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# Vibrations

## December 2014

### ► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I started my journey as President of BCASLPA, I was delighted to see and meet so many members at the recent BCASLPA 2014 conference. The conference was a great success due to the hard work of the conference committee, the excellent speakers and the networking between members.

I first practiced in the United Kingdom as a Speech and Language Therapist following my initial qualification from Manchester polytechnic in 1989. I came to Canada in 2007 following the completion of my Master's degree in 2006.

Coming to Williams Lake was a new adventure and I have enjoyed every minute working at the Cariboo Chilcotin Child Development Centre and within the community of Williams Lake. I have been fortunate to have been able to connect with colleagues at Interior Health Authority and the local School District #27. These partnerships help families to access services and together we can increase our presence within the community.

In the year ahead I will work with BCASLPA Provincial Council and Zoe Grams from ZG Communications to:

- Build a stronger partnership with SAC/OAC
- Build links with other professional groups
- Build on BCASLPA's public advocacy campaign
- Build networking between Provincial Council and members

I will make 'Communicating is Connecting' our strategic focus in the year ahead. I look forward to working with you all.

**Julia Hodder**  
President BCASLPA



**Communicating  
is connecting**



# ▶ TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

By Suzanne Harwood

## Self-Directed Learning in AAC

The introduction of tablets and apps has led to increased availability of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems. Although this has significantly reduced the cost of some AAC systems and made them more available to clients and families, in select cases their introduction bypasses careful assessment, evaluation, and planned implementation. Rather than being part of the decision making process, Speech-Language Pathologists may be confronted with communication systems that are unfamiliar and find themselves needing to “get up-to-speed.” A variety of online sources are available to increase knowledge of AAC and specific assistive technology (AT). The websites of professional associations, universities, non-profit organizations, publicly funded agencies, vendors, personal websites such as blogs, and social media sharing groups offer resources for professional development. The examples below are not exhaustive, but can be used as a place to get started.

The American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) has a special interest group for AAC, called Special Interest Group 12 (SIG 12). Its resources include [online webinars](#), as well as [books](#), and journals. [ASHA Wire](#) is an integrated online search engine that can be used to search all ASHA journals simultaneously. Members of ASHA can access these journals freely, or specific articles can be bought. Alternatively, ASHA Wire search results can be used to narrow down searches in your agency’s or association’s journal libraries. Searching other national, provincial, and state associations will also lead to AAC resources. [Speech-Language and Audiology Canada \(SAC\)](#) is requesting feedback on the draft version of its position paper on the “The Role of Speech-Language Pathologists with Respect to Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).” BCASLPA’s recent 2014 Conference hosted two presentations related to AAC, “[New Initiatives for AAC for Adults](#),” and “[Evidence-Based Practice in the Provision of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Systems in Children](#).” [Speech-Language Pathology Australia](#) offers a searchable evidence-based practice research database called [SpeechBite](#), which is freely accessible. The [Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists](#) has [cost/benefit analyses regarding AAC](#).

Many universities with programs in Communication Sciences host websites with excellent AAC information including on-going research. Some examples include [The University of Nebraska-Lincoln](#), [The University of Pennsylvania State](#), [The University of Washington](#), [The University of North Carolina](#), [The University of New Mexico](#), [Purdue University](#), and [The University of Kansas](#). [AAC-RERC](#) is a multi-institutional agency whose aim is to advance AAC technologies. Two online research tools available for use in AAC assessments are the [Communication Matrix](#) and the [Communication Supports Inventory](#).

The landmark text “Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Supporting Children and Adults with Complex Communication Needs,” is edited by David Beukelman and [Pat Miranda](#), with contributions from other prominent AAC researchers. Although it is in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition, the online companion to its 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is still active and contains an [extensive list of links to online AAC related websites](#). Publishers such as [Brookes Publishing](#), and [Springer](#), speech and language companies such as [Linguisystems](#) and AT companies such as [Attainment](#) offer AAC texts, journals, and resources.

AAC and AT manufacturers such as [AbleNet](#), [Inclusive Technology](#), newly amalgamated [Tobii](#), [Dynavox](#) and [Mayer-Johnson](#) companies, [Prentke Romich](#), [Salttillo](#), [Silver-Kite](#), and [AssistiveWare](#) offer a range of live and archived webinars on AAC topics and their products. Some non-profit agencies such as [CALL Scotland](#), and [Boston Children’s Hospital](#) offer evaluations and comparisons of AAC devices and Apps. CALL Scotland’s

## ▶ TECHNOLOGY UPDATE CONTINUED



[AAC App Wheel for Complex Communication Support Needs](#) categorizes over 60 iPad apps.

