

A Sound Foundation Through Early Amplification

Atlanta, GA | October 2nd – 5th, 2016



Carolina Abdala

Marlene Bagatto

Andrea Bohnert

Craig A. Buchman

Cheryl DeConde Johnson

Evert Dijkstra

René Gifford

Bill Hodgetts

Benjamin W. Y. Hornsby

Christine Jones

Francois Julita

Dawna Lewis

Charles Limb

Ryan McCreery

Mary Pat Moeller

Sheila Moodie

Cynthia Casson Morton

Kevin J Munro

Marie Pigeon

Patricia Roush

Susan Scollie

Richard Seewald

Yvonne Sininger

Susan Small

Anne Marie Tharpe

Jace Wolfe

Carolina Abdala, PhD

Carolina Abdala is a Professor in the Caruso Department of Otolaryngology, Keck School of Medicine and a faculty member of the Neuroscience Graduate Program at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Her 25-year-old research program uses otoacoustic emissions (OAEs), which are low-level sounds emitted by the healthy ear, to understand changes in cochlear function throughout the human lifespan and to explore novel methods for understanding and diagnosing hearing loss. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for over two decades. Dr. Abdala is director of the Infant Auditory Research Lab, a frequent grant-reviewer for the NIH, and an associate editor of the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America. She has authored over 50 peer-reviewed research articles as well as several book chapters on human auditory development, otoacoustic emissions and the assessment of cochlear function in newborns and children.

Financial – Receives honoraria for lecture

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Marlene Bagatto, AuD, PhD

Marlene Bagatto is a Research Associate and Adjunct Research Professor at the National Centre for Audiology at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada and is the current president of the Canadian Academy of Audiology. Her research interests relate to optimizing hearing aid fittings for the pediatric population and clinical methods for evaluating the impact of the intervention. Dr. Bagatto serves as an Amplification Consultant for the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services' Infant Hearing Program where protocol development, implementation, and monitoring are her main activities. Dr. Bagatto also provides clinical services to infants involved in the Ontario Infant Hearing Program at the H.A. Leeper Speech and Hearing Clinic at Western.

Financial – Receives a consulting and speaking fee for teaching and speaking and board membership with Phonak LLC

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Andrea Bohnert

Andrea Bohnert holds the post of Senior MTA-F in Audiology and Pedaudiology at the University Medical School, Clinic for ENT and Communication Disorders in Mainz, Germany and at the same time holds teaching posts at the University Clinic Mainz and at the Teaching-Unit for Logopedics in Audiology. She has lectured nationally and internationally on topics related to hearing loss in infants. Also being a member of numerous national and international working groups, she worked for more than 30 years with children with hearing impairment and multiple handicaps. She has initiated and conducted many clinical studies with children and adults, including newborn hearing screening studies, RECD measurement studies, loudness scaling, cochlear implants, hearing aid fitting and studies about frequency lowering technologies. She is the President of BIAP (International Bureau of Audiophonology).

Financial – Receives a consulting fee for board membership with Phonak LLC

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Dr. Craig A. Buchman

Dr. Craig A. Buchman is the Arthur Lindburg Professor and Chair, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Washington University in St. Louis. Previously, he was at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was the Harold C. Pillsbury Professor, Vice Chairman for Clinical Affairs, and the Otology/Neurotology/Skull Base Surgery Division Chief in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. He also led the Ear & Hearing and Multidisciplinary Skull Base Surgery Programs at UNC and was a member of the Academy of Educators. He completed his internship, research fellowship, and residency at the University of Pittsburgh and his clinical fellowship in neurotology and skull base surgery at the House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles. He has been cited annually in Best Doctors and Castle Connolly's Top Doctors and is one of the busiest cochlear implant (CI) surgeons and neurotologists in America. He is the Chair of the William House Cochlear Implant Study Group and the Implantable Devices Committee of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, a Founding Board Member of the American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACIA) and its past Chairman of the Board, and a member on the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH). He has been a Senior and Neurotology Examiner for the American Board of Otolaryngology. He has published more than 145 peer-reviewed manuscripts (and many other works) in the field and served as an Associate Editor for JAMA-Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery and an Editorial Board member for Otology & Neurotology. His investigative interests are broad in the field of hearing loss and rehabilitation and his ongoing research programs center on the utility of auditory evoked cortical responses in the pediatric population, electrocochleography as an indicator of cochlear trauma, and the use of auditory brainstem implantation in children with cochlear nerve disorders. His research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health and other foundations. He has received a number of honors and awards including the Harris P. Mosher Award for his Triological Society Thesis on vestibular effects of cochlear implantation and election to the Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum.

