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Vibrations March 2014

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello once again. Another three months has come and gone and much has happened in the world of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The BCASLPA Provincial Council held its annual Strategic Planning meeting and discussed the direction of the association for the upcoming year. It is a pleasure to work with this dedicated and talented group of individuals. We are continuing our advocacy work including the initiative with the "Did You Know?" posters and our bus ads for May Speech and Hearing Month. We are also continuing our communications work with ZG Communications. Zoe from ZG has been a great asset to our organization, helping us move forward.

At our Strategic Planning meeting the 2014 conference registration fees were set by the Provincial Council. As was announced at the October conference they are significantly reduced. The early bird member registration fees for the whole (2 day) conference will be \$100 + GST, and the 1 day fee will be \$65 + GST. For those who miss the early bird registration deadline, the member registration fee for the whole (2 day) conference will be \$150 + GST, and the 1 day member registration cost will be \$98 + GST. **Please SAVE THE DATE: 2014 BCASLPA Conference, October 24 and 25 at the Vancouver Marriot Pinnacle**. We look forward to a fantastic conference. This year the Canadian Audiology Association conference will be in Whistler. We recognize that it will be difficult to compete with this for our audiologists, so we will not be having an audiology stream at this year's BCASLPA Conference. Instead, we are working with CAA to provide some added value for our audiology members at its conference. Look out for more information.

I also want to mention and congratulate the organization formerly known as CASLPA on their rebranding and new name. Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) has gone through extensive changes to their look over the last year and recently announced their new name and logo. It looks great.

As part of the SAC conference in May, we have been invited to participate in the "Day on the Hill" advocacy campaign. We will be meeting with Members of Parliament to advocate for communication health and for the professionals who work in the field, i.e. audiologists, speech language pathologists and supportive personnel. The conference will be held May 7-10, 2014. You can find further information on SAC's website.

Hope to see everyone this fall at the BCASLPA Conference.

Brent Clayson President of BCASLPA

VOICES: JENNIFER SWEENEY

Jennifer wrote about her experience as an SLP with a neurological condition who could not get diagnosed or taken seriously.



"Are the doctors in your hospital referring to you?"

Not too long ago, I worked as an SLP in health facilities working with people who had strokes and brain injuries. I was also involved in swallowing assessments. I had specialized training and throughout the 90s, I provided education for SLPs, OTs and even radiologists.

In 2011, I experienced problems with swallowing. I reported it to my GP as well as the neurologist I was seeing for severe facial pain. Although I did my best to explain to them what was happening, they did nothing to investigate it. I was told to take medications by opening the capsules and using applesauce.

I ended up in hospital with severe malnutrition so they inserted a



naso-gastric tube. While there, I tried explaining to them that I had problems swallowing. I hoped to be assessed by a speech-language pathologist. I never saw one and no referral was ever made. The only action taken that I recall was a resident coming in one day to check my gag reflex. That was it – a quick in and out. I was then told by the doctor that my problem was a 'perceived' swallowing problem.

I learned later that I had been admitted to the Clinical Teaching Unit of the hospital. There were several residents involved in my care who missed an opportunity to learn about neurological swallowing disorders. I am convinced that I would have been on my way to an earlier diagnosis of multiple sclerosis if a speechlanguage pathologist had been contacted to assess me. When I finally had an MRI of the brain, I had lesions in the brainstem that corresponded with the right facial pain (pons – trigeminal nerve) and the gastrointestinal motility problems (medulla – vagus nerve). My case continues to be highly unusual because I can still go through a head-totoe neurological exam with no observable symptoms.

My hope is that my story will strengthen your resolve to educate doctors and medical students and to find ways to assess every patient complaining of swallowing problems.

If you are interested in my story and the experience in the hospital, I have blogged extensively about it on my website. You can also read more in my Vancouver Sun article.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS NOW (CAN)

Please join us for the Call to Action of the first national strategy to create awareness of the accessibility requirements of people who have speech and language disabilities. Learn what businesses and organizations can do to make their services communication accessible.