Other non-profit agencies such as the [International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication \(ISAAC\)](#), [The AAC Institute](#), [Everyone Communicates](#), [Communication Matters](#), and [Communication Disabilities Access Canada \(CDAC\)](#) offer information on advocacy as well as implementation and professional development. CDAC's current initiative is to train interested Canadian Speech-Language Pathologists who are experienced in AAC as communication intermediaries so that police, justice, and legal services can be accessible to those with communication support needs.

B.C. publicly funded agencies such as Special Education Technology British Columbia ([SET-BC](#)), Communication Assistance for Youth and Adults ([CAYA](#)), and [G.F. Strong Rehab Centre](#), have publications, resources, and links related to AAC and AT. On the SET-BC website, choosing "Topics" from the "Learning Centre" drop down menu will take you to the most recent documents related to [Communication](#). Choosing the "[PictureSET](#)" link from the "Learning Centre" drop down menu will take you to premade visual support resources. A [general search for AAC](#) will return all tagged resources including archived webinars.

Some AAC advocates are known through their websites and blogs, others by their Twitter and Linked-in profiles. [Sarah Blackstone](#), is a researcher and editor of Augmentative Communication News. [Joy Zabala](#) maintains the SETT Framework documents for collaborative AT planning, [Caroline Bowen](#) authors the popular Speech Language Therapy Dot Com website. [Gail Van Tatenhove](#) is a long-time proponent of AAC using core vocabulary design. [Carole Zangari](#) is one of the founders of PrAActical AAC. [Kate Ahern](#), [Jane Farrall](#), and [Alex Dunn](#) use blogs and wikis to highlight AAC issues. In addition to their websites, most are prominent in social media related to augmentative communication.

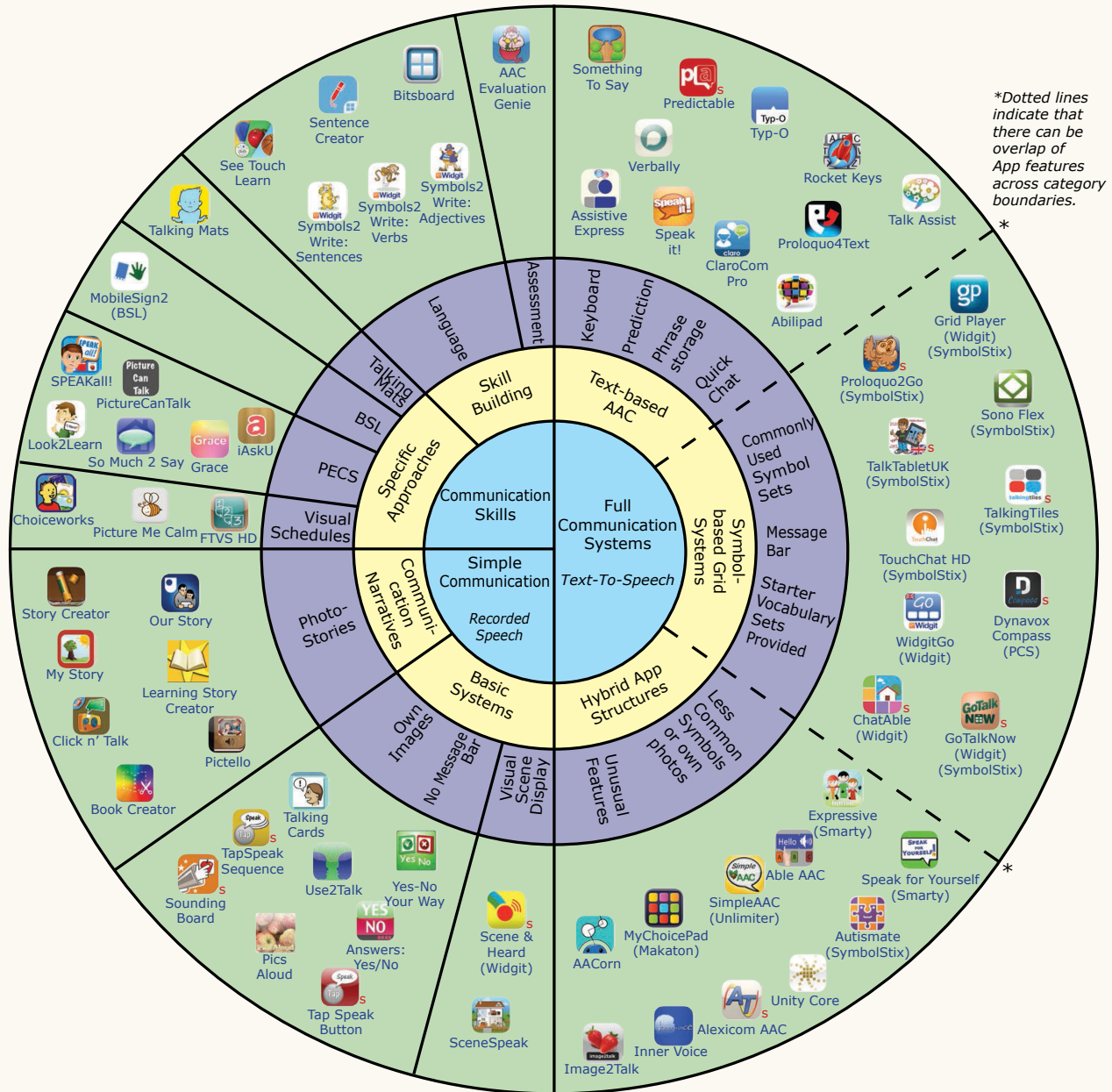
Searching "AAC" on Pinterest and [LiveBinders](#), searching "#AAC", "#AugComm", "#AssistiveTech", "#ATchat", "assistivechat," and "SwitchAccess" on Twitter, and "Augmentative Communication" on Facebook will connect you with resources, links and people.