Financial – Receives a consulting fee from Phonak LLC

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

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Cheryl DeConde Johnson

Cheryl DeConde Johnson provides consulting services focusing on state service delivery and accountability systems for students who are deaf and hard of hearing through her practice, The ADEvantage. For the past five years she has participated in the federally funded PN2 Summit on transition planning for teens who are deaf and hard of hearing. She also holds adjunct faculty appointments in audiology at the University of Colorado and the University of Northern Colorado and in deaf education at the University of Arizona. Dr. Johnson is co-author of the Educational Audiology Handbook, 2nd ed. (2012, Cengage Delmar Learning), co-author of Educational Advocacy for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (2013, Hands & Voices). She has been a persistent advocate for effective communication access in the classroom for learners who are deaf and hard of hearing and others with auditory deficits, as well as the use of hearing assistance technologies.

Financial – Receives honoraria for teaching/speaking.

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Evert Dijkstra

Evert Dijkstra was born Jan. 1st, 1960 in the Netherlands. After earning a MSEE (cum laude) from the Technical University of Twente (NL), he started in 1983 working for CSEM, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, developing low power and low voltage Integrated Circuits (IC). He occupied various engineering and management positions in this company. In his last position (1996-1998), he was heading a team of about 100 IC design engineers.

In 1998 he joined Phonak Communications, Murten, Switzerland, where he is currently Managing Director and Vice President Phonak. Phonak Communications is totally dedicated to providing miniaturized wireless communication equipment for hearing impaired individuals.

Financial – Receives salary for employment in a management position from Phonak LLC

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

René Gifford, PhD

René Gifford, PhD is an Associate Professor at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Director of the Cochlear Implant Program in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences and the Cochlear Implant Research Laboratory. Her research has been funded by the NIDCD for over 10 years and focuses on combined electric and acoustic hearing including basic auditory function, spatial hearing, and speech perception. She has more recently been actively investigating image-guided approaches to cochlear implant programming as well as various neuroimaging techniques to assess the benefits of combined EAS as compared to bilateral cochlear implantation. She has over 70 peer-reviewed papers and is the author of the book entitled "Cochlear Implant Patient Assessment: Evaluation of Candidacy, Performance, and Outcomes."

Financial – Receives a consulting fee for membership on the Phonak advisory committee and a speaker fee for teaching and speaking

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Bill Hodgetts, PhD

Bill Hodgetts is an associate professor in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at the University of Alberta. He holds a joint appointment at the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine (iRSM) where he is program director for audiology and bone conduction amplification (BCA). He obtained his B.A. (Psychology) and M.Sc. (Audiology) from the University of Western Ontario and his PhD (Rehab Sciences) from the University of Alberta. Bill teaches Audiology/Hearing Science as well as Statistics and Research Design at the U of A. His research focuses on the assessment, prescription, verification and validation of bone anchored amplification devices with a goal of improving outcomes for BCA users and transferring knowledge to other clinicians involved in BCA.

Financial – Receives honoraria for teaching/speaking.

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Benjamin W. Y. Hornsby, PhD

Ben Hornsby is an Associate Professor in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Dr. Hornsby's broad research interests focus on the speech understanding difficulties of adults and children with hearing loss, the underlying factors responsible for those difficulties, and how these issues relate to variability in the psychosocial impact of hearing loss and benefit from rehabilitation. His current research focuses on relationships between hearing loss-related communication difficulties, mental effort, and fatigue.

Financial – Receives honoraria for teaching/speaking.

