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Vibrations

March 2016

► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As spring begins to thaw its way into BC, we are well on our way into 2016. Earlier this year, the BCASLPA Provincial Council had our Strategic Planning meeting in Vancouver, and our second chance to meet face-to-face since the wonderful BCASLPA conference in Penticton, in October 2015. Thanks to the organizational foresight of past president, Julia Hodder, we are right on track with the three-year strategic plan laid out last year.

This year, at our strategic planning session, I took the initiative to arrange for board training to the Provincial Council members through [Vantage Point](#). The training was part of a move to invest in BCASLPA as an organization, and support the individuals who volunteer to run the organization. The training was well received, and will hopefully continue to be offered in alternating years to new Provincial Council members, both to help with recruitment and to support our association.

As BCASLPA President, one of my goals is to maintain healthy relationships with the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC (CSHHPBC), the

UBC School of Audiology and Speech Sciences (UBC SASS), and Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC). I believe it is imperative that as an association of professionals striving for evidenced-based practice and advocating through public education, we harmonize with the CSHHPBC's mandate of protecting the public. Also, while certainly not all of BCASLPA's members are graduates of UBC, the School of Audiology and Speech Sciences will soon be graduating even more students each year, most of which will hopefully stay with BC and become fellow BCASLPA members. And of course, our joint membership with SAC binds our provincial and national associations together, providing increased member benefits and increased advocacy potential. This year I met with Joanne Charlebois, CEO of SAC, to review the terms of our Joint Membership Agreement and to make sure that they not only remained current, but also mutually agreeable.

► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

(Continued on P2)

Planning and implementation of BCASLPA's two largest events are well under way. This year we have... a powerful May Month campaign planned thanks to Sherri Zelazny, Director of Public Education, the Advocacy Committee, and our marketing and communications consultant, [Zoe Grams](#). This year for better speech and hearing month, BCASLPA will be introducing the hashtags #MaySpeak and #MayHear, as well as supporting the use of SAC's #MayMonth. We also have a phenomenal BCASLPA 2016 conference planned thanks to this year conference co-chairs, Shelley Doerksen, Director of Professional Education, and Becca Yu, GVRD Area Representative, and the conference committee. This year's conference focus is Inter-Professional Collaboration, and will be held on October 21 and 22, 2016, at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, in Burnaby.

BCASLPA is a strong association and it has the potential to do great things for our professions within BC. However, with the exception of our ineffable executive assistant, Janet Campbell, it is an association run by volunteers. BCASLPA exists for its members because of its members. If you are reading this, I call you to action! Get engaged in your professional association, join a committee, volunteer for a May Month [library booth](#), get involved in local grassroots advocacy, and consider joining Provincial Council in October.

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

► CKNW SMOOTHES THE WAY: SUPPORTING FLUENCY THERAPY THROUGH SUMMERSPEAK



[Summerspeak](#) would like to acknowledge the generous support of the CKNW Orphans' Fund, which enabled seven students to attend the Summerspeak 2015 Intensive Programs for Children and Adolescents who Stutter and their families. Participants have benefited from the support of CKNW Orphans' Fund and other local charities throughout the 27 years that Summerspeak has provided summer intensive therapy programs in Metro Vancouver. CKNW's commitment to provide assistance to families in need has made an incredible difference to the lives of our students and their families.

Summerspeak's principal speech-language pathologists, Sandra Collins and Carol Westdal, are Registrants of CSHHPBC and members of SAC and BCASLPA. Lidcombe and Camperdown programs form the basis of therapy, with additional focus on the development of meta-cognitive skills and mindfulness. Parents learn to provide positive and specific feedback and to support their child as they move forward.



► COMMUNICATION AS PARADISE

“YOU DON’T KNOW WHAT YOU’VE GOT ‘TIL IT’S GONE.”

I am often asked why I became a speech-language pathologist and why being a speech-language pathologist is meaningful to me. I will not bore you with the long version of the story. The short version, whether speech-language pathologist or audiologist, I am sure is quite familiar to all of you – to help people communicate. The idea of communication can be defined in different ways: enabling children to communicate; helping someone regain the ability to communicate, from basic wants and needs, emotions, and successes; and allowing interaction.