Enjoy expanding your AAC knowledge and connecting with others who are just as interested in opening the doors to successful communication.

Please note, the inclusion or exclusion of a professional association, university, non-profit organization, publicly funded agency, vendor, manufacturer, publisher, personal website or social media sharing group is not to be interpreted as a statement of endorsement or support.

**Suzanne Harwood is a speech-language pathologist currently working as an assistive technology consultant for SET-BC.**

# iPad Apps for Complex Communication Support Needs: Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)



**Identifying Suitable Apps**  
 This wheel does not include every App available in each category. There are hundreds of AAC Apps and many hundreds of combinations of features. This wheel includes Apps that CALL broadly finds reliable and useful and/or that stand out in their category.  
 For a useful, comprehensive and regularly updated listing of AAC Apps, see [www.janefarrall.com](http://www.janefarrall.com)  
**And also... AAC Ferret**  
 This is a very valuable App developed by Spectronics that allows you to search for AAC App by keyword and/or by specific feature(s) e.g. App types; type of voice output; visual representation; vocabulary features; vocabulary display; access; customisation; message sharing; support features.

An electronic version of this chart can be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/CALL-AAC-App-Wheel>  
 App names are 'clickable' links, taking you to information about the individual App on the iTunes site for the UK.

**Switch Access**  
 Switch access may be necessary for some users, usually requiring a bluetooth switch interface and switch(es) tailored to the individual user. Previously, very few Apps were designed specifically for switch access. Although things have moved on since then, these Apps tend to be the ones that offer the widest range of useful scan options and functions, and may still be the 'safest' choice for switch users. These are marked in this wheel with small red 's' (beside App icon).  
 With iOS 7, however, new Accessibility settings built-in to the iPad itself mean that almost any/all Apps (and the iPad itself, desktop, and all functions) can be operated by one or two external switches (or by using the screen as a switch, or even head movements). So if you know you are going to need switch access, never buy an App that claims to be switch accessible without checking which switch interface is needed, what settings are available and - if possible - perhaps via a specialist centre such as CALL Scotland - whether it actually works or not!



# ▶ UPCOMING EVENTS

## Free Communication Intermediary Webinars for Speech Language Pathologists - January 13, 20 and 27, 2015

Communication Intermediaries are Speech-Language Pathologists, with additional training to assist people with communication disabilities communicating in legal and justice situations. Similar to sign language interpreters, communication intermediaries are contracted by police, lawyers, victim witness services, court accessibility coordinators, judges, crowns and other justice professionals.

### Communication Intermediaries

- Are Speech Language Pathologists and members of professional / regulatory body
- Have completed communication intermediary training conducted by [CDAC](#)
- Adhere to CDAC's national practice standards and code of ethics
- Are listed on CDAC's online roster of communication intermediaries
- Work independently and are solely accountable for their services
- Negotiate their fees with the end-user (e.g. police, lawyer or justice professional), including all time, travel, documentation and related activities

We will send you a link to attend the webinars a day before the event.

