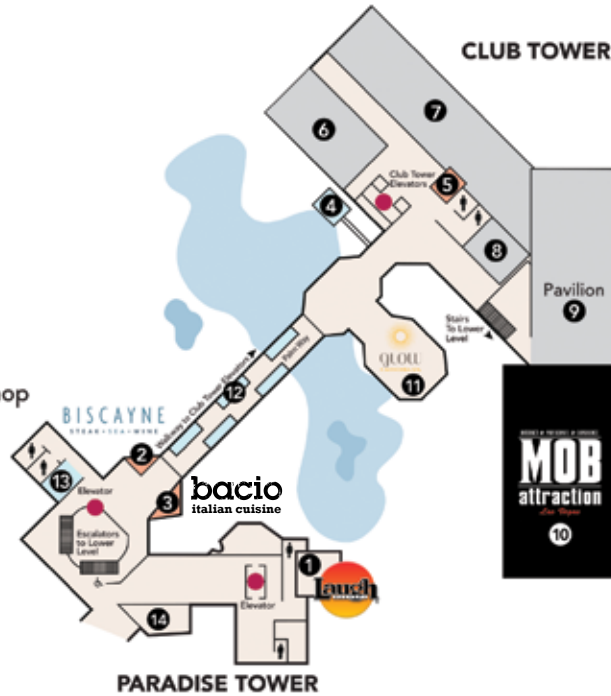


# Tropicana

LAS VEGAS

## UPPER LEVEL

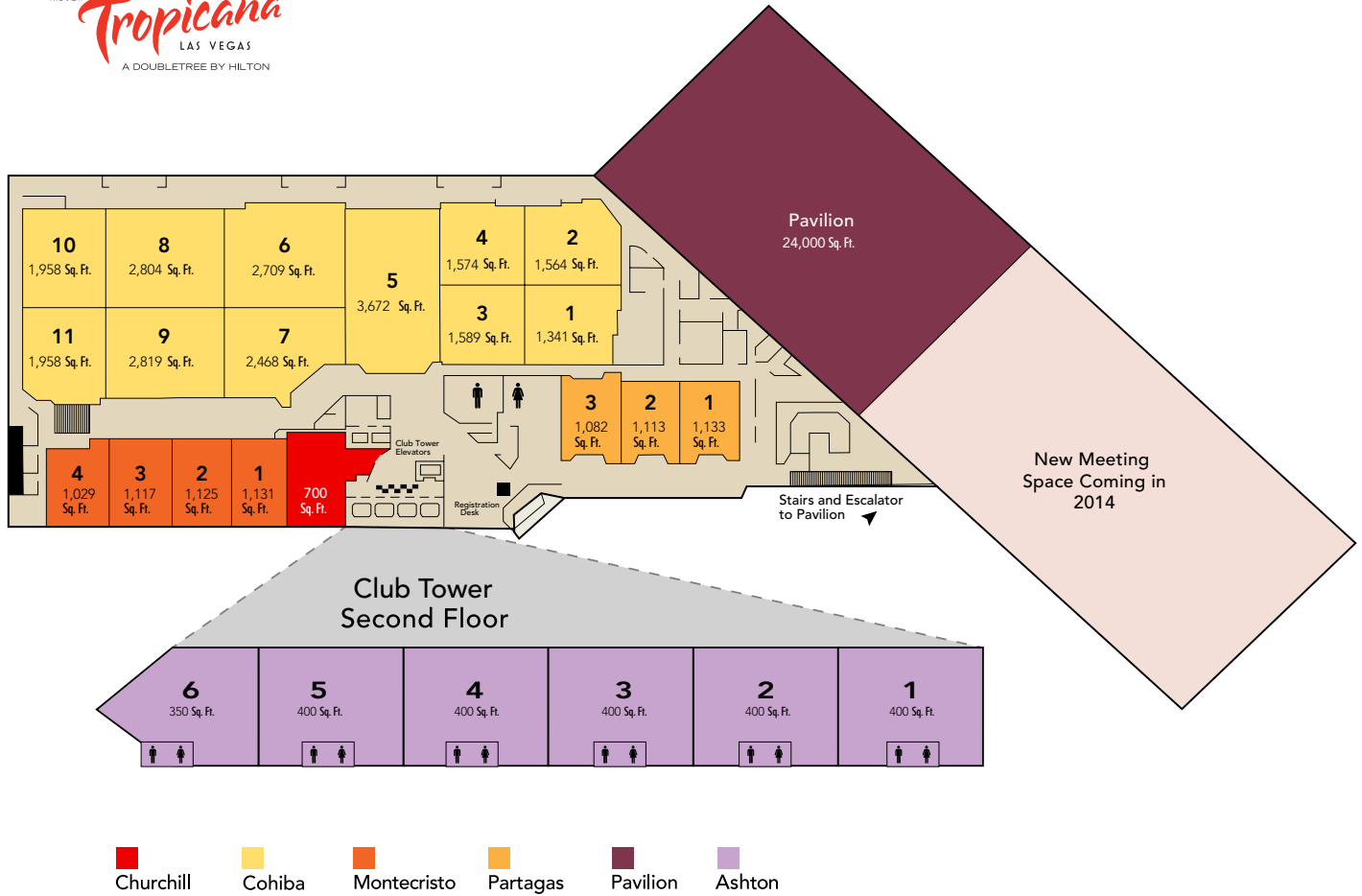
- 1 Laugh Factory
- 2 Biscayne Steak, Sea & Wine
- 3 Bacio Italian Cuisine
- 4 Wedding Chapel
- 5 Club Coffee
- 6 Montecristo
- 7 Cohiba Ballroom
- 8 Partagas
- 9 Pavilion
- 10 Mob Attraction
- 11 Glow (Spa / Fitness)
- 12 Palm Way Retail Shops
- 13 Welcome to Las Vegas Gift Shop
- 14 Virgin Holidays



