Implementing Intensive Auditory Rehabilitation Programs in University Settings

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**ABSTRACT**

The benefits of an intensive training program called the Specialized Intensive Auditory Rehabilitation Conference (SIARC), for University students, participants with hearing loss, and the community will be reviewed. With shared resources, it was possible to implement the program at three universities and a fourth is in the planning stages.

**SIARC DESCRIPTION**

SIARC, a practicum experience for graduate students in audiology or speech/language pathology, is conducted during a weeklong workshop for communication partners where there is guided learning with real-world practice. There are three main components as shown in Figure 1. The week consists of four daily classes (Audiology, Assistive Devices, Communication Strategies, and Coping Skills), tour of a facility, play or musical, and dinners in typical noisy restaurants as shown in Figure 2. All have the opportunity to try new technology throughout the week.

**PROCESS**

- Send student/supervisor to UTD SIARC if possible
- Mutual goals for the three components established
- Dates selected and faculty resources determined
- Funding secured (Minimum $5000)
- Guest speaker invited
- Graduate students recruited for elective and/or practicum credit
- Hotel/Tours/Transportation/Restaurants confirmed
- Brochure developed and distributed in clinics
- Student tasks assigned to run SIARC

**EQUIPMENT SHARED**

- Phonak Adaptive Digital Systems
- Ten Roger Pens, three Roger inspiros, ten Clip-on Mics, and 20 RogerX Receivers
- Two Dynamic Soundfield Systems
- Ten iPads to access resources on the internet, take photos, and use for auditory training

**SUMMARY**

SIARC is a unique experience for AUD/SLP graduate students as they participate in service delivery from the identification of hearing loss, to fitting of hearing aids, and to the introduction of communication strategies and wireless technology over the course of one week. All of the conference participants say the conference was very beneficial and they would recommend that their friends attend. Students have rated the experience as the highlight of their graduate training. SIARC has been offered at UTD for the past twelve years. The next SIARC is planned for May 18-23 at UTD and next year at Ohio State University.

**REFERENCES**


**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Extreme gratitude is expressed to Phonak for providing the wireless technology every year for participants to use and students to learn about.