Register for Online Webinar Series

Dates and Times: (Registration deadline: Dec 31, 2014)

- January 13, 2015 – 1 pm – 2.30 pm CST (noon – 1.30 EST)
- January 20, 2015 – 1 pm – 2.30 pm CST (noon – 1.30 EST)
- January 27, 2015 – 1 pm – 2.30 pm CST (noon – 1.30 EST)

[Click here to register](#): Participants must attend all three webinars. By registering for the Jan. 13 event, you are automatically registered for the series. If you are unable to attend one of the webinars, please contact us to discuss alternate arrangements [cdac@bell.net](mailto:cdac@bell.net)

Presenters: Barbara Collier, Reg. CASLPO and Pamela Cross, Lawyer

Learn more about the [CDAC Communication Access to Justice](#) project

If you have questions, please contact us: [cdac@bell.net](mailto:cdac@bell.net)

## Auditory & Language Processing Disorders: Identifying Problems and Intervention Strategies - February 20, 2015

With Dr. Gail Richard, of the Language Processing Test

Parkland Secondary School Theatre, Sidney, B.C.

9:00 am to 3:45 pm

Quick and easy access from Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal

\$60 for BCASLPA Members & SD63 Staff; \$125 for others

To register now, go to: [www.bit.ly/saanichslpworkshop](http://www.bit.ly/saanichslpworkshop)

Contact Jane McMullin ([jmcmullin@sd63.bc.ca](mailto:jmcmullin@sd63.bc.ca)) for further information

Supported by BCASLPA Area Funds and School District #63



# ▶ UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Calling all SLPs, OTs, PTs, EAs, Resource Teachers, and all the other community professionals who work with students with autism - January 14 and 15, 2015**

Looking for ways to actively engage a child with autism? Or to help a child with autism have smooth, independent transitions? Want to help a child with autism express emotion and use coping strategies in a conventional manner?

### **SCERTS is the course for you!**

Come join us on January 14th and 15th, 2015 to learn more about the SCERTS ([www.scerts.com](http://www.scerts.com)) framework. Emily Rubin, M.S., CCC-SLP will present an overview of how the SCERTS framework can be used to design and implement treatment programs for children with autism so that they can improve their social communication and so that you as part of their support team can have successful interactions.

For more information, check out the full registration package at [www.sd38.bc.ca](http://www.sd38.bc.ca). Scroll to bottom of page and click on “view more” and then click on “Two Day Course on the Challenges Faced by Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder”. Or email [RichmondSCERTS2015@gmail.com](mailto:RichmondSCERTS2015@gmail.com) and we will be happy to send you the registration package.

**Early Bird Discount On Until December 4!**

# ▶ INTRODUCING THE CANADIAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY (CAA)

**By Susan Nelson-Oxford, M.Sc. RAUD, RHIP, Past President of CAA**

“The Canadian Academy of Audiology is dedicated to enhancing the role of audiologists as primary hearing health care providers through advocacy, education and research.” My name is Susan Nelson-Oxford, Past President of the Academy and I work for Public Health in Victoria. A host of volunteers participated in a number of activities supporting our mission this past year. I would like to introduce you to our volunteer Board of Directors. Working with me on our Executive Committee this year we have our: President, Gurjit Singh, at the University of Toronto; Treasurer, Joy Gauvreau at Costco in Saskatoon; Secretary, Salima Jawani at the University of Toronto; and President Elect, Bill Hodgets at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. The rest of our volunteer Board members include: Steve Aiken, our Past, Past President from Dalhousie University in Halifax; Maxine Armstrong, at the Toronto General Hospital; Barb Bentley, at Bentley Hearing in London; Bonnie Cooke, working for Oticon in Toronto; MJ DeSousa at Connect Hearing in Toronto; Victoria Lee (our PPP President) in Burnaby, BC; Glynnis Tidball, St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver and Angel Weaver at Costco in Ottawa. The board represents private, public and academic perspectives and east, central and western Canadian locales. In addition to the board, a number of other volunteers worked on projects through committee participation. Also, supporting CAA in our mission is Jean Holden, Executive Director in Toronto and Kathryn Knight, Administrative Assistant in London.