When the ability to communicate is impaired, lost, or even different, people can become isolated. People who suddenly realize that they have taken communication for granted truly begin to understand the importance of all aspects of communication. This includes the individual with a communication disorder and the people around them. Everyone is affected by communication disorders.

May Month presents an opportunity to showcase our passion for human communication. It gives us an opportunity to educate the public about communication disorders and how they might be affected, whether they have a communication disorder or have contact with someone who does. May Month gives us a way to let the public know the scope of our practice, how we can help, and that communicating with family, friends, colleagues, and children is a gift. BCASLPA’s May Month initiatives are created for members to provide education and share the passion of speech-language pathology and audiology with the public. Watch for member envelope sign-up, new website resources, classroom information resources, social media campaigns, and more.

Be part of May Month by volunteering. From an office party to hosting a community library booth to a public presentation – there are a variety of ways to be involved. Fill out the volunteer form [here](#). We will help you with your volunteer initiative. Do you have another idea for spreading the good word about communication? Let us know! Unsure about volunteering? Contact Sherri at madknit@zoho.com with any questions or for more information.

Do you remember why you went for a career in communication disorders? May Month allows you the opportunity to remember why you are a speech-language pathologist or audiologist. Share your passion. Get involved in May Month.

Sherri K Zelazny, MA, RSLP, CCC-SLP
Chair of the Advocacy Committee and Board Director-Public Education

It’s almost Speech & Hearing Month!

**We need your support to spread the word about communication health
and to share information with the public about our professions.**

Email madknit@zoho.com to get involved with events, poster distribution or other outreach.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BCASLPA & SAC'S ONGOING COLLABORATIONS

By Joanne Charlebois, CEO, Speech-Language & Audiology Canada



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) and the British Columbia Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (BCASLPA) continue to have a strong and collaborative relationship. One of the ways in which our associations successfully maintain this partnership is through ongoing and timely communication. In fact, as the CEO of SAC, I meet quarterly (via teleconference) with BCASLPA's executive members to discuss matters of mutual interest. As the professional associations that represent communication health professionals at the national and provincial levels, SAC and BCASLPA are committed to working together to best serve you.

With the establishment of the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of British Columbia (CSHHPBC) in 2010, B.C. became one of the first provinces in Canada to provincially regulate the services provided by professionals who identify, assess, and treat communication disorders. As most audiologists, SLPs and communication health assistants in B.C. are well aware, the primary mandate of the college is to protect the public.

SAC and BCASLPA play different but complementary roles to the college. While the college is mandated to protect the public, the primary mandate of both SAC and BCASLPA is to represent the professions. BCASLPA serves this function at the provincial level and SAC serves this function at the national level. Our associations work together to raise awareness about communication health, promote your professions, and advocate on your behalf.

The Pan-Canadian Alliance (PCA)

In 2008, the majority of provincial and territorial speech, language and hearing professional associations in Canada signed a letter of agreement pledging their support for "ongoing strategic political action planning process and related activities to meet the collective, current and future needs of our professions." While the landscape of professional associations in Canada has shifted over the last eight years, members of the Pan-Canadian Alliance of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Organizations (PCA) remain committed to addressing members' and associates' professional interests from coast to coast to coast.

In 2014, SAC's governance model moved from geographic representation to a competency-based Board of Directors. With this change came a new role for the PCA: today, its members act as the geographic "voice" for the provinces and territories.

Julia Hodder, S-LP(C), has chaired the PCA since January 2015 and because SAC is the PCA secretariat, Julia and I work together to plan six PCA meetings each year. Under Julia's leadership, the PCA members decided they would like to work together on more joint projects under the PCA umbrella. Members have proposed several innovative initiatives as part of this renewed focus on pan-Canadian collaboration, such as Speech and Hearing Month campaigns and new partnerships with other organizations.

