

Joint Defense Veterans Audiology Conference 2024
Presenter Biographies

Abrams, Harvey

In a career spanning almost 50 years, *Dr. Harvey Abrams* served in a number of academic, clinical, research, administrative, and consulting capacities with the DOD, VA, academia, and industry. He currently serves as Senior Advisor and Head of Research Audiology at Jabra Hearing. He received his master's and doctoral training from the University of Florida and is a professor at Salus University and the University of South Florida. Harvey's research has focused on treatment efficacy and improved quality of life associated with audiologic intervention, and the effectiveness of remote hearing healthcare service delivery models.

Financial Disclosures: Travel expenses paid by JDVAC.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Adams, Deanne

Dr. Deanne Adams is passionate about ensuring Veterans get the excellent services they deserve! She currently serves as a Sr. Audiology officer with VBA under the Medical Disability Examination Office (MDEO) Policy and Program Management staff. She provides oversight and guidance for contract vendors completing Hearing Loss and Tinnitus DBQs. Prior, she was a clinical audiologist and Audiology Section Chief in the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System.

Financial Disclosures: Receives a salary from VBA.

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Allen, John R.

Dr. John R. Allen serves as the Director for Medical Standards at Star Harbor, Lone Tree, Colorado. Prior to this he worked as the NASA Program Executive for Crew Health and Safety and for the NASA Human Research Program. Dr. Allen received his Ph.D. in Audiology and Bioacoustics from Baylor College of Medicine. Serving in the US Air Force for 26 years, he instructed at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine and was the consultant to the USAF Surgeon General in Audiology and Speech Pathology. His expertise includes hearing and communication challenges and mitigation, spatial disorientation, space human factors.

Financial Disclosures: Employee at Star Harbor; Honoraria paid by JDVAC.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Alstot, Laurel E.

Laurel E Alstot, AuD, is an Occupational Audiologist and Hearing Conservation Program Manager currently working for the Dept of the Navy. She graduated from University of Utah's AuD program in 2019 and is a CAOHC certified Program Manager and Course Director. Dr Alstot has previously worked for both the Army and the Air Force and has several years of experience performing operational fitness for duty evaluations for all military branches.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Arriaga, Eric

Doctor of Audiology, *Eric Arriaga*, received his B.S. Biological Sciences from the University of New Orleans. He earned his Doctor of Audiology degree at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in 2014 and was nominated for Chancellor's award. Prior to joining ReSound, Eric's clinical experience began as a 4th year student in 2013 at the VAMC Biloxi where he continued into full employment in 2014. In addition to clinical patient care, he served as

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preceptor specializing in Advanced Vestibular testing and Tinnitus Management Specialist for 4th year audiology trainees, liaison between blind rehab and audiology, PTM specialist for both in house group sessions and via the telehealth system, and clinic lead in fitting hearing aids over distance via telehealth care.

Financial Disclosure: Full-time employee of ReSound.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Bahner, Cammy

Cammy Bahner, Au.D., is the Director of Audiology for Interacoustics U.S. In her role, she provides clinical training, education, and support for a variety of products, with a primary emphasis in vestibular and electrophysiologic assessment. She received her Au.D. from A.T. Still University, AZ School of Health Sciences. Cammy is currently a member of AAA, ABS and ASHA.

Financial Disclosure: Employed by Interacoustics

Non-Financial Disclosure: None

Balachandran, Rupa

Dr. Rupa Balachandran serves as the Assistant Service Chief for Audiology and Speech Pathology at the VA Northern California Health Care System. Dr. Balachandran earned her Ph.D. from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in Speech and Hearing Sciences. She is a licensed dispensing audiologist in the state of California. Throughout her career she had worked in both clinical and academic settings and now calls the VA her professional home. Her interests are in amplifications, central auditory processing and practice management. She serves on the board of directors for the Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Barnes, Jennifer

Jennifer Barnes, AuD, is Assistant Chief of Audiology and Speech Pathology for the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System. She has served as a clinical audiologist in the VHA for 23 years.

Financial Disclosures: VA Employee

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Beauregard, Stephanie

Ms. Stephanie Beauregard, PT, MPT has been practicing physical therapy since 2005. She is a graduate of The University of Texas San Antonio with a B.S. in Biology and The University of Texas Medical Branch with a Master's of Physical Therapy. Stephanie has specialized in the rehabilitation and treatment of neurologically impaired patients for the duration of her career, to include spinal cord injury and disease, amputee care, stroke and brain injury recovery, and wheelchair seating. Prior to joining the Fort Belvoir Intrepid Spirit Center in 2013, Stephanie held the position of Chief, PT TBI Section at both Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She has been assisting the Intrepid Spirit program both clinically and in an administrative capacity since its inception in 2011. Currently responsible for program development and day to day operations for the rehabilitation section of the Intrepid Spirit Center at ATAMMC. Stephanie is also a Certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt

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Candidate. Site PI for research protocol collaboration with JHU: Incremental Velocity Error as a New Treatment in Vestibular Rehabilitation (INVENT VPT Trial).

Financial Disclosures: Department of Defense Employee.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Behrens, Thomas

Thomas Behrens is Vice President for Audiology for Oticon, directs research at the Centre for Applied Audiology Research, and serves in leadership positions within audiology and research at Oticon and Demant. He is responsible for pre- and post-market research, professional communication, and defining audiology in new Oticon solutions. Prior to this, he spent 10 years at the Eriksholm Research Centre. His research interests include signal processing, outcome measures, cognitive hearing science, and eHealth. Thomas has an MSc degree in Applied Signal Processing from Aalborg University (1998) and a Bachelor degree in Business Administration (HD) from Copenhagen Business School (2004).

Financial Disclosures: Employee at Oticon.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Biel, Brianna

Brianna Biel, BA, is a clinical research coordinator for the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Audiology and Speech Center with a profound commitment to serving the military community. She is located at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune where she has been conducting research for the past five years. Her primary focus has been studying the effects of repetitive low level blast exposure (RLLBE) on service members. She first became involved in research while earning her BA in Psychology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Her areas of interest include TBI, audiology, RLLBE, mental health, and warfighter optimization.

Financial Disclosures: Employee Po'okela Solutions, LLC.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Blackburn, Michael

At Sonova, USA, *Michael Blackburn, Au.D.* leads software solutions used by audiologists and patients with hearing loss. He is also an Adjunct Faculty member of the Northwestern University and Northern Illinois University Audiology programs. He has previously held positions as a clinical audiologist specializing in telehealth and vestibular care.

Financial Disclosures: Employee of Sonova USA, employee of Northern Illinois University, employee of Northwestern University.

Non-financial Disclosures: Treasurer and Board of Directors for the Illinois Academy of Audiology.