## ▶ INTRODUCING THE CAA CONTINUED

Our most significant accomplishment this past year has been the establishment of our bimonthly e-journal, “Canadian Audiologist: The Official Publication of the Canadian Academy of Audiology”. The first edition launched in January. The journal consists of featured articles, regular columns, upcoming events postings, and regularly updated audiology news. Many, many thanks goes to the driving forces behind this endeavour, namely our volunteer Editor-in-chief, Marshall Chasin, our associate editor Steve Aiken, and our Executive Director Jean Holden in addition to the myriad of contributors to this journal. Other members of the editorial committee include Alberto Behar (Noisy Notes), Calvin Staples (Other People’s Ideas), Gael Hannan (The Way I Hear It), Greg Noel (Science Matters), Kim Tillery (From the Centre Out), Peter Stelmachovich (The Wired Audiologist), Sheila Moodie, Wayne Staab (Trends), Rich Tyler, Michael Valente, Managing Editor Scott Bryant and Production Coordinator Erika Henry. Check it out and sign up for free at <http://canadianaudiologist.ca/signup/>. If you would like to submit an article for publication consideration, contact our Editor in Chief Marshall Chasin at [marshall.chasin@rogers.com](mailto:marshall.chasin@rogers.com)

CAA volunteers have spear-headed two National special interest groups, the Canadian Infant Hearing Task Force and the National Vestibular Special Interest Group. The Canadian Infant Hearing Task Force is chaired by our Past President, Dr. Steve Aiken. In March 2014 the task force issued a report card which highlighted the need for improved programs across the country. The Task Force is jointly sponsored by CAA and SAC, and this report card has been endorsed by the Canadian Pediatric Society, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, and the Elks and Royal Purple. To view the report card, go to <https://canadianaudiology.ca/advocacy-and-funding/advocacy-news.html>. The National Vestibular Special Interest Group conducted a survey based on four themes (education, certification, standards of care, and use of supportive personnel) as related to Vestibular services in Canada. Volume 1 Issue 4 is a special edition of the Canadian Audiologist and the results of the survey are presented here along with several articles on Vestibular practices.

Our conference is our big annual event and brings speakers and delegates in from all parts of this great country and internationally. Our 17<sup>th</sup> conference this year in Whistler was another big success despite the incessant rain. I am sure that a number of BCASLPA members were able to attend this year. Access to conference presentations is now available for access to conference attendees through our website. Next year the conference is in Niagara Falls, and then the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Audiology will take place September 18-21, 2016 in Vancouver! The World Congress of Audiology is an event of the International Society of Audiology (ISA) and is being jointly hosted by the Canadian Academy of Audiology (CAA) and Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC).

CAA continues to be present on social media, where you can “like Canadian Audiologists on Facebook, follow Canadian Audiologists on Twitter and connect with Canadian Audiologist on LinkedIn”.

It has been an honour to serve CAA in the capacity of President this past year. I have had the privilege of working with a group of highly dedicated, creative and talented professionals all with the goal of achieving CAAs mission of enhancing and supporting the profession of Audiology. I invite you to visit the CAA website and consider becoming a volunteer which affords the opportunity to work with your colleagues from across Canada as well as contribute to your profession.

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# ▶ CURRENT HEARING TECHNOLOGIES

## What you need to know about today's hearing systems.

by Daniel Allen, MA, RAUD, Canadian Hearing Care, North Kamloops and D'Arcy White, M.S., RAUD Canadian Hearing Care, Salmon Arm

*Do Hearing aids really help?* The simple answer is yes, but of course, it's not that simple.

Today's hearing instruments are miniature computers, with many specialized features designed to keep conversation clear and maintain comfort. This is a rather daunting process when one considers the myriad of sounds we encounter every day, often changing from moment to moment. This auditory canvas evolves constantly as we encounter different voices, in varying situations. Each speaker's voice has a unique pitch, volume, articulation pattern and resonance. Conversational situations also change quickly from quiet, to background noise, to groups of voices, to distant speech. In addition, the general acoustics of a room can play a significant role in communication. Large, open rooms make communication more difficult as sounds reverberate and come back on themselves. We all know that talking in an empty gymnasium can be challenging. In small, carpeted spaces sound is more easily absorbed, creating an easier listening environment.

All these factors contribute to the challenge of hearing, and a challenge for hearing instrument technology. The ear, the brain, and the hearing device must adapt constantly and work as a team. The success of this "team" is impacted by the individual using the hearing devices. Age, personality, life experiences, motivation, and the amount of hearing loss all play a role. Given all these human and acoustical obstacles, hearing aids work exceptionally well.