Date: March 17, 2013 Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM Place: Creekside Community Centre, 1 Athlete's Way, Vancouver, BC RSVP: lois.turner@gmail.com



Attendant services and communication assistants will be available. Light refreshments will be served. Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) is a national, non-profit organization that promotes accessibility for people who have speech and language disabilities.

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR UBC STUDY IN BILINGUALISM

Bilingualism and Children with and without Disabilities

You are invited to take part in a research study looking at services that support the development of bilingualism for children with and without developmental disabilities.

You can participate in the study if: 1. You work with children and youth of any age (birth through high school graduation). 2. You work in British Columbia or your work impacts children or youth in British Columbia.

This study is being conducted by Stefka Marinova-Todd (Principal Investigator) and Pat Mirenda at the University of British Columbia. Further information, and access to the survey, can be accessed by clicking this link.

Hilary Stahl, UBC Graduate Student in SLP

ACCESS 2 ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

Easter Seals Canada manages an accessible customer service program called the Access 2 Entertainment program.

How Does It Work?

The Access 2 program helps businesses provide quality customer service for guests with permanent disabilities. Through the program, people with disabilities who require a support person carry a personalized Access 2 card with them (an authorized healthcare provider certifies the need for an attendant during the application process). The card indicates to the ticket seller that the individual requires the support of an attendant. Participating venues grant 1 free admission for the support person while the person with the disability pays the regular admission fee.

The card acts as verification for the need for an attendant, thus

eliminating the need for front line staff to make assessments on a person's disability – a process which becomes particularly difficult when the disability is not visible. This systemizes the attendant policy at various attractions.

At its inception in 2004, virtually all movie theatres across Canada adopted the program. To date over 50,000 Access 2 cards have been issued to people all across Canada. There are also thousands of movie theatres and hundreds of attractions that accept the Access 2 Entertainment card. Further information available here.

Additional Documents (Click to Open): BC Venues To Apply

VOICES: FROM A SMALL TOWN

By Jonina Cawsey, M.Sc., RSLP, SLP(C)



For many of us, moving to rural BC was a chance for adventure and change while beginning our careers as Speech-Language Pathologists. Years later, you will still find great numbers of us living in small towns for a wide variety of reasons. For some, it is the chance to practice as a generalist and connect with a broad range of clients. For others, it is the quiet of the mountains and the slow pace of the small town. For others still, it is the close knit professional ties you establish over years of working together, and the real sense of community you have when you can greet most people you meet on Main Street by name.

Living in a small, rural community does bring its own challenges. One such challenge is professional development. You do what you can within your own community, and neighbouring communities, to bring people together and share new learning and ideas. You make do with teleconference calls and webinars. But nothing compares to the joy of connecting face-to-face with other SLPs to "talk SLP". While budgets tighten and opportunities to travel out of town for education decrease, we do still have the pleasure of welcoming travelling teams to our community on a regular basis. As a professional working in a small town, it is such a thrill to engage and interact with those of you who hail from more exotic locales. We small town professionals thrive on connecting with you, hearing your news from the "big city", and getting your expertise in areas where we practice as generalists.

So, to those of you wonderful SLPs who take time away from your own families and communities to travel to our small towns, please consider yourself very welcome. We know that your time is short, but please do look up the local professionals when you visit. We may be able to support your connections with our established teams and to help you in your decisions around service provision in the communities we know so well. We also really do look forward to our opportunities to connect with the bigger world of SLP. Send us an email or give us a ring, and we'll meet you for coffee, invite you for dinner with our family, or take you out for an adventure in the mountains or on the rivers. Your professional knowledge is not only of value to the clients you travel to visit; it is also of great value to your rural counterparts. We look forward to welcoming you to our communities to visit again!

PRESCHOOLERS WITH ASD NEEDED FOR UBC STUDY

Dr. Paola Colozzo, Dr. Kate Chase, and graduate SLP student Keri Ng at the School of Audiology and Speech Science are recruiting participants for a longitudinal study of social communication, therapy and home experiences in preschool aged children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

The primary goals of this study are to learn more about what treatments children with ASD across the province are actually receiving, and to investigate social communication outcomes. If you work with preschoolers with ASD, please consider sharing information about this study with your clients.

