

THE OSHA COMMUNICATOR

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Letter from the President

By Jill Dolata

Is it all just semantics? As someone who really likes language and languages, I have often thought about the specific label we use to describe one of our disciplines and professions: Speech-Language Pathology. It would not surprise me if you were thinking of another label, though, since our academic

departments may be called Speech and Hearing Sciences or Communication Sciences and Disorders, and our professionals may be called speech language pathologists, speech therapists, speech-language therapists (particularly in Great Britain), speech teachers, or sometimes just "speechie."

The issue of difficulty in naming is not unique to our professional title. Indeed, within child language development, there is an ongoing discussion of labeling with regard to language impairment (see Kaleidoscopic Labels, ASHA Leader, December 2018). As a discipline we have sometimes diverging views on what purpose labels serve (e.g., research group homogeneity, insurance reimbursement, prognostic indication, treatment identification, etc.), so it follows that we may have a meaningful (i.e., semantic) difference in our use of terms. With regard to our professional title, semantics may also play a part in our chosen labels. I specialize in language development, so I am always sure to include the "L" in SLP. I wonder about the phonetic and phonological impacts of our title as well. We have all met patients, clients, children, and families who struggle with our title from an articulatory standpoint. Finally, I wonder about the pragmatic (i.e., social) effect of including the word "pathology" in our titles: literally, this means the study of diseases. Many of us would not describe the communication challenges our patients, families, children, and clients have as diseases.

Other allied health professionals do not share these variations in titles, and I cannot help but wonder if our field's polyonymous nature reduces public awareness of our profession. OSHA created videos over the past few years to highlight the role of SLPs in various settings across the state. This was one attempt to increase public awareness of the field and the work being done to support people with communication difficulties. We can do more! Legislative involvement is a fantastic way to make a real difference in our state by ensuring legislators and the public know who we are and what we do (regardless of our many names!). We invite you to join us in May, when we can advocate as a group for our profession, our professionals, and the people we serve. Please save the date for OSHA's Day at the Capitol and plan to join us in Salem on Tuesday, May 7! All are welcome, and there is strength in numbers. Let's gather together as a big group of speech teachers, speech therapists, speech-language pathologists, speechies, and audiologists too!



The **OSHA Communicator** is a publication of the Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association and is edited by Marcia Frost, OSHA Publications Chair. If you are interested in submitting an article or advertising in the newsletter, contact the OSHA office at **503-585-0764** or OSHASTaff@gmail.com.

OSHA Reaches Out

OSHA hosted an exhibit at the National TASH Conference held in Portland this past November. TASH is an international leader in disability advocacy. We shared information about the services we provide and our commitment to advocacy for the communication rights of all individuals. Hundreds of educators, self-advocates, family members, and service providers visited our table. We gave out a “pocket edition” of the Communication Bill of Rights, as well as our publication: *Everyone Communicates! The Oregon Speech-Language and Hearing Association supports the rights of individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities.*

OSHA member Corinne Thomas-Kersting would like to thank the exceptional SLP students who volunteered with her to make this possible:

Ryan Depauw, PSU
Sarah Eggenberger, PSU
Ge Zhao, Pacific U
Maddy Ritt, PSU
Kat Wells, PSU



Click this link for a copy of the “Everyone Communicates!” Publication: <https://www.oregonspeechandhearing.org/resources/Documents/When%20to%20refer%20-%20resource%20card.pdf>

OSHA Advocates for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

By Corinne Thomas-Kersting

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) often have difficulty accessing speech-language pathology services. Barriers include limited avenues for funding and a general lack of awareness among case coordinators and agency leaders about the unique services we provide.

This is an issue of equity and equal access. Groups of people who experience communication disorders because of etiologies other than intellectual disability (i.e., aphasia following stroke, traumatic brain injury, developmental articulation disorders) have access to qualified and licensed Speech-Language Pathologists when training, evaluation and treatment is required. People who are living with IDD deserve the same.

OSHA recently developed an [advocacy letter](#) that was sent out to state agencies, legislators, and disability advocacy groups. In this letter, we encourage the Oregon State agencies to strive for excellence in the standard of care for all of our citizens.



SLP-A Corner

SLPA UPDATE: Proposed Changes to State Supervision Requirements by Stacey Cochran

The SLPA Rulemaking Advisory Committee met in November and January to discuss proposals to the state licensing board around SLPA supervision requirements. These recommendations were forwarded to the board and are currently being clarified and discussed. The Committee will be meeting again on March 1 to discuss feedback received and questions posed. Following these recommendations, the committee will return to the board in spring with high hopes for approval. A period of public comment will follow if approved, and it is hoped that all changes will go into effect before the beginning of the next school year!

You can still share your opinions on SLPA supervision requirements and licensing with the board before the next meeting in March. Be on the lookout and be prepared for the opportunity to comment on proposed changes after the next board meeting. We all have the opportunity to give input, and it is important to share your thoughts.

On another front, OSHA communicated with the state licensing board about the importance of adding an SLPA position to the governing board. All groups governed by the regulations are represented except SLPAs. The Board agreed the opinion had merit and recommended that OSHA communicate with state government, as adding a board position requires legislative approval. That next step is being put into motion, so we will keep you informed of any advancement on that front!

If you would like to help advocate for an SLPA position on the Oregon Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, feel free to share your thoughts with your State Representatives, State Senators and the Governor's office. *Advocacy at its finest!*



FREE Advertising through OSHA's Event Calendar

Keep your associates informed about SLP related events happening around the state. Submit to our [Upcoming Events](#) calendar today!