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Christine Jones, AuD

Christine joined Phonak in 2001. She currently serves as the Director of the Phonak Audiology Research Center (PARC). In this role, Christine is responsible for managing a program of internal and external clinical research, supporting Phonak's position as a technology and service innovator. Prior to this role, Christine was responsible for Phonak US Pediatrics and ran pediatric clinical research in PARC. Christine received her Master's degree in Audiology from Vanderbilt University and her Doctorate of Audiology from Central Michigan University.

Financial – Receives a salary for employment in a management position with Phonak LLC

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Francois Julita

Francois' professional life is mainly driven by new digital technologies and the impact on society, work and private life. As a "child" of the early dot-com era he witnessed the growth of the internet, its hype and the transition to maturity.

His work in Innovation at Sonova reflects the constant change in consumer behavior and the digital transformation of the industry. In his role he is responsible for driving new concepts and developing new types of digital solutions, meeting fundamental needs of consumers and professionals alike.

Prior to this role, he was responsible for Software Product Management and eBusiness at Phonak. He has extensive experience in Digital Strategy, eHealth, eBusiness, Software Development and Mobile Solutions.

He received his Master in Science at Zurich University of Technology (ETH) and holds a postgraduate degree in Master of eBusiness Engineering. He has also been teaching and lecturing at University for many years in domains like eBusiness and Business Planning.

Financial – Receives salary for employment from Phonak LLC

Nonfinancial – is a Board Member of BC Family Hearing Resource Centre

Dawna Lewis, PhD

Dawna Lewis, PhD, is the Director of the Listening and Learning Laboratory at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. She has presented and published on topics involving pediatric audiology/amplification and hearing assistance technologies. Dr. Lewis is involved in research addressing issues related to amplification and speech perception in children. Currently, her work focuses on children with mild bilateral or unilateral hearing loss.

Financial – Receives salary for employment, honoraria teaching/speaking and for membership on an advisory committee and received grants as an independent contractor

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

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Dr. Charles Limb

Dr. Charles Limb is the Francis A. Sooy Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and the Chief of the Division of Otology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery at UC San Francisco. He is also the Director of the Douglas Grant Cochlear Implant Center at UCSF and holds a joint appointment in the Department of Neurosurgery. His current areas of research focus on the study of the neural basis of musical creativity as well as the study of music perception in deaf individuals with cochlear implants. He is the past Editor-in-Chief of Trends in Amplification. His work has been featured by National Public Radio, TED, National Geographic, the New York Times, PBS, CNN, Scientific American, the British Broadcasting Company, the Smithsonian Institute, the Library of Congress, the Sundance Film Festival, Canadian Broadcasting Company, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the American Museum of Natural History

Financial – Receives a consulting fee and grants for research support

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Ryan McCreery

Ryan McCreery is the Director of the Center for Audiology at Boys Town National Research Hospital, where he also is the Director of the Audibility, Perception and Cognition Laboratory. Ryan leads a group of 20 clinical audiologists and 4 research audiologists who serve individuals with hearing and balance problems across the lifespan. Ryan's NIH-supported research program seeks to identify the factors that optimize speech recognition in children who wear hearing aids.

Financial – Receives a salary for employment, honoraria for teaching/speaking and grants.

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Mary Pat Moeller, PhD

Mary Pat Moeller, PhD, is Director of the Center for Childhood Deafness and the Language Development Laboratory at Boys Town National Research Hospital. After many years of clinical practice in educational and rehabilitative audiology, she obtained a PhD focusing on child language development at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her current research explores factors influencing the outcomes of children who are hard of hearing. She is co-principal investigator with J. Bruce Tomblin of an NIH-funded, prospective, multi-site, longitudinal study of spoken language development in children who are hard of hearing. Dr. Moeller has published and lectured internationally on topics related to developmental outcomes and early intervention practices for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. She is ASHA's representative to the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing.

Financial – Receives a speaking fee, travel costs and grants for NIDCD funded research

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

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Sheila Moodie, PhD

Sheila Moodie is an Assistant Professor at Western University's School of Communication Sciences & Disorders and a Member of The National Centre for Audiology in London, ON, Canada. She is the Director of the Family Centred Early Intervention Lab at Western University. One of her current research foci is on the examination and implementation of parent support systems within EHDI programs and methods to ensure families can accrue the necessary knowledge and experiences that can enable them to function effectively on behalf of their D/HH children. Additional areas of research include: development of an adolescent self-efficacy questionnaire for young persons who are D/HH; multi-media toolkit development for educating parents and professionals; and strategies to develop and/or improve listening and communication skills for professionals working in pediatric (re)habilitation.

