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www.bcaslpa.ca

Vibrations

June 2016

► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With summer fast approaching, we have just ended another incredibly successful May Month campaign. I would like to thank Sherri Zelazny (Advocacy Councillor), Zoe Grams (ZG Communications), and the advocacy committee members for their time and effort in putting together our May Month initiatives. This May, we released our new "Communication Affects More Than You Think" campaign, both in social media and with print cards and posters shared by our members hosting information booths at public libraries throughout BC. We welcome feedback about May Month 2016. Please send us your suggestions for future May Month initiatives.

I would also like to thank Dr. Doug Bing, MLA for Pitt Meadows, for [speaking about May Month at the Legislative Assembly](#). Dr. Bing is father-in-law to SLP Tamra Bing, and is clearly a supporter of our professions.

This April, I had the pleasure of attending the SAC Halifax Conference to represent BCASLPA at the Pan Canadian Alliance meeting. The Pan Canadian Alliance includes both SAC and the provincial speech-language pathology and audiology associations. This May, as part of a #MayMonthStories campaign, we released a [video](#) that featured clients and patients speaking about the impact that SLPs and audiologists had in their lives. I would like to thank Julia Hodder for her initiative and leadership on this project.

(Continued on P2)



BCASLPA President, Nathan Hoffart, with local Northern BC SLPs and practicum student at a May Month Library Booth in Terrace, BC.



BCASLPA President, Nathan Hoffart, with other Provincial and SAC representatives for the Pan Canadian Alliance in Halifax, Nova Scotia



► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

As May falls behind us, I urge you all to look forward to our October 2016 Conference at the Hilton Metrotown in Burnaby. Our amazing conference co-chairs, Shelley Doerksen, Director of Professional Education, and Becca Yu, GVRD Area Representative, and the conference committee, have been working hard to deliver an incredible professional development opportunity. Stay tuned to the [Conference website](#) for more information.

As well, I urge you to consider joining the BCASLPA provincial council. We have a phenomenal team continuing into the 2016-2017 year; however, we will have several positions available. Serving on provincial council is an incredible experience. If you are interested in making a difference in your profession and connecting and networking with professionals from across BC, please contact BCASLPA Vice President, Kate Chase, or Executive Assistant, Janet Campbell.



Nathan Hoffart, M.Sc., RSLP, SLP(C)
President, BCASLPA

► WHAT WE HEARD

A STORY OF HOPE FOR A SCHOOL FOR DEAF IN WEST AFRICA

Sierra Leone is a small country on the eastern “hump” of West Africa. A former British colony, it is about the size of New Brunswick with a population of 6,000,000 souls, more than half of whom are under the age of 15. This small, and sometimes forgotten, nation may only be remembered as one of the Ebola epidemic areas of 2014/15. Historians and movie buffs will recall the notorious and violent civil war of 1992-2002 that killed 50,000, maimed and displaced hundreds of thousands, the so-called “Blood Diamond War”. Sierra Leone remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with low life expectancy, low education, and among the highest of maternal and under 5-year mortality rates. Support for those with disabilities is hard to come by and it is in the city of Bo where we came to hear about the Ebert Kakua School for the Deaf.

The director of the school, Sylvester Bob Deen, took over from the Eberts, a missionary couple from the US who founded the school but were abruptly recalled by their church. It has been a struggle. The Sierra Leonean government often lacks funding for the school and Sylvester has worked hard to make connections with organizations.

Margaret, my wife, and I regularly contact Sylvester and visit the school in our return travels to Sierra Leone. In 2012, we came with first year medical students from Calgary as part of their global health experience and had a chance to do basic ENT exams on some of the students. In February of this year, we visited the school and saw that it was keeping its head above water. The new dorms look great and the classrooms are abuzz with children, signing vigorously in ASL to each other and their teachers. The striking story here is that none of the children have ever had hearing aids and apart from the few students who had basic ear exams by the medical students, none have had a audiologic assessment.

This year we have been able to make contact with an organization from the U.K. called Sound Seekers (sound-seekers.org.uk). They are running hearing programs in Sierra Leone, including hearing screening

▶ WHAT WE HEARD CONTINUED



at schools, audiometric testing for the deaf, and hearing aid fittings. The program also supports a hearing education program at one of the universities in the north of Sierra Leone. Interestingly, Sound Seekers was not aware of the Ebert Kakua School, having worked with two other schools: St Joseph's in the northern city of Makeni, and the National School for the Deaf in Freetown, the capital.