Hearing instruments continue to bring people back into the auditory world, improving socialization and quality of life. When appropriately fitted, they are comfortable, require very little adjustment, and improve communication in a wide range of settings. However, hearing aids cannot fix a damaged ear, replace what is missing, or stop the auditory brain from aging. They still do not put themselves in the ear, clean themselves, or force someone to listen when they really don't care to hear. They still do not stop someone from conversing two rooms away, or with their head in the cupboard. Does this mean hearing aids don't work? No, it means we need to understand the basic challenges of hearing, what happens when the ear deteriorates, and what to expect from hearing aid technology.

We all know that nemesis of hearing loss and hearing aids: conversation in background noise. The din of a crowd can easily wipe out an important single voice, or key consonant information. Indeed, this number one complaint has not wavered over the past 30 years of my career. Group conversations and noisy conditions continue to plague those with hearing loss, and continue to challenge clinicians.

Although the communicative challenges have not changed, technology has. Hearing aids today have a larger arsenal than ever before to control the impact of unwanted sound, and maintain word clarity with less listening effort. These "smart" instruments have a symphony of features running in tandem to keep sound comfortable and maintain maximum speech information in a variety of environments. Each hearing aid manufacturer has their own unique terminologies for their features, but they are all attempting to offer similar performance. As we examine what continues to be successful, the reality is, many of the advancements revolve around concepts we have understood for many years. We know that directional microphones improve signal to noise ratio in





## **UPDATE IN HEARING TECHNOLOGY CONTINUED**

difficult conditions, we know that high frequency hearing is important for understanding in noise, and that feedback is an ever lurking problem in applying those needed high frequencies. We also know that when the ears work together, the brain's natural auditory processing abilities assist in separating and focusing on specific information. The role of both ears working together cannot be overstated, and is the reason audiologists have always stressed the need for binaural, versus monaural hearing aid fittings. All these concepts have now been applied technologically to the hearing aids we have today.

Directional microphone benefits have been realized for many years. At this point however, these directional microphones are sophisticated, automatic systems that vary the directionality depending on the environments. They can automatically adjust to help the listener focus on a dominant speaker, and some can help track the dominant speaker as a conversational situation changes.

The benefit of hearing the high frequencies is also well understood for word clarity, hearing subtle consonant differences, and hearing in competing noise. Unfortunately, feedback (a high-pitched whistling noise) has often limited the amount of high frequency amplification that can be provided. We now have sophisticated feedback management systems that work toward controlling feedback automatically before it becomes intrusive. These systems are often individualized by applying specific "calibrations" while the hearing aid is in the ear, thereby using the fit and ear acoustics to maximize the effectiveness. Hearing aid microphones and receivers also have broader responses, making more high frequency information available. In addition, some manufacturers have incorporated "frequency lowering technology".

The intention of frequency lowering technology is to access more high frequencies with important speech energy, thereby providing more speech cues and improved understanding. This was originally felt to be ideal in cases of severe to profound hearing loss, particularly audiograms with rapidly sloping configurations. In these cases, it can be challenging to provide enough high frequency amplification to be communicatively effective, particularly if there is no measurable hearing beyond a certain point on the audiogram. In recent years, there is the suggestion that frequency-lowering technology can benefit those with even milder hearing impairments. It's thought that the extra enhancement of high frequency sounds, even for milder losses, may reduce listening fatigue. This technology has been utilized for a number of years now, but remains somewhat controversial and not well accepted by all clinicians or hearing aid manufacturers. It will remain an interesting topic for discussion and further research.

**Article to be continued in the next issue of Vibrations (March 2015)**



# ▶ REFLECTIONS FROM THE BCASLPA CONFERENCE Held Oct 24-25, 2014 in Vancouver

## Co-Chair Chat: Reflections on Our Committee & Conference Experience

**Abby Brooks and Gillian Grevstad**  
SLPs, 2014 BCASLPA Conference Co-Chairs, and pals

When we were asked to write this article sharing our reflections of being on the Conference Planning Committee and attending the conference as participants, we realized that we were actually really curious to know what each other would say. So we figured we'd ask!

**Gillian:** Abby, it was so great to get to work with you for the past two years! Tell me, what did you find most valuable about being on the conference committee?

**Abby:** Working as a team with colleagues from across the province and across different areas of the speech-language pathology field to help organize a conference that I, myself, would want to attend.

**G:** I hear you! I think that's one of the best parts about getting involved in BCASLPA, because then you can influence what professional development opportunities are available to you.

**A:** Well, really, with a great topic like Evidence-Based Practice and a huge subsidy from the Provincial Council to make the conference affordable to a greater number of members, it was a great project to be involved with, that was already well-poised to be a success. What did you like best as a conference attendee?