<https://www.oregonspeechandhearing.org/event-886228>



RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Study and Survey #1

Hello,

My name is Sarah Shellard and I am a second-year graduate student at Portland State University in the Speech and Hearing Sciences department. Along with faculty advisers Dr. Sarah Key-DeLyria and Dr. Christina Gildersleeve-Neumann, I would like to invite you to participate in our survey focused on bilingual resources for adults with TBI and ABI in medical settings in the Portland and surrounding areas.



By participating in this survey, you can help us identify the current state of bilingual adult medical resources for the Portland and surrounding areas, identify areas of strength, and areas of need. I ask that you fill out this survey, and also share the link with all other speech-language pathologists in your community.

https://portlandstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3U9NvUEd04ZA3gp

Thank you for your participation,
Sarah Shellard, PSU Graduate Student

Study and Survey #2

Hello,

My name is Lauren Fabrize and I am a speech-language pathology master's student completing a thesis at East Tennessee State University.

I invite you to participate in my survey! The purpose of this study is to gather information on your experience as a hospital-based speech-language pathologist (SLP), particularly as it pertains to infants diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). Results from this survey will be disseminated and describe current SLPs' practices for infants with NAS and how intervention might differ from other NICU populations.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer or simply exit the online survey at any time if you wish to remove yourself entirely. Since this research is focused on your perspective, there are no risks involved. The survey will take approximately 20-25 minutes of your time. On December 20, 2018 ETSU IRB approved this study.

To access the survey, please select this link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/37ZP7J9>





Mark Your Calendars! DAY AT THE CAPITOL MAY 7, 2019

OSHA will be hosting a “Day at the Capitol” on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at the State Capitol building in Salem. If you have ever wanted to learn more about how state government works and how you can be a voice for your profession in Salem, please join us for this unique experience. The day will include a tour of the Capitol building, an informational session with OSHA’s lobbyist and Executive Director, Genoa Ingram, and more.



View of downtown Salem from the top of the Capitol building

Advocacy for our professions is one of OSHA’s core tenets. This advocacy can make an important difference in our day-to-day work, when directed at our local legislators and the laws they choose to enact. By coming together as one voice, we can ensure that Oregon speech-language pathologists and audiologists can continue to serve our patients and clients well.

Please watch the OSHA website and our Facebook page for more details about this exciting day. We hope that you will join with us to make our voices heard with our representatives in Salem!

Schedule

9:00 am	Welcome/Overview/Legislative Briefing
10:30 am	House Opening Ceremonies*
11:00 am	Senate Opening Ceremonies*
12:00 pm	Lunch (Box Lunch provided)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislator Updates (Schedules permitting)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erin Haag, Executive Director, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendee Feedback/Questions
1:00 pm	Committee Meetings/Building Tours/Meetings with Individual legislators*



Ethics and Conflict of Interest

by Susan Ginley

ASHA recently published a revised statement on conflict of interest as an issue of ethical practices. In the opening statement ASHA says:

As we have become increasingly aware of the power of external factors to influence interpretation and reasoning—and the possibility that these external factors may undermine objectivity—all of the professions have begun to pay more attention to conflicts of interest. Principle of Ethics III, Rule of Ethics B, of the Code specifically prohibits conflicts of professional interest. "Individuals shall avoid engaging in conflicts of interest whereby personal, financial, or other considerations have the potential to influence or compromise professional judgment and objectivity." ASHA 2018

The Institute of Medicine says:

"A conflict of interest is a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest."

Looking at our own professional practices through the lens of 'conflict of interest' can be foggy and unclear. ASHA's document is meant to clear that view, allowing each of us to become more attune to what constitutes a conflict of interest.

continued on next page



SAVE THE DATE!!

**The OSHA 2019 Fall Conference
will be October 11-12, 2019
at the Salem Convention Center in Salem, OR.**

Using ASHA's definition "*an opposition between the private interests and the official or professional responsibilities of a person in a position of trust, power, and/or authority*," we can boil this down to the question "Is what I am doing within or outside of my job in opposition to the responsibilities of my job?" Sometimes these issues are clear: an AUD or SLP starts a private practice that provides similar services to similar clients as those of their full-time employer, or a clinician responsible for purchasing materials, accepts trips and gifts from a vendor, and then selects that vendor's products for purchase by the company. But there are situations in which a conflict of interest is difficult to discern, such as when a clinician spends so much time or creative energy, while at work, on activities outside of professional responsibilities, that the quality of their work within the job is compromised. Another situation could involve having students and/or trainees engaged in work that may directly benefit a company in which the faculty/staff member supervising the students has a personal financial interest. While presenting a conflict of interest, this may be acceptable as long as the interests of the students/trainees are adequately protected.

Our Code of Ethics provides us with guidelines concerning conflict of interest (see the ASHA Code of Ethics Principles I and III) and the revised statement by ASHA provides actions for clinicians to consider if faced with a conflict of interest. These actions include disclosure and recusal. Finding yourself in a situation where there may be a conflict of interest is not automatically bad. However failure to act responsively could have long-lasting repercussions. The best advice is to increase your awareness of what constitutes a conflict of interest and to avoid such situations.



How to identify a conflict of interest involves asking questions concerning your or another's behavior. These questions focus on whether the behavior has the potential to influence or interfere with the duties of the individual or decisions that person has the power to make.

If you feel that you may have a conflict of interest, it is your responsibility to disclose that information as soon as it becomes known. If you feel a colleague is involved in a conflict of interest it is your responsibility to make it known to the individual and/or other party members. If the situation is not adequately resolved then it is your responsibility to report your concerns to the state or national board of ethical practices.

Remember unethical behavior affects all of us.



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