Blank, Amy

COL Amy Blank is an audiologist who served in the US Army for over 36 years. She earned her Doctorate of Audiology from Central Michigan University in 2008 and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies in 2022 from the U.S. Army War College. She serves as the Military Injury Prevention Division Chief, Defense Centers for Public Health – Aberdeen (DCPH-A) and is the previous Consultant to the Army Surgeon General for Audiology and Hearing Conservation.

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Amy is a past-president of the Military Audiology Association, the Joint Defense Veterans Audiology Association, and the National Hearing Conservation Association.

Financial Disclosures: Employee of the Department of Defense.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Boorazanes, Maggie

Maggie Boorazanes is the Phonak Government Services Regional Account Manager to the Central Region, covering IL, IN, MI, KY, TN, and OH. Maggie received her Bachelor of Science in Communication Disorders from Purdue University, and her Au.D. from Rush University. Prior to joining the Phonak in 2019, Maggie worked for Otometrics, a division of Natus, in product management and audiology support. Maggie's nearly 8 years of clinical experience before to joining the industry, include traditional amplification, osseointegrated devices, vestibular assessment, and audiological assessment of patients of all ages in hospital settings, including the VA.

Financial Disclosures: Sonova employee.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Boudin-George, Amy

Dr. Amy Boudin-George is a Clinician Scientist in the Studies and Analyses Section at the Defense Health Agency Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE). She currently serves primarily in program management and implementation science roles. Dr. Boudin-George has been with the HCE since 2014 and has led efforts in audiology clinical coding standardization, continuing education programs and products, and policy/program development for clinical assessment and rehabilitation. She received her AuD in 2010 from Louisiana State University Health Science Center. She is a PhD candidate in Translational Science at the University of Texas at Austin.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Buchanan, Kari

Kari Buchanan, M.P.H., M.A. is a retired U.S. Navy Industrial Hygiene Officer providing contract support through zCore Business Solutions to the Defense Health Agency Hearing Center of Excellence. Ms. Buchanan is currently managing efforts to develop a hearing protective device evaluated products list and associated assessment methods for hearing protective devices. She received her M.P.H. in Environmental Health Sciences from Columbia University and her M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College. She has a broad background in military operations, occupational hazards in the military, DOD organization, and risk assessment.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None.

Braun, Bailey

Dr. Bailey Braun is an audiologist for the United States Air Force Hearing Conservation Program's Operational Hearing Lab. She obtained her doctorate in audiology from Indiana University in 2022 and completed her clinical residency at the Cleveland VA where she developed a passion working with veterans while providing exceptional care and education on

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hearing health. Dr. Braun's clinical specialty is adult assessment, implantable auditory prosthetics, and auditory rehabilitation.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Brungart, Douglas

Douglas Brungart, PhD, is the Chief Scientist of the National Military Audiology and Speech Pathology Center at Walter Reed. From 1993 to 2009, he was a research engineer at the Air Force Research Laboratory with research focusing on advanced auditory displays for spatial and speech information. Since 2009, he has been at WR focusing on the application of advanced technology to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss and other hearing and speech disorders. He holds a MS and PHD in Electrical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a BS in Computer Engineering from Wright State University.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Brzuska, Andrea

Andrea Brzuska, BA, is a certified clinical research coordinator for the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Audiology and is on site at Camp Lejeune. She is also certified as an occupational hearing conservationist by the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation and as a tri-service hearing technician with the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center. She earned her BA in Brain and Cognitive Sciences at the University of Rochester, where she began her career working in ophthalmology, both as a technician and research coordinator. Her areas of interest include auditory, vestibular, visual perception, and ophthalmic research.

Financial Disclosures: Employee Po'okela Solutions, LLC.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Carter, Abby

Abby Carter is a fourth-year audiology doctoral student attending Idaho State University. She is currently completing her fourth-year externship at the Northern Colorado VA Outpatient Center.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Castor, Deb

Doctor of Audiology, *Deb Castor, Au.D.*, has worked in hearing device manufacturing for over nearly 20 years and has been with ReSound since 2003. Deb has extensive experience in clinical Audiology and hearing instrument dispensing during her 10+ years clinical tenure. She has been a member of the Government Services team for 11 years as Territory Sales Manager and currently as Director of Regional Sales. She has broad experience in hearing aid manufacturing as well as functions of the GS business unit. Deb holds a Bachelor and Master's degree in Audiology from Northern Illinois University. She also earned her Au.D. in 2005 from the Arizona School of Health Sciences. Prior to her current role, she has worked as Regional Training Director, managing a national team of professional trainers, as well as developing and executing the ReSound eLearning program including Audiology Online, implementing, and maintaining student outreach programs as well as collaborating with regional sales teams.

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Financial Disclosure: Full-time employee of ReSound.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Clark, Jennifer

Jennifer Clark has been the Chief Health Informatics Officer (CHIO) at the Walla Walla VA since 2020. She is currently serving in a detail as the Deputy Director of Sustainment for the Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office, Office of the Functional Champion (EHRM-IO/OFC).

She previously worked three years in private practice before joining the VA in 2010 as an Audiologist.

Dr. Clark received her Doctorate of Audiology from UC San Diego and San Diego State University. She completed her Master of Health Administration from the George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health in 2020.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Danielson, Richard (Dick)

For 18 years *Richard (Dick) Danielson PhD* managed a distinctive program at NASA-Johnson Space Center, where he collaborated with NASA and its international partners to resolve auditory and acoustic issues on the International Space Station and future space vehicles. During his 28-year career in the military, Colonel (Retired) Danielson directed audiology and hearing conservation programs and was the Office-in-Charge of a unique Audiology Task Force that deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Storm. Dick has been a faculty member of numerous medical colleges and universities and the chair of the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation.

Financial Disclosures: Retirement U.S. Army; Honoraria paid by JDVAC.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Davidson, Alyssa

Alyssa Davidson, Au.D., Ph.D., CCC-A is a Research Audiologist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center who received her Doctor of Audiology and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Arizona. She also completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at Northwestern University. Her research interests include auditory processing, outcome measures, and translation of research into the clinic. She has experience working with military and civilian audiologists conducting auditory research in the field and in the clinic.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Dawkes, Andrea Hannan

Dr. Andrea Hannan Dawkes joined the Education and Training team at Starkey in 2010. She assists in the development of educational materials, leads training classes, serves as the liaison for Starkey's university and student programs, and leads the Government Services training initiatives. Prior to joining Starkey, Andrea worked as a clinical audiologist at several prominent medical centers including serving as the audiology supervisor at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. She was an audiology clinical supervisor and adjunct faculty member at Hofstra University and has participated in various research projects involving signal detection,

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hearing aid performance, and signal processing. She earned her Master of Arts degree in Audiology from the University of Maryland at College Park and her Doctor of Audiology degree from A.T. Still University.

