

Sounding Board

Messages from the Board of Governors



American Board of Audiology Meet & Greet at AudiologyNOW!

Come one, come all, and join us for an ABA get-together at AudiologyNOW in Minneapolis! The ABA Board of Governors hopes to see you on **Thursday, April 6, between noon and 2 pm in Lounge A of the Convention Center**. Grab your box lunch, and even better, a friend or colleague who has not yet decided to commit to board certification in audiology, and join us for a meet and greet, as well as an opportunity to hear our plans for the future and to provide your input to us. If you're mentoring a student, bring them, too! This is a chance to meet your fellow certificants and the Board, and share your ideas and suggestions for strengthening the ABA certification program. Light refreshments and snacks will be served. We look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis!

Inspire the Next Generation of Audiologists! Serve as a Mentor at AudiologyNOW!

Remember a favorite professor or supervisor who inspired you to be your personal best? Here's your chance to inspire the next generation of audiologists!

If you would like to help mentor the next generation of audiologists, spend some time at AudiologyNOW! with one of the student attendees. Your experiences and insights are appreciated and valued by those entering the field. Meet with a student and join us at ABA's Meet & Greet (*see details above*).

If you are interested in mentoring a student, write to the ABA at aba@audiology.org. To help us match you with a student who has similar professional interests, please let us know where you practice, your practice setting and what areas of audiology particularly interest you. ABA will contact you approximately two weeks before the convention with contact information for your student. **Thank you for your support of Audiology's Future!**

ABA Seeks Student Liaison

The Board of Governors of the American Board of Audiology™ is soliciting nominations for a new Student Liaison, whose term would begin at the time of the AudiologyNOW! Convention, or April 6, 2006.

The Student Liaison meets with the Board of Governors at the AAA Annual Convention (AudiologyNOW!), and joins the ABA periodically on conference calls. ABA provides a stipend of \$250 to help the Student Liaison representative with travel expenses to AudiologyNOW! The ABA's objective is to appoint a student who has a strong commitment to helping identify student needs related to ABA board certification, as well as the ability to network with other students to investigate ways in which the ABA can further assist students. ABA hopes that the involvement of the Student Liaison representative with the Board of Governors will increase awareness of ABA certification among the student population, as well as sensitize the Board to student needs. This will be a wonderful opportunity for a student to obtain experience in professionalism beyond their clinical and academic education. Please submit nominations to the ABA at aba@audiology.org no

later than March 22, 2006. The student selected must be attending AudiologyNOW in Minneapolis, MN. A \$250 stipend will be made available to the selected student for this event. Self nominations are encouraged.

ABA to Offer Sixth Administration of the Cochlear Implant Specialty Examination!

Interested in ABA's specialty certification in cochlear implants? Many people are: close to 50 audiologists have already pursued this credential. If you have thought about pursuing the credential, but haven't had an opportunity to do so, there will be a sixth administration of the examination immediately following the AG Bell Convention on Tuesday, June 27, 2006 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Application materials may be downloaded from the ABA web site at www.americanboardofaudiology.org. **The postmark deadline for all application materials for this administration is May 10, 2006.** Don't miss this opportunity! Questions? Contact the ABA at aba@audiology.org or toll-free at 1-800-881-5410.

ABA Exhibits at EHDI Conference

In early February 2006, the ABA exhibited at the 2006 National Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference, sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration and the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management, welcomed pediatricians, audiologists, EHDI coordinators and parents of children with hearing impairment from across the U.S. and its territories.

Presentations covered a wide variety of topics including genetics, cochlear implants, international EHDI activities and research findings regarding hearing impairment, among others. ABA representatives participated in a roundtable chaired by Jackson Roush, Ph.D. of University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, regarding the need for pediatric audiologists.

Attendees expressed great interest in the ABA's specialty certification program in cochlear implants as well as the pediatric specialty certification program currently in development.

In the future, ABA hopes to exhibit at this and other professional meetings in an effort to raise awareness of the program and its value to both professionals and consumers.

Audiologists in Training: ABA Spotlights NAFDA Chapters - The Northeast Ohio Au.D. Consortium

Editor's Note—In this and future editions of The Sounding Board, ABA will focus on a different National Association of Future Doctors of Audiology chapter each time.

1) When was the Northeast Ohio Au.D. Consortium (NOAC) NAFDA Chapter started?

We have had a NAFDA chapter for nearly three years - our chapter was officially started by the Au.D students in the Fall of 2003 - the same time that the Northeast Ohio Consortium was launched.

2) How many members does your NAFDA chapter include? Are any of the NOAC chapter members ABA Provisionally Certified?

A total of 62 students comprise the NOAC NAFDA chapter and Mike Scott holds ABA Provisional Certification!

3) Who are the NOAC chapter executive board members, and how far along are they in their

Au.D. program?