## LOWER LEVEL

- 1 Bell Desk
- 2 Concierge
- 3 Car Rental
- 4 Box Office
- 5 Trop Players Club
- 6 VIP Lounge
- 7 Race & Sports
- 8 Lucky Bar
- 9 Essentials Gift Shop
- 10 Tropicana Lounge
- 11 High Limit
- 12 Cashier
- 13 Starbucks
- 14 Food Court
- 15 Beach Café
- 16 Bagatelle Beach Club
- 17 Chill'm





### MONDAY (A.M.)

**Joint Session** – Cohiba 8-11  
**AVAA** – Cohiba 8-9  
**MAA 1** – Cohiba 6  
**MAA 2** – Cohiba 7  
**MAA 3** – Cohiba 5

### MONDAY (P.M.)

**AVAA** – Cohiba 8-9  
**MAA** – Cohiba 6  
**Student Experience** – Cohiba 7  
**Cochlear Implant Audiologists**  
**Lunch Meeting** – Partagas 2  
**MAA Business Meeting** – Cohiba 6  
**Student / Concha Bowl Reception** – Cohiba 10-11  
**Concha Bowl** – Cohiba 10-11

### TUESDAY (A.M.)

**Joint Session** – Cohiba 8-11

### TUESDAY (P.M.)

**Pink** – Cohiba 8-11  
**Green** – Cohiba 5  
**Light Blue** – Cohiba 6  
**Blue** – Cohiba 7  
**MAA Banquet**

### WEDNESDAY (A.M.)

**Joint Sessions** – Cohiba 8-11

### WEDNESDAY (P.M.)

**Pink** – Cohiba 8-11  
**Green** – Cohiba 6  
**Light Blue** – Cohiba 5  
**Blue** – Cohiba 7

# LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:



Established in 1905, Las Vegas has become one of the world's most renowned cities with its major resorts, casinos, shopping, fine dining and hit shows.