We are particularly in need of help from clinicians working outside the Lower Mainland, as our goal is to collect data from across the province. Families will be asked to complete surveys at three points over the course of a year. There will be no appointments or testing for the children. This study is partially funded by a clinical research grant from CASLPA.

Any clinician wanting more information please contact the study group at: (604) 822-0659 or clcl@audiospeech.ubc.ca

Dr. Kate Ballem Chase, M.Sc., D.Phil., RSLP

NEW TECHNOLOGY - VOICE BANKING

by Michelle Bunney, RSLP, Communication Assistance for Youth and Adults (CAYA)

A client of mine considered how life would change when the progression of ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) altered her ability to speak. As a very expressive and lively woman, the idea of not being able to communicate is worse than any of the other degenerating effects on the body that the disease is known for. It was my first time meeting a client in the early stages of ALS, still speaking with a clear, beautiful voice. It was the time when my client could CHOOSE whether to bank her voice or not. She decided to go for it.

Voice banking is the process of recording one's voice for future use. The voice-recording is done in a speech-generating device and can be done using the Modeltalker Speech Synthesis Software (MT), developed at the Nemours Speech Research Laboratory at the University of Delaware. MT requires the user to record a representative sample of words and phrases (about 1600) that can then be used in textto-speech software. As I prepared myself to serve as her guide, I realized it may take many hours, be very frustrating and result in a mediocre, if not, unsatisfactory voice. With this disclaimer, we forged ahead.

Since my client knew that time was of the essence, she started right away. A couple of weeks were spent troubleshooting the environmental variables that interfered with recording quality. In her case, ALL home electronics, heating, fans, lights, and even the fridge needed to be turned OFF. The sounds of people upstairs, airplanes and crows had to be controlled for, too. My client was not discouraged, however. After a series of rejected recordings and a number of email exchanges with the helpful MT team, finally the conditions were right. My client completed the inventory of recordings within a matter of days, and MT processed them within a couple of weeks. A SAPI

5, device-ready voice appeared in her inbox.

We have since loaded her voice onto a Dynavox VMax and it sounds JUST like her, truly.

I wanted to share this story because of how powerful it is to have a voice, especially one's own. MT is free to the public at this time, while it is still in betatesting mode. It is a wonderful opportunity for individuals who anticipate changes in their speech abilities to make a CHOICE about preserving their voice.

Further information available at Model Talker.

BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOUR ANALYST QUALIFICATIONS

Currently, SLPs who wish to become Board Certified Behaviour Analysts can meet the criteria to write the certification exam by taking a series of 6 courses and obtaining supervision. The Behavior Analyst Certification Board is changing criteria so that after December 2015, a Masters degree in SLP will no longer be accepted as a qualifying degree. If you have been considering obtaining this credential, please check details online.

Dr. Kate Ballem Chase, M.Sc., D.Phil., RSLP

DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US: TWITTER@BCASLPA FACEBOOK.COM/BCASLPA PINTEREST.COM/BCASLPA AND FIND US ON LINKEDIN



Congratulations on renewing your BCASLPA membership! Here are some of the benefits that come with membership with your own provincial professional organization:

1) Professional Development Opportunities

Through our partnership with Audiology.com and SpeechPathology.com, earn unlimited CEUs online for just \$99 per year.

SpeechPathology.com

At SpeechPathology.com, we believe that all SLPs and SLPAs should have access to the latest online tools, resources and information so that they may better serve the patients in their care.

As a recognized leader in online continuing education, SpeechPathology.com offers a comprehensive and extensive course library featuring pediatric and adult courses on hundreds of topics ranging from early intervention to prevention of medical errors. Presented by leading experts and master level clinicians, courses can be accessed 24 hours a day and are available in variety of learning formats including live webinar, video, audio and text-based. SpeechPathology.com curriculum is determined by a distinguished team of licensed speech-language pathologists.