The Importance of Advocacy

Advocacy is the mainstay of SAC's strategic plan. The association's large membership across Canada (over 6,000 members and associates) enables SAC to advocate effectively at the national level (read about SAC's latest advocacy work in [SAC in Action](#)). During the lead-up to last fall's federal election, SAC's Vote Communication Health advocacy campaign (VoteCommunicationHealth.ca) resulted in 2,745 letters being sent to 898 candidates. Ultimately, SAC's campaign messages reached 220 elected members of

▶ SAC HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Parliament — 65% of the new House of Commons.

As a founding member of the Canadian Infant Hearing Task Force (CIHTF), SAC was extensively involved in last month's push to have the federal government address the lack of early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) programs in Canada. While B.C. has an excellent EHDI program, many children living to the north and east of your province do not have access to adequate early hearing health services. SAC sent a letter and an advance copy of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Progress Report to the federal minister of health and mailed similar packages to each provincial and territorial minister of health.



Brent Clayson, Aud(C); Barbara Burnet S-LP(C); Hon. Terry M. Mercer, Senator, at the SAC Day on the Hill event in 2014.

[Our letter to the B.C. Minister of Health](#), Hon. Terry Lake, commended your province for its excellent program, but also called on B.C. to share its lessons learned with other Canadian provinces and territories that are still struggling to implement comprehensive EHDI programs.

In spring 2015, SAC launched the second phase of our [national advertising campaign](#). We developed two new advertisements ('Brave' and 'Love') as extensions of the 'Awe' and 'Joy' ads that we launched in 2014. Our most recent national advertising campaign ran in six of Canada's largest markets, including Vancouver for the second year in a row. SAC's public ad campaign, which aimed to increase awareness about communication health and the professions, was supported by an extensive online social media campaign that reached tens of thousands of people across Canada.

Working Together for a Bright Future

Both SAC and BCASLPA are staffed by highly motivated individuals who are excited about the work that they do. Thanks to the leadership and expertise of both the BCASLPA and SAC Boards of Directors, 2015 was another dynamic year for all members and associates. SAC saw its membership numbers grow for the 13th consecutive year, with a total increase of 2.13%.

With growth as a driver, the SAC Board worked diligently and cooperatively in 2015 to find ways to ensure that our association is sustainable over the long-term. Given our dynamic external, political, social, and economic environment, we remain committed to good governance and underpin all that we do with a robust strategic plan. SAC recently developed a new 4-year strategic plan that we will share with members and associates next month.

To grow, to improve, to tackle challenges, and to seize opportunities, cooperation and consensus at all levels of our professions is critical. This can sometimes be challenging with jurisdictional differences, and yet BCASLPA's collaborative partnership with SAC has built a platform for proactive, profession-wide progress that other regions struggle to replicate. In many ways it is this particular privilege that drives our collective work. BCASLPA and SAC make a strong team, so let's continue to jointly represent and strengthen the professions in British Columbia. Together, we increase the power of our collective voice.

▶ ABOUT THE PAN CANADIAN ALLIANCE

The Pan Canadian Alliance (PCA) is a group of provincial and territorial speech-language pathology and audiology associations and the national association, Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC).

What does the PCA do?

- It is an information and networking group that shares news, ideas and resources regarding professional issues related to speech, language and hearing.
- It develops strategic plans that support the work of speech-language pathology and audiology professionals across Canada via their provincial and territorial associations. It is an alliance that collaborates on issues that impact our professional bodies and the clients and patients we serve.
- It is a networking group that identifies priority areas for advocacy and action, while respecting the complementary roles of the member associations at the provincial, territorial and national levels.
- It serves to represent members across Canada via their provincial and territorial associations.

The PCA does not have a regulatory mandate.

What are the current strategic goals for the PCA?