**G:** My favourite part was the new Speaker's Corner feature at the Meet & Greet Thursday evening...it was an opportunity for SLPs from all areas of practice working with all different populations to get up and share something they do in their therapy that they think is awesome. It was really organic and laidback and we heard some fantastic ideas! I definitely appreciated how members of this year's planning committee brought fresh ideas and saw them through; their enthusiasm made organizing this conference fun! These sorts of initiatives were a great complement to the more formal, day-long presenters on evidenced-based practice. The speakers this year were of an amazing caliber ...I felt I got the best of both worlds.

**A:** Yeah, I agree, the speakers were fantastic; my biggest challenge was choosing which sessions to attend!

**G:** For sure. What would you want other BCASLPA members to know about being on the conference committee?

**A:** It's a low pressure and fun way to get involved with your provincial association. It's not a huge time commitment, but it's definitely significant enough that you feel like you're making a contribution. Plus it ensures that at least once a month you're collaborating with enthusiastic professionals to meet an end goal, which I find rewarding. With (BCASLPA's Executive Assistant) Janet Campbell's efficiency, years of experience, and positivity, taking on this project, even in our first year, never felt too daunting.

**G:** Yeah, she's awesome!



# ▶ FROM THE UBC SCHOOL OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH SCIENCES

## 1) We are expanding!

The government of B.C. is providing \$2.475 million in one-time funding, and another \$932,000 in annual operating funds, in order to increase the intake of SLP students at UBC from the current 23 to 36 (a 56% increase). Seven new student places will be added in 2015-2016, and thirteen will be added in 2016-2017.

The expansion of the SLP program will address the shortage of speech-language therapists in the Province, particularly in northern and rural B.C.

The School would like to thank clients and clinicians who have been advocating for the need to increase the number of SLP graduates from UBC in order to improve speech therapy services for the people of B.C.

## 2) Clinical Faculty Award Recipients

The School has great appreciation for the work done by our Clinical Faculty in the education of our students. Our program could not be successful without the donation of time, expertise, and commitment of our clinical educators.

The School established two Clinical Faculty Awards in 2009 to recognize Clinical Faculty who demonstrate excellence in and commitment to the clinical education of the School's students.

We are pleased to announce the 2014 recipients of these awards:

- The [Elizabeth MacLeod Award for Excellence in Clinical Education](#) (Speech-Language Pathology) goes to **Karen Handford**. Karen graduated from our School in 1996, and has worked at Vancouver Island Health Authority since 2001 and at the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health in Victoria since 2002
- The [Noelle Lamb Award for Excellence in Clinical Education](#) (Audiology) goes to **Jowan Lee**. Jowan received his MA in Audiology from Washington State University in 2004, and he also has an AuD since 2007. He worked in a private practice Victoria for several years, and then moved on to St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

Congratulations, Karen and Jowan. And thank you to all our clinical educators.

## 3) Sea-to-Sky Aphasia Camp Celebrates Five Years!

The Sea-to-Sky Aphasia Camp is a weekend-long event held every year in September. It was inspired by Christy Campbell, who suffered a stroke at the age of 31, and who approached Barbara Purves, a faculty member in the School, for help in starting an aphasia camp in BC. Together, with financial support from the College of Health Disciplines at UBC and the Vancouver and Fraser Health Authorities, and with organizational support from Howe Sound Rehabilitation Services Society, they founded the first camp in 2010.

The overall mission of the camp is to create a supportive social-recreational environment for people with aphasia and their families, while providing health care students with a rich interprofessional learning experience. Each year, the camp brings together approximately 30 people with aphasia and 30 to 35 health care students from a variety of health professional programs such as SLP, OT, PT, Medicine, Nursing and, more recently, Therapeutic Recreation at Douglas College. Students, each paired with a person with aphasia, work together

## ► FROM SASS (CONTINUED)

in multidisciplinary groups guided by experienced health professionals to lead activities that are specially adapted for participants' communicative and physical needs. There is a major emphasis on making the camp as aphasia-friendly as possible, giving students training and experience in learning strategies for more successful communication. Also, the camp schedule offers lots of flexibility for people to take part in a wide range of activities including swimming, hiking, archery, fishing, canoeing, woodworking, and more. Over the years, several people with aphasia have stepped forward to lead activities in areas where they have particular expertise.

To mark the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the Sea-to-Sky Aphasia Camp and to acknowledge its importance in helping future health professionals to meet the needs of people with aphasia, supporters of the camp created the Campbell-Purves Aphasia Fund. For more information about the camp, and/or to contribute, please visit our website: [www.seatoskyaphasiacamp.com](http://www.seatoskyaphasiacamp.com).