Tropicana restaurants: **Bacio** is our Italian trattoria – we call it our “little taste of Italy just steps from the Strip.” Then there is our Las Vegas steakhouse, **Biscayne**, which specializes in aged steaks and features an acclaimed wine list. **Beach Café** is our 24-hour restaurant offering indoor and outdoor dining with stunning views as well as the boutique Tropicana buffet.

For a quick bite on the go, we recommend the **South Beach Food Court** – the pizza is delicious! There is also The **Naked Spoon**, serving frozen yogurt and gelato with an array of toppings. And because this city never sleeps, we knew that our resort wouldn't be complete without a Starbucks that is open 24 hours for your convenience.

If you're not in the mood to leave your Tropicana hotel room, let us cater to you! We also have three Las Vegas bars in our hotel and casino, which means that you never need to worry about where you will get your next drink!

Tropicana entertainment options not only include a little something for everyone – from live music and stand-up comedy to an incredible magic show and . If you like to laugh, visit the Laugh Factory. It welcomes three new comedians each week, which means that you'll never catch the same show twice.

If you're more interested in Vegas magic shows, see Murray the magician. (You may have seen him on “America's Got Talent.”) Then there's Gallagher. Yes, this is the same Gallagher comedian that you're thinking of, which is why we recommend that you purchase your Gallagher tickets in advance! You do not want to miss this stand-up comedy show!

So what are the free shows? We offer great live Las Vegas music performances nightly in the Tropicana Lounge. Our performers include talented musicians from a variety of musical genres, so feel free to come and grab a cocktail and dance the night away.

## Other FREE things on the strip:

**The Aquarium at the Silverton** Located within the cozy Silverton Hotel, a 117,000-gallon saltwater aquarium provides entertainment on a scale one can enjoy only in Las Vegas.

**Conservatory at Bellagio** Crafted by a team of 100 horticulturalists, the Bellagio's conservatory features elegant, elaborate arrangements of plants and flowers in its bright, airy atrium.

**Ethel M Chocolate Factory** Ethel M Chocolates panders to the sweet tooth in all of us. Located seven miles from the Strip, its free admission entices us to the factory, through which many a visitor goes for a behind-the-scenes look at the candy-making (and tasting) process.

**Fall of Atlantis at Caesars** No civilization put on a greater spectacle than ancient Rome, and now you have a chance to witness the glory for yourself at Caesars Palace's Fall of Atlantis.

**Fountains of Bellagio** Every evening, a water and music show plays again and again in the spectacular fountains filling the quarter-mile-long lake in front of the Bellagio.

**Fremont Street Experience** The Fremont Street Experience will have you dancing in the street with its \$70 million light canopy and 540,000-watt sound system.

**M&M's World** M&M's World may be the most delicious attraction in Vegas. And judging by its scores of visitors, M&M's World must be doing something right.

**Marjorie Barrick Museum** With displays of Western culture, desert life and the history of ancient Mexico, the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History is both educational and vibrant.

**P3 Studio at the Cosmopolitan** P3 Studio on the third floor of The Cosmopolitan features contemporary artists from around the world creating interactive installations as part of an innovative artist-in-residence program.

**Too Much of a Good Thing Is Wonderful:** Liberace and the Art of Costume “Too Much of a Good Thing Is Wonderful: Liberace and the Art of Costume” is a temporary exhibit at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas that showcases the costumes, personal and professional artifacts of the legendary entertainer.

**Volcano at The Mirage** Every hour after dusk, the Mirage volcano explodes forth for crowds of curious

**Wildlife Habitat at the Flamingo** The Flamingo's brilliant neon sign is undoubtedly one of the most recognizable on the Strip. And visitors can take a closer look at the creatures who inspired the bright display at the hotel-casino's very own wildlife habitat.



# JDVAC 2015

Doubtree by Hilton at the entrance to  
Universal Orlando

*Save the Date: March 2-5, 2015*



2014  
**JDVAC**

**Time: 5:00pm-6:30pm**

**Location: Tropicana Lounge**

***Tuesday, March 11, 2014***