President: Stacy Weisend (4th year)
President-Elect: Samantha Caporali (2nd year)
Vice President: Kirstin Marconi (4th year)
Vice President-Elect: Allison Ziska (3rd year)
Secretary: Lauren Bolek (3rd year)
Treasurer: Jamie Nichols (2nd year)
Membership Officer: Shelly Duncan (2nd year)
Historian/Public Relations Officer: Julie Vogt (2nd year)
National Representative: Elizabeth McKenna (3rd Year)

4) Who are your faculty mentors?

Our consortium consists of three facilities: The University of Akron, Kent State University and The Cleveland Clinic Foundation. We are very fortunate to have many faculty and staff members and several medical doctors provide mentoring. The Cleveland Clinic requires that we shadow M.D.s from various specialties such as ENT, Pediatrics, Gerontology and Neurology. Our primary contacts include:

- Sharon A. Lesner, Ph.D., The University of Akron, Coordinator: Northeast Ohio Au.D Consortium
- Mona S. Klingler, Au.D., The University of Akron, NAFDA Chapter Advisor
- Carol Flexer, Ph.D., The University of Akron
- Carol Sommer, M.A., CCC-A, Kent State University
- John J. Hawks, Ph.D., Kent State University
- Craig W. Newman, Ph.D., The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
- Sharon S. Sandridge, Ph.D., The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
- Donald M. Goldberg, Ph.D., The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

5) How is the NOAC NAFDA chapter involved in the local community?

In many ways, our Mission Statement (reproduced below) leads our work. The NOAC chapter is currently involved in several outreach projects. NOAC chapter members believe that well-rounded professionals know the importance of, and participate in, a vast array of outreach programs – our efforts are essential in providing information to consumers about our services and our evolving profession. Annually, we participate as Team NOAC in Light the Night, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's nationwide Walk intended to build public awareness of blood cancer, to raise research funds, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. We've also held several fundraisers that benefit the AAA Political Action Committee and professional education seminars. In the recent past, we participated in a well-attended community health showcase that promoted hearing conservation and the importance of hearing evaluations. The NOAC Mission Statement:

"The mission of Northeast Ohio Au.D. Consortium is to provide Ohio with a pool of independent and competent professional audiologists. Toward this end, the consortium seeks to: (1) provide quality services to the public with hearing impairments; (2) enhance service to the professional community in the form of continuing education, mentoring, consulting and joint research; and (3) attract external funding from federal, state, and local agencies."

6) Are there any special activities in the planning stages?

We are in the process of establishing a pediatric fund that will provide complete hearing care for a child for a period of one year. This includes a set of hearing aids, earmolds, batteries, follow-up visits for hearing aids and complete hearing evaluations. In time, we hope to provide services for at least two children each year. In February, a fundraiser will also be held for "Sound Beginnings," a

program that provides financial assistance to provide an initial set of amplification to any newborn, infant or child, under the age of six, diagnosed with hearing loss. Also up and coming, we have a bowl-a-thon planned; proceeds from this will go to the political action committee. We have also been coordinating in-services for teachers who utilize soundfield and/or FM systems. We think that education on the subject will provide maximum usage and benefit in the classroom.

7) In what ways is your chapter involved in local, state, and/or national audiology events or meetings?

Our chapter tries to have representatives at virtually every major meeting and we encourage our members to be as involved as they can be on every level. Recently, several of our officers traveled to Columbus for a legislative breakfast to advocate against consolidation of our state licensing board. We also are active in writing local representatives on the importance of various audiology issues. Education on legislative issues is imperative to our profession, for the results impact our practices immensely. In addition, one of our officers is also a student liaison for the Ohio Academy of Audiology (OAA). We also have a NAFDA member, Mike Scott, who is the student liaison to the American Board of Audiology™.

8) What do you think sets the NOAC chapter apart?

We have three exceptional features. First and foremost, we believe it is our duty to expand, and share our knowledge with other professions. As the field of audiology expands and our professional requirements change, this knowledge-sharing should become customary. Also, we invite speakers from professions that overlap ours to discuss various pertinent topics with us! For example, we recently had a psychologist, specialized in grief counseling, come and speak. In the future, a medical doctor who specializes in vestibular and balance disorders will lecture. We think that philanthropy is another unique trait of the NOAC membership. We enjoy helping and subtly educating others, knowing that we are promoting better hearing and audiology as a profession. The activities we plan are done on our own time - our chapter members are dedicated audiologists-in-training who have a love for the field! The third unique feature is our consortium design. I guess you could say we have the power of three. The three institutions, Akron and Kent State Universities and the Cleveland Clinic, form a unique entity that provides excellent education and superior audiologic training!

Would you like the spotlight to shine on your NAFDA chapter in a future Sounding Board?

Contact the ABA University Liaison/Student Committee and we'll explain how it's done!

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Special Thanks

The Eligibility, Recertification and Reinstatement Committee of the American Board of Audiology™ would like to thank Catherine Lawrence for her diligence in scanning and sending application materials to the committee. The tasks she commits to, as tedious and involved as they are, are very important to the ongoing expansion and maintenance of ABA's certificant pool. We thank her for all of her help.

ABA Board of Governors, Representatives & Staff

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