## ► CAN – COMMUNICATION ACCESS NOW – UPDATE

Lois Turner, Regional Coordinator for BC, presented on CAN at the recent BCASLPA conference. Approximately 20 SLPs were in attendance and a lively discussion ensued regarding accessibility to goods and services for people with speech and language disabilities. If you missed this session and would like more information, please contact Lois at [lois.turner@gmail.com](mailto:lois.turner@gmail.com) or 604-326-3503. [www.communication-access.org](http://www.communication-access.org)



# ▶ THANK YOU TO BCASLPA

by **Barbara Burnet, RSLP, past SAC Director from BC, burnet@shaw.ca**

I want to thank BCASLPA for the Award for Recognition of Service. When I first heard that I was nominated for this award I was very touched, but my next emotion was guilt. As the Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC) Director from BC, my focus was with the National Association. It was always my first priority - my #1. BCASLPA was always second, so the members of our past five Provincial Councils assisted me more in this role than vice-versa. I was elected in 2010 for a three-year term. Due to CASLPA's rebranding to SAC and the governance review, my term stretched to four years and then with the transitional board for another four months. That meant I sat on FIVE BCASLPA Provincial Councils. However, I only have one photo album for those five PCs!



To illustrate the BCASLPA/ S A C imbalance I feel guilty about-it is evident in my photo albums. On the left is my BCASLPA album 2010-2014. On the right are the FIVE CASLPA/ SAC albums for the same time period!

In March 2010 I shadowed Sue Wastie (CASLPA Director for BC 2007-2010) in the first PC meeting. The President was the wonderful Jennifer Moll, next was Marlene Lewis (2010-2011). We weathered the first year of our regulatory body CSHHPBC. We also met in Montreal for the 2011 CASLPA Conference. The next president was amazing Kate Wishart (2011-2012). I am still in awe of all that Kate accomplishes in her volunteer work. I also have wonderful memories of Kate at the 2012 CASLPA Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland. President #4 was Melanie Houston (2012-2013). Melanie and I became better acquainted with our new CEO Joanne Charlebois as one of Joanne's first goals was to improve communication with Provincial Associations. Melanie and her colleagues at Victoria did a tremendous amount of work for the 2013 CASLPA Conference in Victoria. And my last President was Brent Clayson (2013-2014). Brent and I were on the same team in Ottawa for the "Day on the Hill" advocacy event in May during SAC's 50th Anniversary and 2014 Conference. Although our scheduled parliamentarians didn't show up, I enjoyed roaming around Parliament with Brent and observing Question Period in the House of Commons.

I cannot mention all the members of those FIVE Provincial Councils, but you know who you are. Thank you for supporting me in this role. Thank you to the editor of Vibrations Carrie Siu and to our Executive Assistant Janet Campbell. I gave Janet lots of work over four years and she was always very helpful.

I am the last SAC Director to sit on the BCASLPA Provincial Council. With the new board composition SAC Directors will no longer have a position with their Provincial Associations, but I'm not worried about this. Knowing BCASLPA and especially with our next President Julia Hodder and Vice President Nathan Hoffart, I know there will be continued open communication and collaboration with our National Association.

Thank you again BCASLPA for this recognition. You are my #1 again!



# ▶ UPDATE FROM THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

**Camille Traverse, Private Practice Councillor**  
slpprivate@bcaslpa.ca

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as your new BCASLPA Private Practice Councillor.

A few weeks ago I was fortunate to sit with many of you at the Private Practice Forum of the BCASLPA conference. I came away from that forum inspired by the great work that so many of you are doing across the province, and by the sense of unity and passion that permeated the room. I'm humbled and honoured to represent your interests at the provincial level, and want to take this opportunity to welcome any feedback you may have over the next two years.

Several issues came to the forefront during that meeting, including a desire to develop a private practice tab on the BCASLPA website as well as concerns regarding fee caps implemented by certain government programs. I'm looking forward to tackling these issues during my time as councillor.

Fifty percent of SLPs in British Columbia are somehow engaged in private practice – many of us do this 'off the side of our desks', working full or part time in the public sector and extending our hours of work to provide private therapy as well. There are also those who engage full time in the private sector and are currently offering an amazing array of services through their clinics. Each member has a diverse set of needs and concerns within their practice and while I certainly don't pretend to know all the ins and outs of your daily realities, I do hope to be a support in attending to whatever your needs may be. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, concerns or ideas. My inbox is always open!

## Vibrations December 2014

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