Financial Disclosures: Employee at Starkey.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

DeMari, Stephen

Steve DeMari earned his Master's in Audiology from Syracuse University and has been an Audiologist for over 35 years, he has served in a variety of leadership and clinical audiology roles. Most recently, he was Vice President of Sales and Director of Audiology for a large Healthcare Provider. Previously, he was Director of Government Services and Business Development for three large Hearing Instrument Manufacturers. Steve is a member of AAA, ASHA, ILAA. He stays highly involved in the industry through continuing education seminars, conferences, social networks and professional blogs.

Financial Disclosures: Employee of CaptionCall by Sorenson.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Dombrowsky, Erica

Erica Dombrowsky is a Clinical Audiologist at the Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center in Miami, FL. She has been working in the VA system for 23 years, with 20 years at the Miami VA. Her roles at the facility include Audiology Telehealth Program coordinator and Aural Rehabilitation program coordinator. Erica also serves as a member of the VHA TeleAudiology advisory team.

Financial Disclosures: VA Employee

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Drexler, Daniel

Dr. Daniel Drexler M.D., Mg. Sc. is the Clinical Director for Levo Medical. Dr. Drexler led the founder team that designed the Levo Tinnitus Therapy System and has published multiple articles in peer reviewed scientific journals. He is the General Director of Centro Tinnitus Montevideo, leading a broad multidisciplinary team focused on tinnitus research and treatment. Dr. Drexler graduated as a Medical Doctor (1997) and as a Magister in Medical Sciences (2004) at UdelaR (Uruguay). He has 27 years of experience in clinical work and research in fields related to the auditory system, focusing on tinnitus, acoustic trauma, and hearing loss.

Financial Disclosures: Consulting Fee from Levo Medical; Holds a patent on equipment at Levo Medical.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Ducatte, Claire

Claire Ducatte, B.A., is currently a fourth-year audiology student attending the University of Colorado Boulder. She is completing her externship at the Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC. Her current clinical interests include cochlear implants, tinnitus management, and working with the geriatric population.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

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Edwards, Diana

Communication Sciences and Disorders in 2004 from the University of Pittsburgh. She then attended the University of Cincinnati, where she earned her Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree in 2008, with honors. Following her educational experience, Dr. Edwards employed at an ear, nose, and throat office in Atlanta, Georgia. From 2008-2013 she practiced audiology full time. In August 2013, Dr. Edwards left the clinical setting and joined the hearing aid industry working for GN ReSound as a Field Training Audiologist. In 2018 and 2019 she received a promotion becoming a ReSound Senior Field Training Audiologist and Territory Sales Manager, respectively. Dr. Edwards is a member of the American Academy of Audiology and currently holds an audiology license in Georgia and North Carolina.

Financial Disclosure: Full-time employee of ReSound.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Eskelund, Kasper

Kasper Eskelund is a Senior Researcher at Oticon's Centre for Applied Audiology Research. Trained as a psychologist from University of Copenhagen (2010), he holds a PhD in auditory neuroscience from Technical University of Denmark (2014). He previously held positions as Military Psychologist and Researcher in the Danish Defense (2014-2021), studying psychological and neurocognitive responses to combat stress, using behavioral, neuroimaging and machine learning methods. His research interests include neural and cognitive aspects of hearing loss, the interplay between hearing and psychological factors, as well as whole health perspectives on hearing – with a special interest in veterans.

Financial Disclosures: Currently employed as Senior Researcher in Oticon, part of Demant A/S.

Previously employed as Military Psychologist and Researcher in the Danish Veteran Centre, part of the Danish Defense.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Feeney, M. Patrick

M. Patrick Feeney, Ph.D. is the Director of the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) at the VA Portland Health Care System and a Professor in the Departments of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery and Neurology at the Oregon Health and Science University. Dr. Feeney's research interests involve the assessment of peripheral auditory function including wideband assessment of middle ear and cochlear function, assessment of ototoxicity, auditory rehabilitation, and adult hearing screening.

Financial Disclosures: NIH grant which supports his research in WAI; grant to the Portland VA Research Foundation from the William Demant Foundation for hearing aid research.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Fitzke, Jeanette

Jeanette Fitzke is the US and Canada Field Clinical Audiologist Team Lead for Natus. She has trained several providers and given multiple local, state, and national presentations and lectures on a variety of Audiology, Vestibular, Telehealth, and Business-related topics pertinent to hearing and balance healthcare industry. She has 17 years of clinical experience prior to joining Natus in ENT, hospital, and multi-specialty clinics with a variety of age populations. Focus was on diagnostics, hearing aid services, vestibular care, and electrophysiological testing. She obtained

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her B.S. from University of Arizona, M.S. from Arizona State University and AuD from A.T. Still University.

Financial Disclosures: Employee of Natus.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None.

Foster, John

Lt Col John Foster is currently the United States Air Force Hearing Conservation Program Manager, United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM), 711th Human Performance Wing, Wright Patterson Air Force Base (AFB), Ohio. He directs hearing readiness operations for 244 active duty, reserve, and guard units overseeing the surveillance of over 300,000 noise-exposed workers and safeguarding 22 million hearing records. Lt Col Foster graduated with his Doctor of Audiology from Utah State University and his Master of Science in Public Health from the University of Hawaii.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Friedmann, David R.

David R Friedmann, MD, MSc is a neurotologist and research scientist at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and the NY Harbor VA Medical Center. He has published widely on outcomes in cochlear implantation and skull base surgery. His funded work seeks to address complexities in the delivery of hearing care. His research is funded by the National Institutes of Health and VA Health Services Research & Development Program.

Financial Disclosures: Funding from NIA and VA HSR&D.

Non-financial Disclosures: Prior honoraria for presenting research at Cochlear Corp symposium.

Fuller, Cassie

Cassie Fuller is the Government Services Account Manager for the NorthEast region. Prior to joining the Oticon team, Cassie spent time in a variety of audiology practice settings performing diagnostic evaluations and dispensing hearing aids, followed by her role as an Education & Training Audiologist within the industry. Cassie completed her undergraduate degree at Eastern Illinois University and received her Doctorate in Audiology from The University of Kansas.

Financial Disclosures: Receives a paid salary from Oticon.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Hanscom, Kelly

Kelly Hanscom, graduate from University of Maryland, is VA Audiologist of 4+ years and specializes in tinnitus management. She serves as the Audiology Allied Health Director for the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) at RMR VAMC.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Hebeisen, Cheri

Dr. Cheri Hebeisen joined Neuromod USA in August 2023 as a Clinical Training & Business Development Manager, adding over 23-years' experience in the hearing care industry to the US Neuromod team. Cheri began her career providing audiology care in a clinical setting, then

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shifted to the hearing aid industry as a Clinical Trainer for Phonak. She helps drive Lenire success with her clinical and sales experience. Cheri's academic credentials include a Doctor of Audiology from the University of Florida and a Master of Communication Disorders from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center.

