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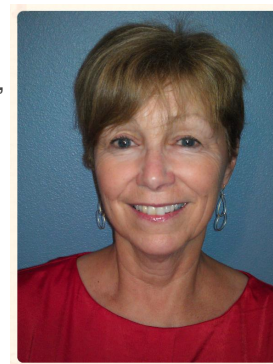


MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by **Dr. Laretta Manning**

Happy April, friends! Oregon seems to come alive at this time of year with runners, walkers, bicyclists and outdoor enthusiasts. I personally, am content to sit on my deck and just think about all those activities!

Spring reminds us that Better Speech and Hearing month is just around the corner in May. This month-long event is aimed to increase the public's awareness of communication disorders and the roles that speech-language pathology professionals and audiologists play in mitigating these disorders. Although May is the designated month for increasing awareness, it does not stop on June 1st.



Read More from the President of OSHA

Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association offers a *free* one-year membership to all new graduate students! We are here to help you start off on the right foot and make sure you have all the resources needed to begin your new journey. **Sign up now on the OSHA website and enjoy all the benefits of membership today!**



Who is OSHA?

Legislative Update

by **Karen Aguilera, Legislative Committee Chair**

by **Andy McMillin**

I've been on the OSHA Board of Directors for nearly 10 years, and I've greatly appreciated the opportunity to work with the many talented and engaging professionals who have served on the Board. But ultimately, the Board of Directors is only a reflection of the real constituency of OSHA - you. Our membership is really what defines us, and it is what gives our organization meaning and purpose. Connecting with Audiologists and SLPs across the state can be challenging for an all-volunteer board made up of individuals who have full-time jobs. It is, however, a priority, and I want to introduce you to a few initiatives designed to increase our ability to connect with you.

First, our digital communications are being enhanced. In particular, we will be looking to use media platforms such as Facebook as a way to connect with members and non-members alike.

[Click here to read more](#)



The 2014 legislative session wrapped up early in March. Boards and committees have been at work; and OSHA has been watching several developments affecting practice and reimbursement.

Dr. Amy Donaldson, professor in the Speech and Hearing Sciences program at the Portland State University, was selected by the governor

to serve as the speech-language pathologist on the Behavioral Analysis Regulatory Board created last year by SB365. [Click to read about the bills we have been working on.](#)

Science & Education Update

by **Karen McLaughin, 2014 Program Chair**

Planning for the fall OSHA conference continues, and we are still finalizing speakers for Friday and Saturday. I'm very pleased to have received a number of submissions in our response to our call for papers, and the conference committee will be reviewing these after the submission deadlines. Notifications should be out by mid-May. [Read More about the OSHA 2014 Annual Conference](#)



Healthcare Update and Changes

by **Nicole Collings, Healthcare Committee**

2014 continues to be a year of change in healthcare. Check out the stories below for more details. You can also find updates by following OSHA on Facebook, as well as the ASHA Leader and ASHA Headlines. You may also contact OSHA directly or one Oregon's STAR or SMAC representatives.

House & Senate Pass 1-Year SGR "Patch":

The House of Representatives and U.S. Senate passed the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (H.R. 4302) which: 1) delays transition to ICD-10 until Oct. 1, 2015; 2) averts a 24% cut in Medicare Part B payments; 3) extends the current therapy cap exceptions process for 1 year.

Medicare Capped Rental for Speech Generating Devices (SGDs):

Starting on April 1, 2014, Medicare changed the way it pays for SGDs by implementing a "capped rental" payment program. Capped rental changes the way Medicare provides SGD coverage and funding.

Medicare Changes Manual Review to Post-Payment:

Due to the issuance of new contracts for Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it will only perform post-payment manual medical reviews for therapy services provided over \$3,700 for dates of service that began February 28, 2014.

[Read more about each Healthcare Update](#)



THE GLOBAL LEADER IN BIRTH TO 21-YEAR-OLD PROGRAMS!

Audiology Corner: Oregon's Newborn Hearing Screening Program Shines Brightly

by Lyndsay Duffus, Audiology Representative



Permanent hearing loss is considered to be one of the most prevalent congenital birth issues, with an occurrence rate of approximately 3-4 per every 1000 births. Oregon hospitals have screened for significant hearing loss since 2000 (when it became state law); with many doing so prior to this, especially in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) population.

However, the issue of 'lost to follow-up' has been a large problem for those infants who fail the initial newborn hearing screening. One of the reasons is, that it can be difficult to get families to return for second screenings or audiologic evaluations. Also, there are a significant number of home births [Click here to read more about Oregon's Newborn Hearing Program](#)

Your OSHA Ethics Committee is at your service!

Medical Settings: Please contact Caitlin McDonnell, Assistant Professor of Clinical Education at Pacific University. Caitlin specializes in Pediatric Feeding and Craniofacial/Cleft Palate. She is happy to provide assistance with issues in hospitals, rehab centers, skilled nursing and other medical sites. Caitlin can be reached at caitlin.mcdonnell@pacificu.edu, 503-352-1596.