Our goal now is to link with Sound Seekers for hearing assessments for the current school enrolment and identify which students will benefit from hearing aids. Then the real work begins with professional speech therapy, ongoing assessments of new pupils at the school, and hearing aid turnover. In addition, it will be critical to train the school teachers to help with speech acquisition as it will be so important for the children to learn to speak in their own local language and Krio (the universal Sierra Leonean language) and English, the language of education and commerce. It is a big task and may seem overwhelming. It is, however, doable with professional support and education.

In our home town of Kamloops, we have begun to work with a local organization called [Developing World Connections](#) (DWC). It helps to coordinate projects in developing nations through local interest groups. We are now working with DWC to put together a team or teams of volunteers to support the work at the Ebert Kakua School for the Deaf. Focused on tangible results, continuity, and sustainability, DWC will be a good fit for the school. If Sound Seekers can do the initial hearing assessments locally it will be a great step forward and reduce the complexities of getting equipment to Sierra Leone. However, there will be a need for therapists and hearing educators to sustain hearing needs and speech development.

If the Ebert Kakua School for the Deaf sounds like a fit for you, [email](#) me or contact [DWC](#).

By Mark and Margaret Hyslop

▶ PARTICIPANTS NEEDED! UBC AUTISM IN REAL LIFE STUDY

We are seeking families to help us complete our dataset! This longitudinal study examines social communication, treatment experiences, and quality of life in preschoolers with ASD and their families. Families with children aged 2 years to 4 years and 11 months who have been diagnosed with ASD may be eligible to participate if they have not yet started or are within their first six months of intensive treatment.

Thanks to all the wonderful community SLPs who have been supporting this study! We are almost there!

If you know someone who is interested in participating or if you would like more information, please contact us at 604-822-0659 or clcl@audiospeech.ubc.ca.

Dr. Paola Colozzo, Dr. Kate Chase, and Keri Ng

▶ 2016 BCASLPA CONFERENCE: INTER-PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION FOCUS

You are invited to BCASLPA's 59th annual conference:
October 21 and 22!

The early-bird conference registration fee is only \$295 for members.
Available until September 16.

This year's conference takes place at the [Hilton Vancouver Metrotown](#) in Burnaby. The room rate is an inexpensive \$129 per night plus tax.

Find the information you need on the conference at BCASLPA's [Conference Website](#). Online registration will be available very soon. Be sure to watch for emails from BCASLPA for more conference news or visit the BCASLPA [website](#). Join us for a very special, inter-professional collaboration conference!

2016 BCASLPA Conference Planning
Committee



▶ BCASLPA MEMBER REBATE TO WORLD CONGRESS OF AUDIOLOGY

As many of you are already aware, the World Congress of Audiology is being held in Vancouver this September. As a result, BCASLPA will not be providing an Audiology stream at the 2016 BCASLPA Conference.

BCASLPA values continued professional development for members. Therefore, we are providing our Audiology members with a \$50 rebate upon proof of registration at the World Congress of Audiology conference in September. [Click here for the application form.](#)

▶ UBC SASS: SPECIAL OLYMPICS HOLDS HEALTHY HEARING ACROSS THE PROVINCE

Our School continues to be a strong supporter of BC Special Olympics (BCSO) [Healthy Athletes program](#), by managing and staffing the Healthy Hearing service. Healthy Hearing is one of several services offered at most of the Healthy Athletes days, along with services from optometrists (Open Eyes), dentists/dental hygienists (Special Smiles), physiotherapists (Fun Fitness), nutritionists (Healthy Living), and others. Athletes range across a wide age spectrum, from young children to seniors. All of our audiology students take part in the event, with SLP students invited as well.

Over the past year, BCSO held Healthy Athletes events in Nanaimo, North Vancouver, Kamloops, and Prince George. We approach local community audiologists, audiometric technicians, SLPs, and HIPs before each event to inform them of the event and to recruit volunteers for the day. If you hear of a Healthy Athlete event in your community, consider volunteering – it is a worthwhile and rewarding opportunity.

Athletes are referred from the event to their family doctors based on findings of impacted cerumen or other otoscopic concerns, or flat tympanograms. Referrals to local community audiologists are made based on abnormal OAE and pure tone screen results, or a finding of hearing aids requiring service. In all, referrals are not frequent, but are important to identify, as individuals with intellectual disability are known to be underdiagnosed for hearing and other health concerns. One reason for this is the diagnostic overshadowing of the intellectual disability itself, which can be blamed for other observed problems, such as lack of understanding verbal instructions. Out of 55 screenings at the recent event in Prince George, we made 7 referrals to community audiologists across 3 local communities. These athletes indicated they had not previously received service, either recently or at all. We also made several recommendations for cerumen removal by the family physician.