Financial Disclosures: Employee at Neuromod.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None.

Hecht, Quintin

Quintin Hecht, AuD, MPH, is a research audiologist and project manager for the Defense Health Agency Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE). Dr. Hecht joined the HCE in 2016 and also serves as an Army Reserve Staff Officer for the U.S. Army Medical Command, Office of the Surgeon General. Dr. Hecht received his AuD from Illinois State University and his MPH-EH from the University of Illinois. Dr. Hecht's research interests include boothless audiometry technology, acute auditory injury, and exposure assessment.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Hicks, Michelle

Michelle Hicks, Ph.D. is Vice President of Education and Audiology at Starkey in Eden Prairie, MN. She joined Starkey in 2010 and has led teams of audiologists and hearing professionals responsible for clinical research, product and feature validation, and the education and training of customers globally. Dr. Hicks received her Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Science in 1997 from Arizona State University and has over 22 years of experience in clinical practice, research, education, and industry.

Financial Disclosures: Employee of Starkey

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Hopp, Rachel

Rachel Hopp, Au.D., CCC-A is a cochlear implant audiologist at the Carl T Hayden VAMC in Phoenix and a member of the VHA Cochlear Implant Advisory Board. She completed her Masters and Doctorate of Audiology at the University of Minnesota and Bachelors in Communication Disorders at the University of Wisconsin.

Financial Disclosures: VA employee.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Hughes, Ashley

Ashley Hughes, Au.D. works for Interacoustics US, and is the main point of contact for all audiometry, impedance, OAE, hearing aid fitting, and telehealth solutions. Prior to joining Interacoustics, Dr. Hughes first worked clinically and then as a research audiologist. She has served as an invited speaker at state and national conferences and is an author on multiple published articles and posters on topics including real-ear measurements, subjective outcome measures, advocacy, mentorship, negotiations, and more. She is highly involved in the American Academy of Audiology along with her state audiology organization, the Minnesota Academy of Audiology.

Financial Disclosures: Interacoustics US - Salaried Employee

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Non-financial Disclosures: AAA - State Relations Committee Member; AAA Research, Clinical, and Teaching Subcommittee Chair; MAA Continuing Education Committee Member

Husain, Fatima T.

Dr. Fatima T. Husain is an auditory cognitive neuroscientist by training and a Professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA, where she is affiliated with the Department of Speech and Hearing Science, the Neuroscience Program, and the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. She also presently serves as the Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the College of Applied Health Sciences. Dr. Husain uses behavioral studies, advanced brain imaging, and computational modeling to better understand brain function as related to all aspects of hearing. In particular, she uses magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to understand the neural correlates of tinnitus, hearing loss and other comorbid conditions. She has published over 40 peer-reviewed journal articles on tinnitus and hearing loss, a majority of them using brain imaging techniques. She is the immediate past Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee, American Tinnitus Association, board member of the SoQuiet Foundation (for misophonia education and research) and member of the scientific advisory group of Hyperacusis Inc. She also serves as a standing member of a grant review committee for Veterans Affairs. Apart from these, Dr. Husain does not have any financial or non-financial disclosures.

Financial Disclosures: Receiving an honoraria from JDVAC; Serves on a VA Review Board.

Non-financial Disclosures: SoQuiet Foundation-member of Scientific Review Committee; Hyperacusis Research, Inc.- member of Scientific Review Committee.

Huston, Lisa

Lisa Huston is the Government Services Account Manager for the West Region of the US, based in Phoenix, AZ. Lisa began her Oticon career in 2015 as a commercial Account Manager covering Arizona and southern California. She earned her Doctorate in Audiology from the University of Texas at Dallas and completed her externship at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale. Prior to joining the Oticon team, Lisa worked as a Clinical Audiologist and hearing aid dispenser in an ENT setting.

Financial Disclosures: Receives a paid salary from Oticon.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Gabbidon, Patricia

Patricia Gabbidon is the Vestibular Program Lead at the Miami VA Healthcare System and has been practicing clinical audiology for almost 6 years. Her interests and clinical experiences include telehealth, aural rehabilitation, hearing aid selection and programming, vestibular evaluation and rehabilitation. She graduated from the University of South Florida with a doctoral degree in Audiology in 2018.

Financial Disclosures: Employed by the Miami VA Healthcare System.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Gade, Pernille Aaby

Pernille Aaby Gade is a Clinical Research Audiologist at Oticon. She works out of headquarters in Denmark in the research team of Centre for Applied Audiology Research. She holds a master's degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Science from Copenhagen University. In her

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role at Oticon, she's responsible for designing and conducting research studies and communicating the finding in marketing materials (white papers, videos, presentations, etc.). Her research interests include neural and cognitive aspects of hearing loss including sound sensitivity, wind noise in hearing aids, as well as clinical benefits of decreasing disturbing sounds – with a special interest in veterans.

Financial Disclosures: Employee at Oticon.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Gates, Kathy

Dr. Kathy Gates supports the Prevention and Surveillance Section for the Defense Health Agency Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE). Her primary role is to promote hearing loss prevention initiatives and total worker hearing health promotion. Her passion for hearing loss prevention began back in 1987 when she was commissioned in the U.S. Army as an Army Audiologist. Colonel (Retired) Gates served over twenty-six years in the Army. She holds certification as a CAOHC Course Director and Professional Supervisor.

Financial Disclosures: Employee of zCore Business Solutions as a contractor for the Department of Defense.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Gellhaus, Jacynda

Jacynda Gellhaus is currently enrolled in the AuD program at the University of South Dakota where she is expected to receive her doctoral degree in 2025. She received her MS from Arizona State University in neuroscience where she investigated music perception in cochlear implant users. Jacynda assisted in the successful implementation of tele-audiology for the SD EHDI program setting up Tele-ABR sites across the state. Jacynda was an intern with the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) during the summer and fall of 2023.

Financial Disclosures: Grants from ORISE.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Gifford, René H.

René H. Gifford, Ph.D, CCC-A, is a Professor in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She holds the Fred H. Bess Chair in Audiology and is the Director of the Implantables, Hearing Enhancement, & Amplification Research (I HEAR) Laboratory at the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center. Her current research interests include combined electric and acoustic stimulation (EAS) with cochlear implantation, hearing preservation with cochlear implantation, preoperative prediction of postoperative outcomes with implants, speech perception for adults and children with cochlear implants, spatial hearing abilities of individuals using various hearing technologies, and audiovisual processing prior to and following intervention via hearing aids and/or cochlear implants. Dr. Gifford's research has been NIH funded for 20 years, she has published over 150 peer-reviewed articles, multiple book chapters, and she authored a book, now in its second edition, entitled "[Cochlear Implant Patient Assessment: Evaluation of Candidacy, Performance, and Outcomes](#)." She was a featured scientist on the National Public Radio, *Science Friday* broadcast entitled [Breakthrough: Portraits of Women in Science—Hearing a Whole New World](#). She was awarded the 2015 [Louis M. DiCarlo Award for Recent Clinical Achievement](#) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the 2017 [Vanderbilt University Chancellor's Award for Research](#), as well as

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the 2021 [Jerger Career Award for Research in Audiology](#) from the American Academy of Audiology.