Private Practice and Tele-therapy Settings: Please contact Patricia Grady, SLP in private practice and with Presence Learning. Patricia will help with private practice, independent contracting, and tele-therapy questions. Patricia can be reached at tricia.grady@presencelearning.com, 541-357-7586

Schools and Educational Settings: Please contact Teresa Roberts, Assistant Professor of Clinical Education at Pacific University. Teresa has experience with Special Education Law and service provision. She will provide support with concerns relating to SLP services in schools. Teresa can be reached at t.roberts@pacificu.edu, 503-352-1524

SLP Interview: Where We Work

by Sarah Harris, Pacific U Student Representative

Beverly St. John described an unparalleled view of the ocean from over the hill into Tillamook that initially drew her to work near the Oregon coast and exclaimed, "That was it for me!" Beverly, a speech language pathologist who has been in the field since 1993 after graduating from the University of Utah, is the only SLP on staff at Tillamook County General Hospital, a critical access hospital in Tillamook. [Click here to read more about Beverly St. John](#)

2014 ASHA Healthcare and Business Institute

by Kathy de Domingo, Co-STAR and Co-SMAC

This year's Healthcare and Business Institute, held April 11 - 13 in Las Vegas, Nevada was this attendee's first experience with the conference. As I posted on my personal Facebook page, I left with a head full of ideas and not a dollar lost to the slot machines. For me, that was the mark of money well spent! With the casino of the Green Valley Ranch Resort at the top of the stairwell that we all had to descend to get to the meeting rooms, a less interesting conference would have found more than a few ASHA members upstairs instead of filling the session rooms. [Read more about the ASHA Healthcare and Business Institute](#)

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Student Corner

by Naomi Magid, U of O Student Representative



With June just around the corner and graduation on the horizon, it's an exciting time to be a senior in college. My name is Naomi Magid and I am a senior in the Communication Disorders and Sciences undergraduate program at the University of Oregon.

Many seniors in our program have applied to various graduate programs, while others have chosen different routes. Rather than applying to graduate school for this coming fall, I have chosen to wait and apply for the fall of 2015. Hence, a window of time has opened up with a myriad of possibilities...[Click here to read more from Naomi](#)

PSU Speech and Hearing Program Turns 50!

by Claudia Meyer, PSU Representative

In 1964 six graduate students enrolled in the first speech and hearing program of what was then called Portland State College. Four of the six were male. Hiring practices for the program chair allowed preference for a "man between 35-50 years of age." It was policy that women wear skirts to class. Perhaps most surprising was how the program managed faculty smoking habits. In the early 70s, faculty voted to allow only one person to smoke at a time in meetings because of the unventilated room in the department's basement location. [Click here to read more about PSU Turning 50](#)

Utilization Review with Care Core

by Kathy de Domingo, Co-STAR and Co-SMAC

With a nudge from our immediate Past President, Linda D'Onofrio, who was concerned about the utilization review and prior authorization process that Regence Blue Cross implemented in 2013, a survey was sent to members to provide feedback in February. Thanks to your responses, we were able to provide Care Core with some data that shows how significant the concerns are to providers of SLP services, to the members covered by Regence, and other insurers who contract with Care Core. [Click here to read more from Kathy](#)



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Registration is now open for our three WSLHA 2014 Spring Workshops - sign up today!

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May 10th, Spokane, WA- St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute
May 10th, Spokane, WA- WSU Riverpoint Campus
May 31st, Seattle, WA- University of Washington



[View the flyer for more information!](#)



PSU-NSSLHA Better Hearing and Speech Month Celebration and Auction

On May 8th, the department of Speech and Hearing Sciences and the PSU chapter of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) are collaborating for the Portland State University Better Hearing and Speech Month Celebration and Auction. Students, alums and our friends in the community are invited to join us for this fun

event featuring both a silent and a live auction. Enjoy a dinner buffet, cash bar and live music. Proceeds will benefit NSSLHA scholarships and technology upgrades in our clinic. [Please view flyer for more information](#)

OSHA 2014 Annual Conference

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OSHA OREGON SPEECH-LANGUAGE
& HEARING ASSOCIATION

SLP-A Corner

by Desiree Gray, CSLPA



Hello colleagues, my fellow SLP-As, SLPs, and friends of SLP-As in the state of Oregon!

My name is Desiree Gray, and I am a bilingual (fluent in Spanish) SLP-A with the Hello Foundation, a progressive student focused organization of highly qualified Speech Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists. I'm also the representative for SLPAs on the OSHA board.

Some exciting recent news for aspiring SLP-As: the Oregon State Licensing Board passed a bill allowing for one to obtain a provisional license whose standard criteria is similar to that of the non-provisional SLP-A license. Significantly, the 100 hours of supervision required under a qualified SLP can be completed while employed, and it is also of less cost than the non-provisional license. [Click to read more from Desiree on SLPA's](#)

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Achieve your unique goals (ask how EBS can help you)



The Oregon Speech-Language & Hearing Association (OSHA) is dedicated to providing the highest level of communication potential to people of all ages.

To learn more about OSHA, click on the links below:

OSHA Board of Directors | OSHA Regions | OSHA Career Center
OSHA News & Events | OSHA Resources | OSHA Member Center



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