We'd love to see you at the next Healthy Athletes program in your community.



Clinical faculty members Mark Hansen and Ryan Kalef at last summer's Healthy Athletes event.



Call for Award Nominations

Categories

Honours of the Association

Honours members who have made outstanding contributions to speech-language pathology and/or audiology in areas such as education, research, organizational services, and/or administration.

Distinguished Service Award

Honours individuals who are not speech-language pathologists or audiologists, but who have made outstanding contributions to the professions and the communities they serve.

Award in Recognition of Service

Awards members whose special efforts and contributions, through volunteer service with BCASLPA and related organizations, have contributed to the growth of audiology and speech-language pathology.

The Audiologist and Speech Language Pathologist of the Year

These awards are given to individual members or teams who have been nominated by clients and/or client families and who are members of BCASLPA/registered with SAC/CSHHPBC. These awards are given based on client nomination. These awards will be presented to those individuals or groups that have contributed to the growth of the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology exemplifying the vision or mission of the professions for client outcomes and care.

For more information and nomination forms, please follow this link:

<http://www.bcaslpa.ca/professional/membership/awards/>.

Please send in your nominations by email to contact@bcaslpa.ca or by fax to 604-736-5606 by August 15, 2016.



▶ BMS INSURANCE FROM SAC: WHAT AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION CAN DO FOR YOUR PRACTICE

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists need liability insurance to practice – we all know that. But when you purchase your coverage, do you think about why you need it, and how important it really is to the future of your practice? Do you know the details of the insurance you are purchasing? Are you sure that you are adequately covered and that you have the appropriate limits in place to respond to a claim?



Insurance and liability are complex subjects as are the offerings and policies that support them. It is important to understand the differences between the insurance options available in order to identify the most appropriate coverage for your practice circumstances. Although insurance is something we hope we never need, it is important to have the right coverage in place.

Professional Liability Insurance (PLI): Provides coverage against claims that may arise from the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology. Regulatory bodies of speech-language pathology and audiology require that every registered SLP or audiologist who provides care, whether in a paid or volunteer capacity, be covered by PLI. PLI protects SLPs and audiologists by ensuring that your legal defence is coordinated and paid for if a claim is made against you. Your PLI also covers the cost of any patient compensation, or damages. This means that your patients are also protected; because having PLI means that money is in place to compensate them for valid claims.


The Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) Professional Liability insurance program has three different insurance Plan options to choose from. Each Plan includes PLI.

While your regulatory body requires you to hold PLI, there are also other factors to consider: Are you a business owner? Incorporated? Self-employed? If so, you have other insurance considerations related to your business practice.

Legal Entity Coverage (Clinic Professional Liability): If you are incorporated or employ other therapists, assistants or communication health assistants, you should consider this additional coverage, which protects your business assets in the event that your business name is included in a statement of claim or lawsuit. Think of it as malpractice insurance for your business name. Legal Entity coverage is available as an optional extension of coverage through the SAC insurance program.

In addition to Legal Entity coverage, you may want to consider purchasing Commercial General Liability insurance, Office Contents insurance, and/or Crime Insurance to protect your other business concerns.

Commercial General Liability Insurance (CGL): Insurance that protects you against claims arising from injury or property damage that you (or your business) may cause to another person as a result of your operations and/or premises. For example, a patient may fall and injure themselves on a wet floor in your office (i.e., bodily injury as a result of your premises) – that’s why CGL is so commonly referred to as “slip and fall” insurance. It’s also the policy that would respond if you or your staff accidentally break a patient’s property while providing in-home treatment (i.e., property damage as a result of your operations).



CGL might seem like an obvious choice for business owners, but it is also recommended for SLPs and audiologists who are self-employed. If you treat or consult with patients in their homes, or contract your services to hospitals, clinics, or other health care providers, you may want to consider CGL. CGL is included in Plan 2 and Plan 3 of the SAC insurance program.

Office Contents and Crime Insurance: Business owners will also want to consider protecting their office and the contents within from losses associated with property damage (such as fire) and crime. Office Contents coverage protects against damage to property, including medical equipment, and loss of revenues caused by an interruption of business activities arising from an insured loss. Crime coverage protects against financial loss due to dishonesty, fraud, or theft of money, securities or other property owned by the office/clinic.