Meet the Editor: Amy J. Hansen, M.A., CCC-SLP - Managing Editor

Amy has more than 14 years of experience as a Speech-language Pathologist. She previously worked at Case Western Reserve University assisting on several research projects funded by the National Institutes of Health focusing on the genetic basis for speech sound disorders (SSD) with a specific emphasis on childhood apraxia of speech and the impact of SSD on reading and writing development in school-age children. She holds a B.A. in Psychology from Saint Mary's College and an M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology from Northern Illinois University. Contact Amy at: ahansen@speechpathology.com

AudiologyOnline.com

As the "homepage of hearing healthcare", AudiologyOnline is committed to its mission of making it easy for professionals to access the information they need to deliver best outcomes for their patients. AudiologyOnline has more than 1500 courses covering the scope of practice of audiology, with new courses added each week. Courses are presented by leading experts in audiology from around the world, and from all major manufacturers who also provide product and software training. Courses are offered in a variety of formats (live, recorded, text and audio), and most are mobile-compatible. In addition to continuing education, AudiologyOnline provides news, ask the expert articles and interviews to help keep professionals current on the latest from industry, research and from audiology professional associations.

Meet the Editor: Carolyn Smaka, AuD - Editor in Chief

Carolyn started her career as a speech-language pathologist, and then followed her heart to return to school for audiology. She has been an audiologist for more than 20 years and is still passionate about the profession. Carolyn has worked in a variety of settings as a clinical audiologist, audiology administrator, and in several roles with a leading hearing instrument manufacturer. She is an active volunteer with audiology professional associations as well as in her community. Contact Carolyn at: csmaka@audiologyonline.com

2) Hanen e-Seminar Discount

BCASLPA Partners with The Hanen Centre : 25% Member Discount

The Hanen Centre is a Canadian not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the best possible early language and literacy outcomes for young children. We provide speech-language pathologists with a practical methodology for teaching parents and early childhood educators to play a primary role in the development of young children's social, language, and literacy skills. We have been hard at work in British Columbia, having run a total of 96 workshops to date.

MEMBER BENEFITS

We value the relationships that we've built with our partners in BC, and are excited to keep working with the education and speech-language pathology communities in the province. With this in mind, we are extending a special offer to all members of the BCASLPA. As part of your BCASLPA membership benefits, you are now able to register for The Hanen Centre's live and interactive e-Seminars at 25% off the regular cost. These 2 hour training sessions are a convenient way to build your clinical skills and earn Continuing Education Credits from the comfort of your home or office.

You can take advantage of the discount for any of the topics and upcoming dates below: Starting Early... Red Flags and Treatment Tips for Toddlers on the Autism Spectrum This e-Seminar introduces typical development of social communication in infants and toddlers and describes how to use these milestones for social interaction, attention, communication, play skills and responsiveness to identify a child who appears to be at risk for ASD. Using these primary areas of difficulty, appropriate social and communication goals for these toddlers will be identified. Tuesday, April 16th 7 PM – 9 PM

Coaching Parents in How to Play

This e-Seminar examines how clinicians can help parents facilitate the play skills of their child with a language delay or disorder. The connections between play and language development at different stages are discussed within the context of providing effective play-based language intervention. Monday, June 10th 12 PM – 2 PM

Making Book Reading a Time for Interaction and Conversation

This e-Seminar will introduce you to Hanen's concrete strategies for promoting developmentally appropriate emergent literacy skills during shared book reading. Wednesday, March 13th 12 PM – 2 PM Thursday, June 27th 7 PM – 9 PM

Make Words Sparkle for Preschoolers: Bringing Vocabulary to Life During Book Reading and Daily Interactions

With a focus on making vocabulary instruction a natural part of shared book reading and everyday conversations with children, this e-Seminar provides research-based strategies that foster vocabulary learning in children who have a basic vocabulary and speak in sentences Thursday March 21st 7 PM – 9 PM

Wednesday June 12th 12 PM – 2 PM

To apply the discount, simply enter the code BCASLPASEMINAR when completing the online registration. For more information about our e-Seminars or to register, please click here, or contact Amy Thring at amy.thring@hanen.org.

