CLASS OF 2020

The audiology and hearing research worlds have gained a few more bright minds! Dr. Alyssa Davidson (pictured left) successfully defended her PhD Dissertation Defense on April 10, 2020 to her committee: Drs. Nicole Marrone, Frank Musiek, Mark DeRuiter, Stephanie Griffin, and Frederick Gallun. Her PhD Dissertation is titled, "Investigating the Role of Auditory Processing Abilities in Hearing Aid Outcomes Among Older Adults." Dr. Davidson will continue her research career in a post-doctoral researcher position at Northwestern University working with Dr. Pamela Souza. Also this spring, Neuroaudiology Lab members Aaron Whiteley (middle) and Lori Sommerfeld (right) will receive their AuD degrees! Aaron will begin his career in private practice at Grusecki Audiology and Lori will be working in the Midwest with a specialty in pediatrics. Congratulations!!

AUDIOLOGY TRIVIA

ANSWERS ON THE LAST PAGE

1) The origination of Bekesy audiometry was in what year?
   a) 1938, b) 1947, c) 1951, d) 1954

2) This famous physiologist was a professor at Columbia University, an otolaryngologist, and a submarine captain.
   a) Juergen Tonndorf, b) Kent Morest, c) Ernest Wever, d) Charles Bray

3) The ANSI (2010) maximum reverberation time for small to medium sized classrooms is ______ seconds or less.
   a) .4, b) .6, c) .8, d) 1
Topic: Auditory Training
The Simon Game is a game of sequencing tonal patterns, which demands short term memory skill, careful listening, good observation, and motor activity. To the recollection of Dr. Musiek, this game has been available in toy stores since the 1980s. It can easily be adapted and has been suggested as part of an auditory training program for those with CAPD.

The game is engaging and challenging. The tonal sequences are displayed by visual (different colored lights) and auditory (different frequency tones) means. The game instructions can be modified to focus on auditory only cues. Of special interest is that there is considerable research available about this game including brain mechanisms involved and normative data across wide age ranges. It has been used in cases of cochlear implant training and investigation. The Simon Game should be considered as a viable and useful if indicated for auditory training/aural rehabilitation. Musiek and collaborators have often used Simon as part of an intervention program for children who perform poorly on pattern perception tests. It also is great activity for parents to interact with their children. Demonstrations of this game can be found on YouTube. The following are some interesting references regarding the Simon Game:


**A MUST READ!**

This book provides information on audiolologic and medical aspects of auditory disorders for both the peripheral and central auditory systems.
Teleaudiology Today

Teleaudiology is an emerging topic in audiology practice that helps eliminate some barriers that patients may have when accessing care. Previously, teleaudiology has been highlighted for its potential to minimize barriers for rural communities. However, teleaudiology can be useful in other situations, such as in the current pandemic when patients and providers are in lockdown. Laura Coco, AuD, CCC-A (pictured) was interviewed on teleaudiology and how it can be used to address challenges. She, along with Dr. Nicole Marrone, her PhD mentor, recently published a blog post on the ASHA Wire pertaining to telepractice: https://blog.asha.org/do/10.1044/2020-0415-audiology-telepractice/full/ in addition, Dr. Coco published an article to The Hearing Journal discussing teleaudiology strategies and considerations: https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/blog/OnlineFirst/pages/post.aspx?PostID=54&fbclid=IwAR0tw2haexibRSxYEKf9oGndY2kv4SB85vqQPWVZWk3ByLwn0QAFaW4sEkTk

Davidson: Hi Dr. Coco, teleaudiology is a hot topic right now, why do you think it is becoming so popular now?
Coco: You’re absolutely right. Actually, the use of telehealth (meaning, any health-related service delivered remotely) has increased dramatically in the past few months. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, many communities have been advised to shelter in place. Clinics may be temporarily closed. Fortunately, many non-emergency health appointments are able to be done remotely, including audiology. Teleaudiology is one way for audiologists to stay connected with patients while we are keeping a safe distance.

Davidson: How can we use teleaudiology in practice today?
Coco: That’s a great question. To conduct some services via teleaudiology, such as pure-tone audiometry and other diagnostic testing, clinicians will need equipment, personnel, and training. However, today, clinicians can consider calling patients on the phone or use a video conferencing program to connect with patients remotely. Some services may include providing follow-up counseling, discussing communication strategies, and helping to troubleshoot devices that are not functioning. Certain HIPAA privacy laws have temporarily relaxed during the COVID19 pandemic, allowing clinicians to use public applications for videoconferencing. Connecting with patients during this time may help make a positive impact on their hearing-related quality of life.

Davidson: Can clinicians get reimbursed for this type of practice?
Coco: Reimbursement for services continues to be an issue for audiologists, whether the services are delivered in person or via teleaudiology. Fortunately a number of professional organizations, including the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, are engaging in advocacy efforts for coverage of teleaudiology.

Davidson: What else would you like to add about teleaudiology?
Coco: As part of my dissertation research, I had the opportunity to test equipment that can be used to provide services to patients via teleaudiology. I was interested in devices that are easily operated by trained support staff, are reasonably priced, and still yield valid results. In this photo (right), I am using a video otoscope that costs less than US$30.00. It’s easy to use and produces clear photos and video. Technology may help us deliver services, but audiologists are the bridge connecting patients to hearing care. I am looking forward to how we can use strategies like teleaudiology to move the field forward and provide better care for people with hearing loss!

The Neuroaudiology Lab made quite an appearance at this conference. In attendance (pictured from left) were Barrett St. George, BA; Carrie Clancy, BA, MM; Jillian Bushor, BS; Maggie Schefer, BS; Alyssa Davidson, PhD, AuD, CCC-A; Bryan Wong, AuD; and Frank Musiek, PhD, CCC-A.

**COVID-19**

In recent months, the Coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic has affected nearly everyone in some way. The Neuroaudiology Lab wants to send support, hope, and regret to all affected by the virus. At this time, it is important to keep in mind that those who experience auditory dysfunction may rely, even in part, on lip reading. Face coverings, such as masks, make this impossible. Please be mindful of those who may need additional communication strategies or time to process verbal forms of communication.

***Check out this video demonstration from Nicole Marrone, PhD, CCC-A, F-AAA, Associate Professor at The University of Arizona titled, How Can Face Masks Make it Harder to Hear: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lbdi9ndxNj8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lbdi9ndxNj8)***

**AUDIOLOGY TRIVIA ANSWERS**

1) The origination of Bekesy audiometry was in (B) 1947.
2) The famous physiologist who was a professor at Columbia University, an otolaryngologist and a submarine captain was (A) Juergen Tonndorf.
3) The ANSI (2010) maximum reverberation time for small to medium sized classrooms is (B) .6 seconds or less.