Financial Disclosures: Employee at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Grants from NIH, NIDCD, Advanced Bionics, and Cochlear; Consulting Fee from Cochlear and Skylark Bio.

Non-financial Disclosures: Elected board member (2016-2024) and Past President of the American Auditory Society.

Gladden, Chad

Chad Gladden is the Audiology Telehealth Coordinator for the VA Audiology and Speech Pathology National Program Office. He is a national spokesperson for the advancement of teleaudiology and serves on numerous national committees dealing with connected care within the VA. Dr. Gladden has authored articles and presented nationally on ways to get started in teleaudiology and has served as a master preceptor to beginning teleaudiology practitioners. He has a strong commitment to advancing telehealth and connected care and preparing staff for involvement in this important service to veterans.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Glick, Ilana

Ilana Glick, Au.D., CCC-A is a clinical audiologist and the Cochlear Implant Program Manager at the Miami Veteran's Administration Healthcare System where she has worked since 2018. She received both her Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Audiology from the University of Florida. Prior to joining the team at the Miami VA, she worked as a clinical audiologist at the Tampa VA from 2011-2018.

Dr. Glick is a cochlear implant specialist and has served as the CI program manager since 2023. She has been passionate about working with implantable patients since she first learned about cochlear implants as an undergraduate. In addition to specializing in implantable devices, she is a part of the tinnitus management team, providing extensive one on one counseling sessions for patients as well as teaching the tinnitus group classes based on Progressive Tinnitus Management (PTM).

Dr. Glick is the co-chair of the 2024 Joint Defense Veterans Audiology Conference (JDVAC) conference and is excited to serve as the chair of the 2025 JDVAC conference. She has been an active participant in conference planning for many years, having held various volunteer roles, including Social Chair in 2021. From 2020-2023, Dr. Glick served as the treasurer for the Association of VA Audiologists (AVAA) Secretary.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Gortemaker, Michele

Michele Gortemaker, Au.D., is the TeleAudiology Program Manager at Cheyenne VA Health Care System and has served as a clinical audiologist in the VHA for 14 years.

She is also a member of the TeleAudiology Advisory Team and Field Advisory Council.

Financial Disclosures: VA Employee

Non-financial Disclosures: None

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Grant, Ginger

Dr. Ginger Grant earned her B.S. at the University of Massachusetts, M.S. at the University of Arizona, and AuD at Central Michigan University. She developed a passion for implantable hearing solutions in 1994 when she began her career as an audiologist at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, MD. She joined Cochlear in May 2000 where she has served in a variety of roles including clinical and surgical support, sales, clinical research, and market expansion. Ginger is a lifelong learner and shares her passion as a Professional Education Manager at Cochlear.

Financial Disclosures: Employee at Cochlear Americas.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

James, Emily E.

Dr. Emily James works at the Pittsburgh VA as a staff vestibular audiologist. She previously worked in the Orlando VA Healthcare System, was an extern at the Cleveland VA, and was a student in the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System. She graduated from Vanderbilt University, where her capstone project was phase I in the development of what is now known as the Dizziness Symptom Profile. Her clinical focus areas are vestibular diagnostics and student education and is passionate about data-driven process improvement.

Financial Disclosures: Employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Pittsburgh, PA.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None.

Jenkins, Kimberly

Kimberly Jenkins, Au.D., CCC-A is a Clinical Audiologist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center who received her Doctor of Audiology from the University of Maryland. Though her primary role is patient care, she is routinely involved in clinical research. Her clinical and research interests overlap and include evaluating and treating auditory processing dysfunction, implementing telehealth, and improving patient outcomes. She has several years of experience working with the military population.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Jorgensen, Lindsey

Lindsey Jorgensen is a Professor at the University of South Dakota where she teaches, does research, and sees patients clinically. Both, her area of research and clinic focus on the interaction between typical aging and atypical aging due to dementia/TBI on the use and function of hearing assistive technology. She teaches courses in amplification, counseling, advanced diagnostics, hearing technology, and rehabilitation. Additionally, she serves as the Chair for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders as well as the Clinic Director for the USD Speech and Hearing Clinics.

Financial Disclosure: Employee University of South Dakota; Honorarium and travel expenses provided by JDVAC.

Non-financial Disclosures: Research relationships with hearing aid and verification manufacturers.

Karch, Stephanie

Dr. Stephanie Karch is a research audiologist at the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory. In this role, she investigates the prevention and mitigation of auditory injury among

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Service Members. Specifically, she studies the effects of hearing protection fit training and methods and the field application of hearing protection fit testing and boothless technology in occupational and operational environments. A graduate in audiology from Gallaudet University (Au.D. and Ph.D.), Dr. Karch has over nine years of PhD-level experience in military medical research, having served in both Navy and Army medical research laboratories. She has no financial or non-financial disclosures to report.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Kirjava, Shade Avery

Shade Avery Kirjava is a clinical audiologist in Los Angeles, California working in private practice. They are also a PhD student studying public health at the University of California, Irvine. Their research focus is hearing healthcare services research, and diversity, equity, and inclusion in clinical audiology.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Koehler, Erica

Erica Koehler, Au.D., is the Audiology Concepting Lead within GN's Global Audiology Group where she works closely with interdisciplinary teams to focus on big picture solutions and problem solving. She began her career at GN in 2008 in the Research Group and later transitioned into Global Audiology in 2010, fulfilling the role of Lead Fitting Software Audiologist. Erica also presents at national and state level conferences and is involved in conducting clinical research trials of hearing instrument technologies. Interests include maximizing potential of software on hearing aid success.

