

AVAA Amplifier

Continuing Education Edition, Spring 2022



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Special points of interest:

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Call for Questions

If you have any coding questions for the Monday afternoon VA session at JDVAC, please email to

delia.karahalios@va.gov

Continuing Education in Partnership with AVAA

by Delia Karahalios, Au.D.

AVAA President

As Audiologists we are life-long students. The more we learn, the more we realize there is to learn. I love that about our profession. With our expansion into new clinical arenas, our growing scope of practice, and the ever-changing technological landscape, audiologists spend an incredible amount of time continuing our education. Furthermore, as VA audiologists, we are proud leaders in auditory research and are committed to the highest standards of evidenced based practice.

It is no surprise that we are continually seeking ways to further our education, both online and in person, be it on our lunch break or at a stellar 3-day conference (shout out to JDVAC!). In addition to the extensive offering of CEUs at JDVAC, AVAA has partnered with Audiology Online to provide a series of VA specific talks throughout the year. These talks are available to view live, or on demand.

The first course in the series, Precepting: A VA Perspective, was presented in September 2021 by Drs. Christine Ulinski and JR McCoy. In January of this year, Drs. Jessica Preston and Cyndi Trueheart presented a timely discussion on the "Use of Remote Care for Cochlear Implant Recipients in the VA System". The next course will cover "Building Aural Rehabilitation into Every Aspect of Your VA Practice" and will be presented live on March 11th at 3:00 pm EST by Dr. Erica Dombrowsky and myself. Stay tuned for the last two courses in the series for 2022!

All Audiology Online courses are available to view at no charge on their website. In order to earn CEUs, you must be a member. You can search for VA specific talks by selecting "VA Selections" under the topics menu, or by using the following link:

<https://www.audiologyonline.com/audiology-ceus/va-selections/>

We look forward to learning with you online!



Please vote for you next
AVAA board members:

[2022 Elections | My AVAA](#)

JDVAC Virtual by David Jedlicka, Au.D.

AVAA Past President, JDVAA Executive Chair, JDVAC Conference Chair

What are some of the adjectives you think of when describing audiologists? For me some of those adjectives include resilient, determined, adaptable, thorough, and consistent. It should not come as any surprise that the JDVAC Virtual 2022 planning committee embodies all of those elements. In late December, when we realized our planned hybrid conference was moving to a fully virtual format, every single member of our planning committee was ready to rise to the challenge.



Our aim for JDVAC always remains to provide high-quality, evidence-based learning opportunities which will help you grow as an audiologist and to provide the best hearing healthcare anywhere. With JDVAC Virtual 2021 being a tremendously successful event, we know that the standard has been set very high. JDVAC co-chair Kaitlin Thoden and I set out to plan a conference that will be the highlight of 2022.

JDVAC Virtual 2022 will have more sessions than ever before. This includes more keynote addresses, field presentations, poster presentations, and educational sessions from our vendor partners. Attendees can earn over 40 CEUs during this year's conference! The sessions will be available for 30 days to view on-demand. There are also some fun additions to this year's conference including a scavenger hunt, video lounges, and networking opportunities. We also will be providing student focused educational content that will be available on our conference platform as well as on the all new JDVAC Youtube channel! Did we mention that conference registration is only \$99 for audiologists and \$35 for students?!?!



Our conference will kick off on Monday April 4th at 7 a.m. EST when the conference site opens. Attendees will be able to navigate through the platform and see what we have in store for them at JDVAC Virtual 2022. Monday's educational sessions will close out with a great talk on managing burnout, a topic which is important for all audiologists, by Dr. Marcia Lysaght. Be sure to stick around after that presentation as Ilana Glick's Social Committee will be hosting a virtual cooking class on Monday night!

Tuesday will feature a great mix of keynote presentations, poster sessions, and the ability to earn CEUs at our vendor booths. We will also be having a vendor scavenger hunt where attendees will have the opportunity to win some great prizes! Personally I'm looking forward to our keynote session examining the effects of COVID-19 on the auditory system by audiology rock star Bob Disogra.





The final day of the live session will be highlighted by field presentations from our VA and DoD colleagues, round table discussions in our video lounges, and more great keynote presentations. The Wednesday session will kick off with Dr. Tricia Scaglione and the AAA Early Career Audiologist winner Dr. Lori Zitelli providing a lecture on Tinnitus Treatment Trends of 2021.



We had a great virtual conference in 2021 and we hope to make it even better in 2022. You can register for the conference by visiting myavaa.org/conference. Please encourage your colleagues, students, and non-VA audiology peers to register for the conference as we feel it will be a great educational opportunity for all audiologists. We can't wait to see you at JDVAC Virtual 2022!