- Advocacy
- Use of social media
- Partnerships with other organizations
- Speech and Hearing Month initiatives
- The International Communication Project
- Telehealth
- Services to rural communities
- Services to the aging population



▶ COCHRANE PETITION

Dear Pan-Canadian Alliance Members:

SAC has posted a [link to the Cochrane Canada petition](#) on our news feed on all website hubs. We encourage you to add it to your website as Cochrane Canada is an excellent research portal for our respective members as discussed at the November PCA meeting.

The Cochrane network provides people all over the world with unbiased summaries of evidence-based health information. Cochrane Canada's funding was cut by the federal government last year. Cochrane Canada needs this funding to continue. The organization has started a petition to the federal Health Minister Jane Philpott to restore its funding. [Click here to sign the petition.](#)

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Future Vibrations Deadlines

May 10, 2016

August 10, 2016

Submit your articles to: marianne.bullied@gmail.com



▶ SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS OF THE UBC SCHOOL OF AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH SCIENCES

Tami Howe (Assistant Professor)

Tami Howe recently started in the School as an assistant professor in the area of acquired language disorders. Tami completed her PhD and postdoctoral studies at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, and her Masters of Health Science degree in Speech Pathology at the University of Toronto. Most recently, Tami was on the faculty at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. Her research focuses on how adults with aphasia and their family members live with the communication disorder, with the ultimate goal of finding ways to improve their quality of life. Tami has worked as a clinician with adults and children for many years in Saskatchewan and New Zealand, and has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Aphasia Association Incorporated, the Vice-President Membership/Publications and Area Representative Liaison Portfolio Leader of the New Zealand Speech Language Therapists' Association, and the Executive Secretary of the Saskatchewan Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

We are delighted to welcome Tami to our School!

Ilse Labuschagne (PhD student)

Ilse Labuschagne is a PhD student in the School of Audiology and Speech Sciences at the University of British Columbia. With a background in electronic engineering, Ilse did her Masters degree in Bioengineering at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, where she could combine her interest in mathematical modelling with psychoacoustics. Drawing on her research in this field, she has been working under the supervision of Prof. Valter Ciocca to investigate how voice quality (e.g. breathiness and nasality) affects vowel recognition. In order to investigate spectral and temporal effects of different voice qualities on vowel recognition, she is using physical models of the vocal tract and glottis to synthesize stimuli that accurately represent real-world voice recordings. This approach allows stimuli to be created that are both deterministic (and can therefore be systematically varied), and representative of the complex voices one encounters in the real world.

When Ilse is not working on her research, she enjoys rock climbing in the summer and skiing in the winter, and she reserves Wednesdays for cooking dinner for friends. Ilse is thoroughly immersed in working and learning as a member of the SASS community.



SAVE THE DATE
BCASLPA Conference
October 21 & 22
2016

Inter-Professional Collaboration Focus

You are invited to BCASLPA's 59th annual conference on October 21 and 22! This year's conference takes place at the [Hilton Metrotown Burnaby](#). The room rate is an inexpensive \$129 per night plus tax.

For information and updates visit the [BCASLPA Conference Website](#). Online registration will be available in June. Be sure to watch for BCASLPA emails for more news on the conference. **Mark your calendar and join us for this conference!**

2016 BCASLPA Conference Planning Committee

AWARD RECIPIENTS!

2015 BCASLPA Award Recipients

Megan Sutton, Honours of the Association

Nominators: Nathan Hoffart and Kevin Frew

Sheryl Palm, Honours of the Association

Nominators: Janine Lebeter and Julia Hodder

Honours of the Association are awarded to Members who have made outstanding Contributions to speech-language pathology and/or audiology in education, research, organizational services, administration and other areas deemed appropriate.

Pat Mirenda, Distinguished Service Award

Nominators: Jeff Riley and Mary McKenna

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

2015 SASS Clinical Faculty Award Recipients

The School has great appreciation for the work done by our Clinical Faculty in the education of our students.

The [Elizabeth MacLeod Award for Excellence in Clinical Education](#) (Speech-Language Pathology) for 2015 has been awarded jointly to [Alisa Ferdinandi and Caroline Marcoux](#). Alisa is a Clinical Instructor in our School and works as an SLP at Columbia Speech & Language Services. Caroline is a Clinical Instructor in our School and works as an SLP at G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre. Both Alisa and Caroline are graduates of the UBC School of Audiology & Speech Sciences.