Financial Disclosures: Employee at GN Hearing.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Leonard, Stacy

Mrs. Stacy Leonard has served as the Program Manager for the DHA Hearing Center of Excellence Information Management (IM) Section since 2012. Mrs. Leonard has oversight of the requirements, deployment, and sustainment of the Enterprise Clinical Audiology Application (ECAA) and its interface with MHS GENESIS. She directs HCE IM data activities to include analytics, data quality, and research support. She is heavily involved with the design, enhancement, and sustainment of the Congressionally mandated DHA/VA Joint Hearing Loss and Auditory System Injury Registry. In addition, Mrs. Leonard provides functional and technical IM consultative services to HCE leadership and other organizations as needed. Mrs. Leonard is an Army Veteran with 34 years' experience within the Military Health System focusing on support of military healthcare information systems and data repositories.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Lieblong, Shannon

Dr. Shannon Lieblong has worked as a clinical audiologist at the Memphis VAMC since 2017. She serves as the Teleaudiology Program Manager, growing the program to include 6 sites that provide Teleaudiology services with has greatly improved access to Audiology Services in the

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Mid-South region. She also serves as the Jackson, TN CBOC Coordinator, implementing F@F audiology services there during the COVID-19 Pandemic. She along with Drs. Karen Jarvis and Megan Pridgen began seeing home-based patients in the home in 2022.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Lindberg, Ragnar

Ragnar Lindberg is an AuD candidate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He was in Ron Chamber's Electrophysiology Lab and Fatima Husain's Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience lab. He has research experience in electrophysiology and questionnaires. His research experience in electrophysiology involves examining auditory brainstem responses elicited by Chirp and click stimuli. His research experience in questionnaires involved examining the relationship between Hyperacusis and Misophonia as measured by the Hyperacusis Questionnaire and Misophonia Questionnaire. Ragnar Lindberg reports no financial arrangements and no conflicts of interests.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Malowski, Kristine Sonstrom

Dr. Kristine Sonstrom Malowski is a Research Audiologist at the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory. She holds a master's degree in animal science from the University of Connecticut and a dual doctorate from the University of Cincinnati in Audiology and Hearing Science. Previously, she was an Associate Professor within the Northeast Ohio Au.D. Consortium. Dr. Sonstrom Malowski has engaged in research associated with mitigating noise-induced hearing loss for several years. She was awarded the 2021 Outstanding Young Audiologist Award by the Ohio Academy of Audiology and maintains multiple professional memberships and certifications. She has no financial or non-financial disclosures to report.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

McClenney, Sean

Sean McClenney is the National Director, Audiology and Speech Pathology, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Financial Disclosure: Employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Non-financial Disclosure: None.

Menendez, Michelle

Dr. Michelle Menendez joined the VA in 2000 and had the privilege of serving Veterans at the Bay Pines VAHCS as a clinician and the Orlando VA HCS as a C&P examiner. Dr. Menendez has held various leadership roles culminating her VHA career as the Chief of ASPS at Bay Pines. In 2020 she joined the Program and Policy Management Office within MDEO. Dr. Menendez' mission is to continue to serve Veterans by positively impacting and driving quality of the Audiology disability examination process.

Financial Disclosures: Receives a salary from VBA.

Non-financial Disclosures: None

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Merkley, John 'Andy'

Dr. John 'Andy' Merkley is an occupational audiologist with over 25 years of experience in clinical and occupational audiology. He currently works as a contract Research Administrator with the Defense Health Agency Hearing Center of Excellence. He holds a Master of Science in Communicative Disorders from Utah State University and a Doctor of Audiology from Central Michigan University. Dr. Merkley's professional associations include ASHA, the Military Audiology Association (MAA), and the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA). In addition, Dr. Merkley represents the Military Audiology Association on the CAOHC Council and currently serves as the Council Chair. He is a certified CAOHC Course Director (CD) and Professional Supervisor of the Audiometric Monitoring Program (CPS/A).

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None.

Morrisette, Trina

Ms. Trina Morrisette joined the Defense Health Agency (DHA) Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE) in 2012 as the Chief Information Officer and oversees the Information Management Section in support of the development, design, and deployment of the Congressionally mandated Joint Hearing Loss and Auditory System Injury Registry and the Enterprise Clinical Audiology Application interfaced with MHS GENESIS. In addition to these efforts, she provides subject matter expertise to HCE leadership and other organizations as needed. Ms. Morrisette has over 37 years of Military Health Systems (MHS) experience and has held various positions within the Department of Defense Military Health Care Community. Ms. Morrisette received her Bachelor of Science degree in Management/Human Resources in 1996 from Park University.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Nixon, Lori

Lori Nixon has been with the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System for over 23 years and also serves as a Field Instructor for the University of Pittsburgh. Ms. Nixon received her B.A. and M.A. in Audiology from the University of Pittsburgh. Ms. Nixon is credentialed and privileged by the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and serves as a lead cochlear implant audiologist.

Financial Disclosures: VA employee.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Paige, Taylor

Maj Taylor Paige is an active duty USAF audiologist. She completed her PhD at the University of South Alabama and AuD at Nova Southeastern University. She is certified as a Professional Supervisor and Course Director through the CAOHC. During her time as a clinical audiologist, she served diligently in diagnostics and hearing conservation, earning the Early Career Professional award from ASHA. Her research efforts have been lauded by the NHCA with the 2022 Student research award. Maj Paige's research interests have been focused on noise induced hearing loss, extended high frequency audiometry, and speech in noise testing for noise-exposed populations.

Financial Disclosures: Employee at Department of Defense, NHCA Student Grant.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

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Pereira, Melissa

Dr. Melissa Pereira is a dedicated audiologist who has served as an active-duty army audiologist and now as the Audiology Section Chief for the VA Northern California Healthcare System. With over six years of experience leading hearing conservations in the military, Dr. Pereira has a strong commitment to the well-being of service members and veterans. Her professional interests include tinnitus, hearing conservation, and auditory processing in blast-exposed individuals. Dr. Pereira's expertise and empathy make her a valuable asset, as she continues to make a positive impact on the lives of those who have served their country.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Perhacs, Lisa A.

Dr. Lisa A. Perhacs, Senior Program Manager of Professional Education for Signia, for which she receives a salary, is responsible for supporting the Government Services, WSA Retail, and training commercial customers and sales staff on the company's current technology and products. She conducts training sessions via webinars, and at regional and national events, as well as creates educational materials related to products, technology, software, telehealth, services, and audiology-related topics for Government Services. Dr. Perhacs has more than 15 years of manufacturing experience, domestic and international, and over six years of clinical experience.

Financial Disclosures: Full-time employee at Signia.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Petrak, Michelle R.

Michelle R. Petrak, Ph.D. CCC-A is the Director of Vestibular Research for Interacoustics Worldwide. Her primary role is development and clinical validation of new technologies in the vestibular and balance areas. She is a licensed private practice clinical audiologist at Northwest Speech and Hearing (NWSPH). Dr. Petrak received her doctorates in Electrophysiology and Bimolecular Electronics (1994) from Wayne State University and her Masters in Audiology in 1989. She continues to lecture extensively nationally and internationally, and she has numerous articles published in the hearing industry journals.

Financial Disclosure: Employed by Interacoustics

Non-Financial Disclosure: None

Pillion, Elicia

Elicia Pillion, Au.D., is the Hearing Implant Program Manager at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) and a subject-matter expert (SME) for hearing implants within the DoD. She specializes in cochlear implants for single-sided deafness (SSD). She earned her B.S. (Communication Sciences and Disorders) and Au.D at the University of Cincinnati.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Pinto, Robin

Robin Pinto, AuD has been an audiologist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center/WRNMMC for 23 years with a focus on vestibular testing. Robin Pinto serves as the audiology SME for the WRNMMC multi-disciplinary dizziness team, which serves to evaluate

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complex medical patients in a team environment. She has also provided training and lectures on vestibular testing for many disciplines, to include internal medicine, PT, ENT, and neurology.