JDVAC Virtual FAQs

1. I don't understand how to "do" a virtual conference.... How do I access content?

Prior to the conference you will receive information via email about how to log into the vFairs virtual conference website. When you enter the virtual conference you can navigate throughout the page as if it were a traditional in-person conference. You can attend live sessions, visit the exhibitor booths, and take part in social activities. The vFairs platform is easy to navigate and is very user friendly. This is the same platform used in 2021.

2. Can I sign up for the conference and only attend portions of the conference due to my work schedule?

You certainly can! One of the best parts of JDVAC 2022 is that you can attend at your convenience. All of the content will be available for you to view through April 30, 2022. You will record the sessions you attended during the conference on your CEU form and notate those watched "Live" and those watched "On Demand".

3. If I sign up for the conference and cannot attend a live event can I re-watch the presentation later?

Yes! Have you ever attended a conference in the past and were disappointed to find that 2 sessions which interested you were occurring at the same time? Well that will not be an issue at JDVAC Virtual. If you can't attend a session for any reason, you will have access to the lecture through April 30, 2022.

4. If I re-watch the presentation later can I still get CEU credit?

Absolutely! You can watch the recording live or later at your convenience and still earn CEUs!

5. With the OnDemand feature, will sessions be available immediately after the live version is completed or do you have to wait until the entire conference is over to go back and watch earlier lectures?

Our goal is to have the content available as quickly as possible. All of our sessions will be recorded and then be uploaded into the vFairs cloud. Once the processing of the video is complete you will have access to the content! Some videos may load faster than others for a variety of reasons, but rest assured, we will do our best to make sure the presentations you want to see are available as quickly as possible.

6. Will there be a certificate of completion given only if the entire 3-day conference is completed or is there some documentation of attendance if all sessions are not attended?

For JDVAC Virtual you get to choose which days and which sessions you attend. There is no minimum requirement of attendance at JDVAC virtual in order to earn CEUs or a certificate of completion. You can simply attend or view the sessions that are of interest to you. When you are finished you will submit a CEU form to earn credit for the sessions you attended and you will receive a certificate of attendance and a CEU transcript. Even if you don't want CEUs reported to ASHA or AAA, you must submit the CEU record to receive an attendance certificate.

7. When I try to use the registration link from a government computer it tells me the site is not secure and does not allow me to go to the registration site. What should I do?

If you are having difficulty accessing the registration site, you have several options. Many people who have registered have done so using their home computers or mobile devices without any issues. If you are receiving a "Privacy Error" message, you can click on the icon that says "Advanced" and from there the link should become available for you to access and register for the conference.

8. Should I log in from home or work?

We have tested the system to ensure that vFairs will work on both your home and VA computers. We want to make this event as accessible as possible for every VA audiologist. Each facility will need to make their own determination of where people should be when attending JDVAC Virtual.

9. Since the conference is virtual, what time zone are we using?

The agenda shared by the JDVAC Conference Committee uses Eastern Standard Time (EST).

10. Will my camera need to be on or off?

Attendees are not required to have their cameras turned on during the session.

11. Will there be ample time for questions, comments, and discussion?

We feel that this is one of the most important parts of any conference and there will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions to the presenters, take part in discussions, and share their comments with the presenters and other attendees.

12. Will there be any interaction with colleagues?

Our JDVAC Social Committee has been hard at work developing some great activities to encourage interaction between all attendees. All attendees will have the opportunity to interact with the presenters, exhibitors, and other attendees. You also have the opportunity to earn points the more you interact with people! We will have a leaderboard again which will reward the top interactive attendees! If you're interested in more information, we have a section in this newsletter from our Social Committee explaining the events.

13. What's the deal with this Virtual 5k?

The Super-HEAR-o 5k allows you to complete a 5k through your activity of choice! AVAA Past-President, David Jedlicka, will be running through Pittsburgh and AVAA Secretary, Kaitlin Thoden, will bike the 5k. You can be as creative as you want with how you complete the 5k. Participants are also encouraged to dress up as their favorite Super-HEAR-o when completing the 5k!

14. Will all future conferences be virtual?

While there are certainly some benefits to holding a virtual conference, we hope to return to our traditional in-person format in 2023. When you complete the conference you will be shown a closing video announcing where the 2023 conference will be held.

15. I love interacting with the vendors in the exhibit hall. Will an exhibit hall be available at JDVAC 2022?

JDVAC would not be possible without the support from our vendors in the exhibit hall. We wanted to ensure that all attendees would have the opportunity to interact with the vendors in chat rooms and learn about the services and products they offer to VA Audiologists. We will be offering Virtual Booths to learn more from our exhibitors. Additionally some manufacturers will be offering CEUs at their booths!