Financial – Receives honoraria for teaching/speaking.

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Cynthia Casson Morton, PhD

Cynthia Casson Morton received her Bachelor of Science degree from the College of William and Mary in Virginia and her PhD in Human Genetics from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. She is the William Lambert Richardson Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology and Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, Director of Cytogenetics and Past Director of the Biomedical Research Institute at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She is an Institute Member of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. Dr. Morton is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Manchester where she holds a position as Chair in Auditory Genetics. Dr. Morton is certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics in PhD Medical Genetics, Clinical Cytogenetics, and Clinical Molecular Genetics. Her research interests are in molecular cytogenetics, hereditary deafness, genetics of uterine leiomyomata and human developmental disorders. She has published over 280 original articles.

Dr. Morton is a past member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Medical Genetics where she served as Secretary, Treasurer and Chair of the Accreditation Committee. She was the Chair of the Molecular Genetic Pathology Policy and Exam Committees of the American Board of Medical Genetics and the American Board of Pathology. She served as Member and Chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and as Member and Chair of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine. Dr. Morton was recently elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and is currently a member of the Counsel of Scientific Trustees of the Hearing Health Foundation, and Chair of the Veteran's Administration Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee. Dr. Morton was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Human Genetics for 12 years and served as the 2014 President. She completed a six year tenure as Editor of The American Journal of Human Genetics and is currently Co-Editor of Human Genetics.

Financial – Receives a speaking fee for teaching/speaking

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

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Kevin J Munro

Kevin J Munro, is Ewing Professor of Audiology, Honorary Consultant Clinical Scientist and Director of Research at the Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness, University of Manchester. He undertakes basic, translational and applied research, all with the aim of improving the lives of adults and children with hearing problems.

Financial – Receives a speaking fee for teaching/speaking.

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Marie Pigeon, M.Sc.A. Audiologist

Marie Pigeon has been a clinical audiologist at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) for 23 years. She specializes in working with infants, toddlers, and special needs hearing impaired children. Marie is also a consultant to the Ontario Infant Hearing Program (IHP) participating in protocol development and maintenance. As well, Marie provides training and clinical decision support for diagnostic ABR, VRA and play audiometry to pediatric audiologists across the province as part of her work for IHP.

Financial – Receives honoraria for teaching/speaking.

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Dr. Patricia Roush

Dr. Patricia Roush is Director of Pediatric Audiology at the University of North Carolina Hospitals and Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill, North Carolina where she specializes in working with newly identified infants and young children with hearing loss and their families. Dr. Roush has published extensively in pediatric audiology and has lectured nationally and internationally on a variety of topics related to hearing loss in children. Her primary areas of interest are pediatric hearing assessment, amplification for children, and audiological assessment and management of auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder.

Financial – Receives honoraria for board membership

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Dr. Susan Scollie

Dr. Susan Scollie is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Child Amplification Laboratory at the National Centre for Audiology, University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada. With colleagues, she developed version 5.0 of the DSL Method for hearing aid fitting. She collaborates with the Ontario Infant Hearing Program and the Canadian Infant Hearing Task Force to promote and deliver early intervention services for infants who have hearing losses. Her current research focuses on the efficacy of hearing aid signal processing, and outcomes for infants, children, and adults who use hearing aids.

Financial – receives intellectual property rights, speaking fee for membership on an advisory committee and grants as an independent contractor

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Dr. Richard Seewald

Dr. Richard Seewald is a Distinguished University Professor Emeritus in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders and a Research Associate at the National Centre for Audiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Western Ontario. For the past 45 years, Dr. Seewald's work has focused on issues that pertain to the selection and fitting of amplification for infants and young children. He is known internationally for his work in developing the Desired Sensation Level (DSL) Method for pediatric hearing instrument fitting. Dr. Seewald has received numerous awards for his work with children including the Honors of the Canadian Academy of Audiology and the Canadian Speech, Language and Hearing Association, an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Dalhousie University and the prestigious International Award in Hearing from the American Academy of Audiology for his pioneering work in the field of pediatric audiology. In his retirement, Dr. Seewald serves on the Advisory Board of the Hear the World Foundation.