Financial Disclosures: Department of Defense Employee.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Preston, Jessica

Jessica Preston, Au.D., CCC-A is a clinical audiologist at the Connecticut Veteran's Administration Healthcare System where she has worked since 2005. She earned her BA from the University of Connecticut, MS from Southern Connecticut State University, and her Doctor of Audiology degree from the University of Florida.

Dr. Preston has dedicated much of her career to cochlear implants and currently serves as the lead cochlear implant audiologist at the Connecticut VA. In this role, she is responsible for coordinating and managing care for implant recipients including helping with the development and implementation of cochlear implant telehealth services.

Outside of the clinic, Dr. Preston shares her passion for and dedication to advancing the field of audiology. She is an adjunct professor at Sacred Heart University where she teaches a course focused on Aural Rehabilitation. She gives of her knowledge by serving as a peer mentor for VA audiologists that wish to specialize in cochlear implants. This passion for cochlear implants and aural rehabilitation led to her authoring several peer reviewed publications in these specialty areas.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Quilter, Megan

Megan Quilter, Au.D is a Lead Audiologist with GN Hearing Global Audiology team and primarily focuses on research, adult and pediatric amplification and cochlear implants. Her background includes clinical adult and pediatrics, neuro-vestibular audiology, amplification, and pediatric and adult equipment manufacturing. Dr. Quilter effectively communicates with a variety of levels of key opinion leaders, customers, colleagues, and patients. Dr. Quilter currently holds a Doctorate of Audiology and resides in Chicago, Illinois.

Financial Disclosures: Employee of GN Hearing.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Quitmeyer, Kevin

Kevin Quitmeyer, Director, VA Denver Logistics Center (DLC) in Golden, Colorado. Mr. Quitmeyer was introduced to the Audiology community in his early years at the DLC, and has been privileged to work closely with program officials and advocate for Audiology within VA and the healthcare industry. In addition, represents the DLC in VA, federal government. Prior to his current position, Chief, Information Resources Management Division for the DLC, overseeing IT systems including the Remote Order Entry System (ROES) other data management and process automation. Mr. Quitmeyer served DALC for 29 years / VA for 35 years, previous presenter at JDVAC.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

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Riska, Kristal

Dr. Kristal Riska is an Assistant Professor and Director of Residency Research at Duke University in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery and Communication Sciences. She is a clinician-scientist who studies vestibular disease, hearing loss, and falls. Her clinical and research interest center around improving care pathways and reducing falls risk for patients with vestibular disorders. She currently serves as an ASHA Board of Ethics member.

Financial Disclosures: Receiving salary from Duke University, receiving research grant support from the NIH NIDCD and DoD CDMRP, and Honorariums for speaking at the NCSLHA, and travel support and honorarium from JDVAC.

Non-financial Disclosures: Serving as a member of the ASHA Board of Ethics for which I serve as ethics education chair.

Russell, Shoshannah

Shoshannah Russell, AuD is the Lead Audiologist and Director of Sales and Marketing for WAHTS. Prior to her work with WAHTS, Dr. Russell spent over ten years working as an audiologist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) in Bethesda, MD. During her time at WRNMMC, she worked as an Occupational Audiologist, Clinical Audiologist, and Research Audiologist. Dr. Russell is an advocate of collaboration and team science and has been fortunate to collaborate with a diverse group of students, scientists, businesses, and healthcare professionals.

Financial Disclosure: WAHTS Employee.

Non-financial Disclosure: None.

Santurette, Sébastien

Sébastien Santurette is Principal Researcher at Oticon's Centre for Applied Audiology Research. He has held associate professorship positions in clinical audiology and hearing rehabilitation at the Technical University of Denmark and Copenhagen University Hospital. His research interests include psychoacoustics, effects of hearing loss on sound perception, and audiology. He is an engineering graduate of Ecole Centrale Paris and holds an MSc degree in Engineering Acoustics (2005) and a PhD in Electronics and Communication from the Technical University of Denmark (2011).

Financial Disclosures: Employee at Oticon.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Schulz, Theresa

Dr Theresa Schulz is Prevention & Surveillance Section Lead at the Defense Health Agency Hearing Center of Excellence. Her background includes VA, NIOSH, US Army, US Air Force and DOD as well as industry experience in hearing loss prevention. She received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and her PhD from The Ohio State University. Theresa is a past-President of the National Hearing Conservation Association. Dr Schulz is a certified Project Management Professional. She is a sought-after speaker and is passionate about sound and hearing health.

Financial Disclosures: I was previously employed by manufacturers of hearing protector fit-test systems. (2004-2005 and 2006-2018).

Non-financial Disclosures: None

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Schwalm, Meg

Meg Schwalm is currently completing her 4th-year Audiology Externship at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. Ms. Schwalm attends the University of Florida in pursuit of her Doctorate of Audiology degree and has earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Science and Disorders from the University of Pittsburgh.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Seitz-Paquette, Kevin

Kevin Seitz-Paquette, Au.D. is the director of the Phonak Audiology Research Center (PARC), located in Aurora, IL. Kevin earned his AuD at Northwestern University, and a master's degree in Linguistics from Indiana University. PARC evaluates both emerging and released products to demonstrate the benefits of Phonak technology for the patient and professional. His team works at various points along the product development pipeline, to ensure new products solve real problems for patients or professionals, and to provide data to evidence-based hearing care providers, so they can have confidence when selecting a Phonak product.

Financial Disclosures: Employee and shareholder of Sonova.

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Sepulvado, Samantha

Samantha Sepulvado is an AuD student at the University of South Dakota. She is the graduate assistant for Lindsey Jorgensen and has worked with her on amplification and verification. She is excited about the field of audiology and wants to work with hearing aids and other technologies across the lifespan. She is receiving travel expenses for giving this presentation.

Financial Disclosures: Travel expenses provided by JDVAC.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Sheffield, Benjamin

Mr. Benjamin Sheffield holds degrees in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. After a four-year stint in the defense industry, he was introduced to auditory research as a volunteer in a hearing and speech lab during graduate school at UC Irvine. He now has over 15 years of experience in auditory science, including the last 13 in the DoD. He's been the principal investigator on several studies examining the relationship between hearing impairment and operational performance, and is a project lead on several public health projects utilizing boothless audiometry, including the one you're hearing about today.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Shepard, Kyle

Lieutenant Commander Kyle H. Shepard, Au.D. is an Audiologist for the United States Navy. He is currently stationed at Naval Air Station Patuxent River where he is the Branch Head of Helmet Systems and Auditory Performance within the Naval Air Warfare Center - Aircraft Division Command. There he manages and collaborates with engineers and other medical specialties working on research projects contributing to areas in advanced hearing protection and communication systems, active noise reduction, 3D scanning, 3D printing and in-the-ear noise dosimetry.