16. How can I obtain CEU's in the exhibit hall?

Similar to the poster session, individuals can earn CEU hours by attending a certain number of booths in the exhibit hall. We will be providing more information prior to the conference explaining how many booths you must visit to earn CEUs as well as which exhibitors are offering CEUs.

17. Will there be a poster session at JDVAC?

We are very excited about the poster sessions for JDVAC Virtual. At previous conferences there was a limited amount of time for attendees to visit the poster session which was typically only held on one day. This year the posters will be available on-demand just like the lectures. We have a great variety of posters from across the country. This is another great way to interact with your colleagues and see some of the work being completed by fellow audiologists and audiology students.

18. I'm currently an extern at the VA, what will be available for me at JDVAC?

We believe that JDVAC Virtual will be a great conference for students to attend. There will be plenty of opportunities to interact with fellow students, advance your clinical education, and network with other VA audiologists. There will also be a separate student track, which we think you will find very beneficial. Additionally, JDVAC Virtual is offered to students for only \$35. We consider that to be a very worthy investment into your future.

19. Will support services be available if I have any technical issues during the conference?

Yes! The vFairs staff has been an incredible partner. If you experience any issues during the conference, there will be people ready to help as needed.

20. What else should I know about JDVAC Virtual 2022?

Since this is our second year hosting a virtual conference, we have learned several lessons and believe we are able to host an even better virtual conference this year. If you've never attended JDVAC or if it's been a few years since you've last joined us, we hope that you'll join us for JDVAC Virtual. We have tried our best to bring the in-person conference experience to the virtual format. Our goal is to offer something for everyone at a very reasonable price. For \$99 you'll have the opportunity to earn over 40 CEUs dedicated specifically to VA audiologists. We may never be able to offer a conference like this again, so it is our mission to make it as great and as memorable as possible.

Social Offerings for JDVAC 2022

SuperHEARo 5k

Please join us as we start JDVAC with our 2nd Annual SuperHEARo 5K event. Whether you want to run, walk, bike, skip or row, get pumped in your favorite superhero costume. Participants will be able to post a picture of themselves in their costume for a chance to win an Amazon gift card for "Best Costume". Don't forget to register and send your picture to ilana.glick@va.gov.



JDVAC Cooking Class

Monday night, grab your aprons and join JDVAC for a virtual cooking class. Everyone is invited to join in and virtually cook a meal together. Those who want to participate, can sign-up in advance and will be given a list of ingredients. Feel free to post your finished meal on social media!



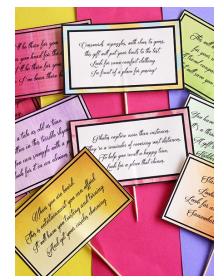
Student/Mentor Breakout Sessions

During the conference there will be several opportunities for students to meet with other audiologists to have an open forum to ask questions or learn about other VAs across the nation.



Exhibit Hall Scavenger Hunt

Don't forget to stop by the exhibit hall and visit all the booths for a chance to win one of fifteen audiology online annual memberships. There will be a hidden image or two in every booth. Find all of the images and you will be entered to win!



PETS OF AVAA



Tobi is the 9 year old tabby/tortie kitty of Audiology Health Technician Traci Livering of Eugene CBOC. Traci says Tobi is full of sass and spice and has an Instagram page with her son and brother! (Instagram: aarian_the_great)



Jean Deiss, Au.D. shared a photo of one of her rescue dogs, Hankarelli. Hank was rescued from a county shelter with an undiagnosed seizure disorder. 5 years later he is on a strict medication regimen and is blind in one eye, but is the happiest dog ever!



Lily is a 11 year old rescue who was listed as a “Jack Russell/Border Collie mix”, but her human family is convinced she’s at least a little bit American Eskimo. She is super smart and can apparently tell time - she will let you know if you are even 1 minute late serving her dinner! Lily loves her daily walks and is well-known as the gal with the softest and fluffiest fur in the neighborhood. Her snoring might be loud enough to be heard in the next town over, but her humans don’t mind one bit since she’s the sweetest and most snuggly pup. Lily belongs to Stacey Sturgulewski of the Hines VA.



Lili, also known as Lili Monster, is a spunky, energetic kitty that loves heights. You can find her in the tallest spot in the room or cuddled up next to her mom. She is a daredevil that loves the highest spot of every room. Lili was found outside in the wheel well on a car at 6 weeks old and has been warming hearts since. This precious kitty is happiest when she is playing with her spiral springs, just moments before she knocks them under the couch. Lili belongs to Ilana Glick of the Miami VA.

Want to see your pet in the newsletter? Email us to have your pet featured!

AssnVAAuds@gmail.com