Financial – Receives honoraria for teaching/speaking

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Dr. Yvonne Sininger

Dr. Yvonne Sininger is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Head & Neck Surgery at UCLA. She is currently a consultant on hearing and research for C&Y Consultants of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Yvonne received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University and her PhD in Speech and Hearing Science from the University of California, San Francisco. After her PhD she moved to House Ear Institute in Los Angeles as a Post-doctoral fellow in the Electrophysiology Lab with Dr. Manny Don. She later served for 10 years as the director of the Children's Auditory Research and Evaluation Center at HEI before moving to UCLA. Dr. Sininger's research has focused on infant hearing and pediatric audiologic disorders. Her research was funded by NIH for more than 20 years.

Financial – Receives a speaking fee for teaching/speaking

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

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Susan Small

Susan Small is the Hamber Professor of Clinical Audiology and the Director of the Pediatric Audiology Laboratory at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. Dr. Small is also a clinical audiologist with experience working with patients of all ages. Research in the Pediatric Audiology Laboratory focusses on furthering our understanding of the maturation of hearing through investigations of peripheral and central auditory processing in infancy and early childhood. One of her research areas is the early diagnosis of hearing loss using brainstem auditory evoked potentials and behavioural measures to air- and bone-conducted stimuli. She is also interested in the clinical application of objective measures such as cortical auditory-evoked potentials (e.g., onset P2-N2 and acoustic change complex) to investigate speech detectability and discrimination in infants with sensory and neural hearing losses, By addressing gaps in our knowledge in these areas, Dr. Small hopes to improve early diagnosis and management of hearing loss.

Financial – Receives salary for employment, a speaking fee and grants from Phonak LLC

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Dr. Anne Marie Tharpe

Dr. Anne Marie Tharpe is Professor and Chair, Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville Tennessee. Dr. Tharpe's research interests are in the area of pediatric hearing loss. Specifically, she has explored the developmental impacts of minimal and mild hearing loss on children, children with hearing loss and additional disabilities, and more recently, the sleep patterns in those with hearing loss. Dr. Tharpe has published extensively in national and international professional journals, has published numerous books and book chapters, and has presented to over 250 audiences around the world on pediatric audiology issues. She is co-editor with Dr. Richard Seewald of The Comprehensive Handbook of Pediatric Audiology, 2nd edition, which will appear in 2016.

Financial – Receives a speaking fee, honoraria, and grants from Phonak LLC

Nonfinancial – No relevant nonfinancial relationship exists

Jace Wolfe, PhD

Jace Wolfe, PhD, is the Director of Audiology at the Hearts for Hearing Foundation. He also is an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Audiology Department at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and Salus University. He previously served as the editor of the American Speech Language Hearing Association's Division 9 Journal and is currently a co-editor for the Plural Publishing, Inc. Core Clinical Concept Series on Cochlear Implants. Dr. Wolfe is a member of the Better Hearing Institute's Pediatric Advisory Board as well as the Audiology Advisory Boards for Cochlear Americas, Advanced Bionics, and the Phonak Hearing Aid Company. He also serves on the Editorial Board of The Hearing Journal. Additionally, Dr. Wolfe co-authors a periodic column entitled "The Tot Ten" in The Hearing Journal, and he has published numerous book chapters and articles in professional peer-reviewed and trade journals. He is also a co-author of the textbook entitled "Programming Cochlear Implants, Second Edition." His areas of interests are pediatric amplification and cochlear implantation, personal remote microphone technology, and signal processing for children. He provides clinical services for children and adults with hearing loss and is also actively engaged in research in several areas pertaining to hearing aids, cochlear implants, hybrid cochlear implants, and personal remote microphone systems.

Financial – Receives a speaking fee and grants from Phonak LLC

Nonfinancial – Board membership with Phonak LLC