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Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Shokar, Jatinder

Jatinder Shokar is a 4th year extern at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA in Denver, CO. She is originally from California and attends Central Michigan University. Jatinder is a US. Army veteran. Her current clinical interests include vestibular assessments, cochlear implants, and tinnitus management.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Smith, Jeremiah

Dr. Jeremiah Smith is an audiologist for the USAF Hearing Conservation Program's Operational Hearing Lab. After a 14-year career with the Department of Veterans Affairs, he started So Others May Hear Audiology practice and You Tune Hearing Protection, which has 11 NRRs, 2 SNRs, IPIL, FCC, CE, and Bluetooth certifications. He won the University of Dayton Business Plan competition and delivered earplugs throughout the USA and 75+ countries. He was awarded SBIR Phase I and II contracts from the USAF and is designing an earplug that provides metabolic protection from acoustic trauma. The research was recently published in *Otology and Neurotology*.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Sturgulewski, Stacey

Stacey Sturgulewski, Au.D. has been an audiologist at the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital for 14 years. For the last 10 years, Dr. Sturgulewski has been the coordinator of the implantable hearing device program at Hines VA. Her primary clinical focus is working with patients with cochlear implants and osseointegrated devices. Prior to her work at Hines VA, Dr. Sturgulewski worked at Loyola University Medical Center and Lake Forest Hospital. She completed her doctor of audiology and master of science degrees at Rush University in Chicago, Illinois.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Thoden, Kaitlin

Kaitlin Thoden, Au.D. has been a clinical audiologist at the Northport Veteran Affairs Medical Center since 2011. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from St. Joseph's University and her Au.D. at Nova Southeastern University. She helped open and now runs the Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Riverhead, NY which is the only outpatient clinic on Long Island with audiology services. She is an adjunct professor at St. Joseph's University in Patchogue, NY where she teaches Hearing Science and Aural Rehabilitation courses to undergraduate students.

Dr. Thoden has been involved with the planning of the Joint Defense Veterans Audiology Conference (JDVAC) since 2018 and was most recently the Education Conference chair for JDVAC 2023. She is currently serving a 3-year term as the Association of VA Audiologists (AVAA) Secretary. She has assisted in implementing a Whole Health approach within the clinic, as well as served as a Whole Health facilitator for the Medical Center. She also runs an annual hearing screening program for the Calverton National Cemetery.

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Dr. Thoden is currently in the process of becoming a cochlear implant coordinator and starting a cochlear implant programming site at her facility.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Tice, Beatrice

Beatrice Tice is a third-year audiology graduate student at the University of South Dakota and she obtained a bachelor's of science degree in communication sciences and disorders from Minnesota State University Moorhead. Beatrice was an intern with the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) during the summer and fall of 2023.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Tomasek, Rachel

Dr. Rachel Tomasek is an Audiologist with the VA Centralized Audiology Team and telehealth master preceptor. She has participated and co-led in VA Center for Innovation teleaudiology projects titled Remote Audiometry in VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) and Automated Audiometry and Clinical Extenders. Dr. Tomasek has successfully implemented various synchronous & asynchronous audiology telehealth clinics across two VA healthcare systems including more than eight CBOCs to provide audiology care over the years. In her current detail position, supporting the national Audiology & Speech Pathology program office, she is in collaboration with the Office of Connected Care I Telehealth Services and our larger group of telehealth clinical subject matter experts to develop up-to-date training and education for Teleaudiology.

Financial Disclosures: None

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Traynor, Robert M.

For 46 years *Dr. Robert M. Traynor* practiced audiology at Audiology Associates, Inc., in Greeley, Colorado, providing diagnostic & rehabilitative treatment for hearing loss/tinnitus patients of all ages & operative monitoring for otolaryngologists & general surgeons.

For 17 years, he was Senior International Audiology Consultant at Bernafon based in Bern, Switzerland, providing clinical/technical support to research/development engineers & hearing scientists and providing international training in over 40 countries on most aspects of Audiology. From 1972-1993, Dr. Traynor was Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor of Audiology at the University of Northern Colorado and Professor & Audiology Program Director, Colorado State University. From 1998-2020 was in the Audiology faculty at the University of Florida and is currently Adjunct Professor of Audiology at Salus University, Rush University and University of Arkansas/Medical Sciences. His text, *Strategic Practice Management, 3rd Edition*, co-authored with Dr. Robert Glaser, is used in most audiology training programs.

At Robert Traynor Audiology, LLC, he provides professional advice & consulting to the hearing industry and Forensic Audiology services, having served in 70 cases as an expert witness.

In 2019, Dr. Traynor was awarded the Joel Wernick Award from the Academy of Doctors of Audiology, 2018 became a Distinguished Alumnus: University of Northern Colorado, in 2017 was inducted as Fellow of the National Academies of Practice and is the recipient of the 2014 Colorado Academy of Audiology Lifetime Achievement Award.

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Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

van Ginkel, Chantal

Chantal van Ginkel, Au.D. is a research audiologist at the NCRAR. Her research background includes evoked potential research and hearing aid speech-in-noise studies at the NCRAR over the past year. She worked on cochlear implant simulation research at Vanderbilt University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and dolphin vocalization research at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Eckerd College. She has a clinical background with VA, including specialty work as a cochlear implant audiologist, vestibular testing and tinnitus management.

Financial Disclosures: Employee at Department of Veterans Affairs, Portland, OR.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None.

Watson, Celeste J.

Dr. Celeste Watson is a clinical audiologist with the Memphis VAMC. She joined the VA after graduating with her Au.D. from University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in June of 2023, and has been primarily working with HBPC patients since September.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

White, Amy

Dr. Amy White serves as the Service Chief for Audiology and Speech Pathology at the VA Northern California Health Care System. Dr. White earned her AuD in 2008 from Utah State University. She is a licensed dispensing audiologist in the state of California. Throughout her career she had worked in both clinical and academic settings prior to joining the VA in 2021. Her areas of clinical interests are amplification, cochlear implants and She serves on the Speech Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing aid dispensers board for the State of California.

Financial Disclosures: None.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.

Wright, Neil

Neil Wright is a senior audiologist in Global Audiology at GN Hearing based in Chicago, IL. In this role, Neil conducts clinical tests of new hearing aid technology, as well as testing and development of hearing aid fitting software design. He has previously presented work at various national and international audiology conferences. He earned his AuD at Northwestern University.

Financial Disclosures: Employee at GN Hearing.

Non-financial Disclosures: None.