3) Insurance Discount with Mardon Group Insurance

BCASLPA members qualify for discounted rates for Home, Condominium, and Renters Insurance. Savings of up to 20% are available. For more information or to get a Premium Estimate, complete this form and return to Mardon Group Insurance: Tel: 604 877 7762, Toll Free: 1-866-846-4467, Email: contact@mgins.ca

4) Free Access to our online Electronic Health Library

See our summary document for more details.

MEMBER IN FOCUS: NADINE EWANCHYSHYN by Carrie Siu, M.Sc., RAUD/RHIP, AUD(C)



Over the last 3 years, I have had the opportunity and honour to work with Nadine. I have come to admire her work, life experience, and amicable personality. Below is a summary of my interview with Nadine Ewanchyshyn, MS,CCC-SLP,LSLS Cert AVT.

Carrie: Could you give us an overview of your work experience?

Nadine: Before I became a Speech-Language Pathologist, I was a teacher for Kindergarten to Gr. 3 children. I started doing some infant stimulation work and became interested in pursuing more work in communication. My first SLP position was in rural Southern Manitoba working with two school districts. My role was mainly consultative. Over a two-week period, I would travel to 14 schools. I would meet with each of the four SLP assistants to review the programs for the children and train them to deliver therapy. I would liaise with the resource teacher, psychologist, public health, classroom teacher, and instructional assistance.

After four years with the Manitoba school districts. I moved to Ontario and worked for the Halton school district for 9-10 years. This school district had 40.000 students and a team of 17 SLPs. Our main focus was to develop direct intervention for early-identified children; those mainly in Kindergarten. We developed three kindergarten language centres. The children would be transported to our language centres two days a week, and the other days they would attend mainstream kindergarten. Our team of SLPs would meet to look at all the children identified from school screenings, then put them in groups and designed customized programs for them. The programs would be similar in routine to the kindergarten classrooms, with times for sharing, small groups, individual work, and we would integrate the curriculum from the classroom. It was a fantastic approach to address the individual needs of the children.

Because the program was shown to be so highly successful, it was widely accepted by parents and administrators. We were fortunate to have a strong SLP team leader and receptive classroom teachers and administrators.

After Ontario, I moved to Bermuda and worked for the Child Development Program for 3.5 years. This national program was housed in a small old house on a hill overlooking the ocean. We operated a national resource centre that provided services for all children on the island aged 0-5 years. We devised a screening tool for all children 2 years of age and trained staff to screen cognitive, social, and speech and language development. The children who needed follow up assessments would come to the centre and be jointly assessed by

"We devised a screening tool for all children 2 years of age and trained staff to screen cognitive, social, and speech and language development."

the Psychologist and SLP. Most children were attending universal daycare, so we would collaborate with the daycare providers in terms of therapy.

I found from my experience in Bermuda that I really enjoyed being immersed in a different culture, so subsequently I applied for a position in Dubai and was hired by the Dubai Centre for Special Needs.

This was an English-speaking school for children aged 3.5 to 21 years of age who had special needs. I worked in a team that consisted of a psychologist, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and other SLPs; my role was a Speech Language supervisor. I would do individual therapy as well as assessments. The children presented with many different needs and were from various cultural backgrounds.

"I took a position at the American Hospital Dubai to help set up their Cochlear Implant Centre. As part of our service we developed a cochlear implant habilitation centre, equipped with toys, games, an art room, and a therapy room."

After three years at the Dubai Centre for Special Needs, I took a position at the American Hospital Dubai to help set up their Cochlear Implant Centre. As part of our service we developed a cochlear implant habilitation centre, equipped with toys, games, an art room, and a therapy room. In addition to individual therapy, we held group therapy sessions and encouraged families to know one another. I worked closely with two interpreters, who were Arabic Montessori teachers.