Office Contents insurance is included in Plan 3 of the SAC Insurance Program, while Crime coverage is available as an optional extension of coverage (Employee Fidelity Bond and Third Party Fidelity Bond). The SAC insurance program is designed by insurance experts in consultation with your national professional association. For professional liability or business insurance, nobody puts your interests first the way your national association does. With your participation, the SAC program continues to remain Canada's largest insurance program for SLPs, audiologists, and communication health assistants, protecting over 3,000 members and associates nationwide with comprehensive cost-effective coverage. For further information about SAC's Professional Liability insurance program and other member-specific insurance coverage, visit sac.bmsgroup.com or call BMS Group at 1-855-318-6135.

Please note that this article is provided for general information purposes only and does not constitute professional broker advice. Please speak with an insurance broker at BMS Group to discuss any questions you may have about your existing insurance coverage or to seek advice on your specific insurance needs.

▶ **CAYA REFERRALS FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS WHO USE AAC**

Students who use AAC and are in their last semester of attending high school should submit a completed Request for Service form as soon as possible. The forms can be downloaded from the CAYA website at www.cayabc.org and faxed to CAYA at 604-266-2463.

Student equipment must be reviewed by a CAYA staff person before transitions can be made. If you have further questions, please contact Lois Turner at lturner@cayabc.org

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE SUBMISSIONS:
AUGUST 1, 2016**

Email marianne.bullied@gmail.com to submit your article.



College of
Speech and Hearing
Health Professionals of BC

Regulator of Audiologists, Hearing Instrument
Practitioners and Speech-Language Pathologists

Public Beware

Testing for Hearing Thresholds When You Are Wearing Hearing Aids (i.e. “Aided Hearing Thresholds”)

Workers, in some employment settings, may be required to prove they are hearing (with or without hearing aids) at a certain level. Most often this is 30 dB HL at frequencies from 500 through 4000 Hz. When you, the worker, wear hearing aids, it will be important your “aided hearing thresholds” meet that requirement.

It is important **who** does the testing and **what type** of testing is done. If it is done incorrectly, it may negatively affect your employment.

Testing your aided hearing thresholds should never be done using headphones. This will likely produce invalid results. The best practice method, while you are wearing hearing aids, is to use **sound field audiometry**.

It is important for you to ask for sound field audiometry. Should the facility not provide this type of testing, please consult the CSHHPBC directory (see link below) to find an appropriate hearing healthcare professional in your area. Registered Audiologists and/or Registered Hearing Instrument Practitioners are the professionals trained in such best-practice measurements.

<http://www.cshhpb.org/docs/directorybycity.pdf?LanguageID=EN-US>

March 2016



**VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA (VAC)
PROGRAM OF CHOICE (POC) 03 – AUDIO (HEARING) SERVICES
BENEFIT GRID CHANGES – ALL PROVINCES**

April 2016

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) wishes to advise you of the following changes to the benefit codes for Program of Choice (POC) 03 – Audio (Hearing) Services.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016

New Codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
322405	Cerumen Removal (Left Ear)	Dollar Limit: \$40
		Pre-authorization Required: MAC
		Prescriber: CA, HP
		Frequency: 1/1 CY
322408	Cerumen Removal (Right Ear)	Dollar Limit: \$40
		Pre-authorization Required: MAC
		Prescriber: CA, HP
		Frequency: 1/1 CY
327092	Cochlear Implant Processor Replacement	Pre-authorization Required: MAC
		Prescriber: CA
		Frequency: 1/4 CY

Code Changes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
321733	Fees - Home Visit Fees	Dollar Limit: \$60
		Pre-authorization Required: Same
		Prescriber: Same
		Frequency: 5/1CY
		Note: If services are provided in the client's place of residence, (i.e. home, hospital, nursing home, etc.), then the provider will be entitled to a fee for each home visit to a maximum of five (5) visits. This additional fee must be pre-authorized. This authorization can be obtained in conjunction with the authorization for the hearing aid(s), and will only be granted if it is not medically possible for the client to travel to the provider's place of business. In addition, only one home visit fee will be paid per civic address.

Terminated Codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION
321734	Fees - Dispensing Fee - Analog - Left
321735	Fees - Dispensing Fee - Analog - Right
327005	Options - Passive Filter with Trimmer or Switch - Left
327007	Options - Passive Filter with Trimmer or Switch - Right
327009	Options - Active Filter with Trimmer or Switch - Left
327010	Options - Active Filter with Trimmer or Switch - Right
327023	Options - Canal - Left
327024	Options - Canal - Right
327025	Options - Mini Canal - Left
327026	Options - Mini Canal - Right
327027	Options - Low Profile - Left
327029	Options - Low Profile - Right
327030	Options - CIC - Left
327032	Options - CIC - Right
327835	Non Programmable- Digital - BTE - Intermediate - Left
327837	Non Programmable- Digital - BTE - Intermediate - Right
328305	Repairs - Analog - 12 Month Warranty - Left
328307	Repairs - Analog - 12 Month Warranty - Right
328310	Repairs - Programmable - 12 Month Warranty - Left
328315	Repairs- Programmable - 12 Month Warranty - Right
328331	Fees-Dispensing Fee - Digital-Non-Programmable - Left
328333	Fees-Dispensing Fee - Digital-Non-Programmable - Right
600442	Hearing Aid Analog - Left
600443	Hearing Aid Analog - Right

EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2016

New Code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
330190	Wireless Accessories	Dollar Limit: N/A
		Pre-authorization Required: MAC
		Prescriber: N/A
		Frequency: 3/4 CY
		Note: Clients who have received hearing aids prior to the implementation of the Agreement dated 01 May 2016 and who are not eligible for replacement of hearing aids are eligible for 3 accessories including wireless accessories under this benefit code. Clients who have received a hearing aid (monaural order) after the implementation of the Agreement dated 01 May 2016 are eligible for 2 accessories under this benefit code making a total of 3 accessories received.

Code Changes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW DOLLAR LIMIT	NEW NOTE
330140	Hearing Aid Digital BTE - Entry Level - Left	\$795	Note: All binaural requests for entry level hearing aids will have the client's choice of 3 accessories (including wireless accessories) included in the benefit grid price of \$795. All monaural orders will have the client's choice of 1 accessory. Clients with monaural orders will still be able to obtain their additional 2 accessories for a total of 3 using benefit code 330190 - Wireless Accessories.
330145	Hearing Aid Digital BTE - Entry Level - Right	\$795	
330150	Hearing Aid Digital ITE - Entry Level - Left	\$795	
330155	Hearing Aid Digital ITE - Entry Level - Right	\$795	
330160	Hearing Aid Digital ITC - Entry Level - Left	\$795	
330165	Hearing Aid Digital ITC - Entry Level - Right	\$795	
330170	Hearing Aid Digital MC - Entry Level - Left	\$795	
330175	Hearing Aid Digital MC - Entry Level - Right	\$795	
330180	Hearing Aid Digital CIC - Entry Level - Left	\$795	
330185	Hearing Aid Digital CIC - Entry Level - Right	\$795	
320518	Accessories - Ear Molds - Left	\$45	
320613	Accessories - Ear Molds - Right	\$45	-

CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW NOTE
327905	Hearing Aid Digital BTE - Intermediate - Left	Note: All hearing aid requests for intermediate and advanced level hearing aids will include the client's choice of 3 accessories (including wireless accessories) included in the benefit grid price of the hearing aid. Clients who have received hearing aids prior to the implementation of the Agreement effective 01 May 2016 and who are not eligible for replacement of hearing aids are eligible for 3 accessories including wireless accessories under the wireless accessories benefit code.
327907	Hearing Aid Digital BTE - Intermediate - Right	
328100	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - ITE - Intermediate - Left	
328105	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - ITE - Intermediate - Right	
328107	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - Canal - Intermediate - Left	
328109	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - Canal - Intermediate - Right	
328110	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - MC - Intermediate - Left	
328115	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - MC - Intermediate - Right	
328117	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - CIC - Intermediate - Left	
328119	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - CIC - Intermediate - Right	
327910	Hearing Aid Digital BTE - Advanced - Left	
327915	Hearing Aid Digital BTE - Advanced - Right	
328205	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - ITE - Advanced - Left	
328207	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - ITE - Advanced - Right	
328210	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - Canal - Advanced - Left	
328215	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - Canal - Advanced - Right	
328217	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - MC - Advanced - Left	
328219	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - MC - Advanced - Right	
328220	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - CIC - Advanced - Left	
328225	Hearing Aid Digital - Custom - CIC - Advanced - Right	
328209	Hearing Aid Digital - Advanced - Half Shell - Left	
328211	Hearing Aid Digital - Advanced - Half Shell - Right	
328214	Hearing Aid Digital - Advanced - Low Profile - Left	
328216	Hearing Aid Digital - Advanced - Low Profile - Right	

Terminated Codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION
327019	DIR/Multi Mic - Left
327020	DIR/Multi Mic - Right

Abbreviations

CY	Calendar year
CA	Clinical Audiologist
HP	Hearing Instrument Practitioner
MAC	Medical Authorization Centre

Providers must not charge VAC clients more than other clients who are residents of the province.

Should you have any questions, please contact Medavie Blue Cross Provider Inquiry at 1-888-261-4033.

Thank you for the ongoing care and service you provide to our Veterans.

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