The [Noelle Lamb Award for Excellence in Clinical Education](#) (Audiology) for 2015 has been awarded to [Werner Roth](#). Werner is a Clinical Instructor in our School and works as an Audiologist at Miracle Ear Rockyview, in Calgary. From Brandon, Manitoba, Werner received his Audiology degree from Colorado State University.

The faculty and administration of the School of Audiology and Speech Sciences are pleased to have the opportunity to recognize [Ms. Ferdinandi, Ms. Marcoux, and Mr. Roth](#) for their many contributions to the School's educational mission, and extends sincere congratulations to them all.



AWARD RECIPIENTS!

2015 UBC Student Prizes

Wendy Huang, BCASLPA Outstanding final year student awards

Graham Raynor, BCASLPA Outstanding final year student awards

Katelyn Eng, BCASLPA Student Travel award

Megan Young, BCASLPA Student Travel award

2015 SAC Awards, BC Recipients

Jessica Ball, MPH, PhD, and Marlene Lewis, MA, RSLP, S-LP(C)

Editor's Award for authoring the best paper published in the Canadian Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology in 2014.

Selena Vermey, Isabel Richard Student Paper Award (Below Doctoral Level)

Presented to a SAC student associate at the below-doctoral level for the best paper written on a specific topic related to the professions. Papers are judged on both style and content. Judges look for writing that is clear, articulate and logically organized. Content is judged on accuracy of facts presented and originality and innovativeness of ideas and opinions expressed.

Topic: How can communication health professionals communicate with families more effectively?

Alexander Colquhoun, National Clinical Certification Exam Award

Awarded to the SAC member in each profession who attains the highest score on the clinical certification exam during the 2014 year.

Katrina Kwan, 2015 Student Excellence Awards for outstanding academic achievements

Awarded to SAC student associates in their graduating year of study, in each of the speech-language pathology and audiology training programs in Canada. Nominees are judged to be the best all-round future professional, shall have shown significant enthusiasm for their profession and have instilled in others a desire to contribute to the development and growth of speech-language pathology or audiology.



PROCEDURES DURING THE TWO BUSINESS DAYS FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF IFHP ELIGIBILITY

January 2016

This message is to confirm that all Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) beneficiaries are eligible for IFHP coverage from the date that the certificate of eligibility is issued by an Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) or Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officer. However, please be advised that it takes **two (2) business days** from the day that the certificate is issued for the eligibility information to be reflected in the Medavie Blue Cross system. Beneficiaries are still eligible during this two (2) business day period.

In cases where a beneficiary presents to an IFHP-registered provider within two (2) business days of the “effective date” indicated on the IFHP Certificate of Eligibility, providers are asked to:

1. review the “effective date” on the certificate to confirm that it is within the two (2) business day period;
2. confirm that the service/product requested is eligible under the beneficiary’s coverage type indicated on the certificate by referencing the IFHP benefit grids ([basic](#), [supplemental](#) and [prescription drug](#) coverage, including [dental benefits](#));
3. once confirmed, render the service/product and delay the submission of the invoice to Medavie Blue Cross until the coverage has been updated in their system (i.e. 2-3 business days).

Providers have up to six (6) months from the date of service to submit invoices electronically (3 months for pharmacy claims).

Prior Approval Requests

Prior approval requests can be submitted by phone or via fax to Medavie Blue Cross during the two (2) business day period. This allows the review process for requests to begin on the day the prior approval is requested.

Reminder: The IFHP is not designed to reimburse beneficiaries directly. If a beneficiary pays for services/products covered by the IFHP, the individual cannot be reimbursed.

Additional information can be found on the Medavie Blue Cross provider website at <https://provider.medavie.bluecross.ca/>. If you have questions, please contact the Medavie Blue Cross Customer Information Centre at 1-888-614-1880.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Canada