I was at the American Hospital Dubai from 2003-2011. During that time, I obtained my Auditory-Verbal Therapy training through Cochlear Nucleus Europe in Belgium, and trained under Warren Estabrooks from WEListen International, Judith Simser from Ottawa, and Lise Henderson from Manchester,

UK. I attended AVT conferences at the UK, USA, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. I participated in the Planning Committee and was a Chairperson and Speaker at the Cochlear Implant Seminars at the Middle East Otolaryngology Conference and Exhibition at Dubai, UAE. I was also a member on the Cochlear Implant Team, which consisted of an American-trained team of ENTs, Audiologists, SLPs). I participated in discussions related to the clients as well as the regional health and educational needs of professionals and patients. I collaborated with the ENT and Audiologists in candidacy decisions, mapping, communication goal planning, and implementation of goals through consultation and direct therapy.

While in Dubai, I also participated in marketing campaigns for cochlear implantation in the Middle East Arabia. I implemented and facilitated a parent support group and worked with potential cochlear implant candidates and cochlear implanted children and adults from a number of countries including UAE, Oman, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Russia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Italy, Australia, USA, and Canada.

C: Could you describe one case that had been especially meaningful to you?

N: This child was one of my first children at the Cochlear Implant Centre at Dubai. She and her family came from Russia for her bilateral cochlear implant surgery when she was aged 4. After her CI was activated, she did not want to do anything and would just cry during her sessions with me. During her first year after implantation, she would come and see me every three months. Each time they would stay for 7-10 days and I would conduct 2-3 hours of therapy with her every day. Therapy was difficult for the parents at home too. Eventually the child realized the benefit of her implant and started to go along with the therapy. The last time I saw her she was 12 years old, speaking, singing, and dancing beautifully and leading a normal life.

C: What would be some advice that you would give to somebody just entering the profession of SLP?

N: It is important to look at all the vast possibilities in the field of speech-language pathology. There are so many different avenues that one can pursue within the field. It would be a good idea to decide on an age group or communication area of interest, then to become a specialist in that area. Be open to change.

Nadine Ewanchyshyn is a Registered Speech-Language Pathologist and an LSLS Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist. She currently works with the BC Provincial Outreach Program for Cochlear Implants. She can be contacted at nadine. ewanchyshyn@sd47.bc.ca.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE by Margaret Anderson, Advocacy Co-Councilor

The Advocacy Committee has been working to support our professions and you as members. We are currently focused on the following projects:

Our Website

The new website is under construction and will be ready to launch soon. Our committee, the Provincial Council, and other members have written new editions of the important pages included in our site. We hope that the new look and friendly format will be helpful to our members and the public at large.

Did You Know? Posters

Thank you to everyone who contributed comments and ideas to our LinkedIn discussion about topics for the 2014 campaign. We have developed posters for the next four months and look to finish off the complete set soon. Be sure to look for the posters at your neighbourhood public library as we are sending them to libraries throughout the province. Please share them with other professionals, such as teachers or healthcare personnel, or post them in public areas at your workplace. Spread the word about the population we serve and the issues we address.

Text 911

A new service may soon be available to the deaf, hard of hearing, and speech impaired population of the Lower Mainland. Telus and local emergency management groups are developing a service that allows a person to dial into 911 and then communicate to the operator through text. Although still in the final developmental stages, this would allow registered callers the opportunity to communicate clearly their needs to 911 personnel. The Advocacy Committee posted on Facebook a "thank you" to E Comm and Telus for developing this vital service.

May is Speech & Hearing Month

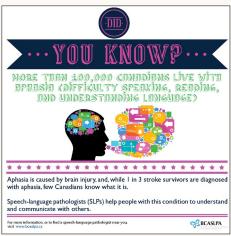
We are currently developing our themes and materials for Speech and Hearing Month, 2014. We will keep you posted through e-blasts as we look forward to exciting May!

Top right: Did You Know? Facebook images for March.

Bottom right: A sneak-peak of April's theme. Stay tuned for the official posters and social media







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