

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

USHA Conference 2026

February 27, 2026

8:00am-5:00pm

Karen Gail Miller Conference Center in Sandy, Utah

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Utah Speech, Language and Hearing Association presents the annual USHA Conference. Researchers, audiologists, speech-language pathologists, medical doctors, practicing clinicians, and others are invited to present topics of interest to audiologists and speech-language pathologists across the lifespan in a variety of work settings.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Identify and describe evidence-based intervention strategies to support language, literacy, and communication development across pediatric and school-age populations.
2. Differentiate and implement contemporary assessment approaches, including dynamic and functional methods, to inform clinical decision-making.
3. Identify and apply evidence-based AAC strategies to support individuals with complex communication needs across diagnoses and the lifespan.
4. Identify and describe relationship-centered and partner-focused intervention approaches to improve communication outcomes.
5. Identify and determine effective mentoring strategies into professional practice as a mentor and/or mentee.
6. Identify best practices for screening, assessing, and managing swallowing and airway protection disorders in medically complex populations.
7. Identify and describe trauma-informed and mindfulness-based principles to support client care and clinician well-being.
8. Identify and distinguish between current cochlear implant technologies, candidacy considerations, and clinical outcomes, including emerging trends and special populations.
9. Identify and describe audiologic assessment and habilitation strategies for hard-to-test and diagnostically complex populations.
10. Identify and describe best practices and system-level initiatives that improve hearing healthcare delivery and early identification outcomes.



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

University of Utah

This program is offered for up to 0.80 ASHA CEUs (various levels, professional area).

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES AND DISCLOSURES:

Samantha Barahona is from New Orleans, Louisiana. She is a senior undergraduate student in the Communication Disorders major with a minor in Spanish at Brigham Young University. Sam plans to pursue her graduate clinical training in speech-language pathology and help Spanish-speaking clients. She enjoys painting, traveling, watching movies, and trying new foods!

Financial Disclosures: Sam received a conference registration waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Kaya Bayne is an undergraduate research assistant in the Human Interaction Lab at Utah State University. She is completing a bachelor's degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences and plans to pursue graduate training to become a licensed Speech Language Pathologist (SLP). Her research interests center on the use of perceptual training to improve listener understanding in dysarthria, as well as the acoustic and social components of speech that facilitate successful communication. She intends to blend research insights with everyday clinical practice to provide the most effective care to her future patients.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Bayne received a conference fee discount for presenting. She receives wages from USU and works in the Human Interaction Lab at Utah State University with Dr. Stephanie Borrie. She was awarded a travel grant from USU to attend the conference.

Non-financial Disclosures: Ms. Bayne is a member of NSSLHA and serves as the professional development officer for the USU chapter.

Tad Bergen, AuD provides audiology services including diagnosing, managing and treating hearing and balance disorders as well as cerumen removal. He loves helping people with their hearing needs and providing lifelong follow-up care. He particularly enjoys working with children and adults and going the extra mile for his patients. Dr. Bergen graduated with honors from Utah State University with his Bachelor of Science degree in Communicative Disorders in 2006 and he graduated Magna Cum Laude with his Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree from Utah State University in 2010. Dr. Bergen grew up in Ogden and Layton and currently lives in Farmington with his wife and 5 children. He is an identical twin and is married to an identical twin. He enjoys anything outdoors including pickleball, tennis, and hiking as well as spending time with his family and serving others.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Bergen is salaried by University of Utah Health. He received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Chad Bingham, MS, CCC-SLP is a certified speech language pathologist with over 25 years of experience. He has worked as a clinical instructor and lecturer in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Utah State University since 2001. Prior to working at USU, he worked as a speech language pathologist at Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City. He also works as a distributor for PRC-Salttillo. Areas of professional interest include bilingualism, speech sound disorders, augmentative and alternative communication, and resonance disorders related to cleft palate. He believes all people, regardless of disability or severity, have the right to interact with others and direct his or her care by any means necessary including AAC.

Financial Disclosures: Mr. Bingham receives a salary from PRC-Salttillo for his role as an AAC consultant and commission-based compensation on device sales. He received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Mr. Bingham serves as an AAC consultant and sells devices for PRC-Salttillo.

Madelyn Boyer is an undergraduate student majoring in Communication Disorders at Brigham Young University. Her academic interests include speech sound disorders and language development in pediatric

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

populations. She is fluent in Spanish and is interested in supporting Spanish-speaking children and families with communication challenges. She will graduate in Spring 2026 and plans to pursue her graduate clinical training in speech-language pathology.

Financial Disclosures: Received a discount on registration for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Ellie Bradford is a senior in the undergraduate program at Brigham Young University. She volunteers in the PEARL lab with Dr. Wendel Griffey researching adults with aphasia.

Financial Disclosures: Received a conference fee waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Bradford is a volunteer in the PEARL lab with Dr. Wendel Griffey at BYU.

Dr. Craig Buchman, MD, FACS is Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Utah, and Past Lindburg Professor and Chair, Department of Otolaryngology- Head & Neck Surgery, Washington University in St. Louis. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Georgia, his MD at the University of Florida, his residency and research fellowship in otolaryngology at the University of Pittsburg, and a clinical fellowship in neurotology at the House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles. He was a Founding Board Member of the American Cochlear Implant Alliance. He is currently Chair of the Hearing Committee and past Chair of the Implantable Devices Committee and the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing for the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, past President of the American Neurotology Society, and past Chair of the William House Cochlear Implant Study Group.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Buchman receives interest in intellectual property and equity from Advanced Cochlear Diagnostics, LLC; consulting fees for service on the executive advisory board of Cochlear Limited; consulting fees for service on the Surgical Advisory Board of Advanced Bionics; consulting fees for service on the Surgical Advisory Board of IotaMotion; research grant support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and instructor fees from the Institute for Cochlear Implant Training. He received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) and is Board Certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHNS), Neurotology. He is Chair of the AAO-HNS Hearing Committee and a Founding Board Member of the American Cochlear Implant Alliance.

Amy Buckley has worked as a speech-language pathologist (SLP) for more than 33 years in Utah schools, hospitals, and home health settings, serving individuals from infancy through adulthood. Currently, she serves as the SLP and Related Services Coordinator for the Canyons School District. Amy feels strongly about the importance of mentoring and supervision in the early years of an SLP's career, knowing that thoughtful guidance builds the confidence and skills needed for long-term success. She is fortunate to support and collaborate with an incredibly talented Mentor Team in Canyons.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Buckley is salaried by Canyons School District. She received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Buckley is a member of ASHA and USHA and volunteers as SLP Speaker Coordinator with USHA.

Katy Cabbage, PhD CCC-SLP is an Assistant Professor in the Speech and Hearing Sciences Department at Washington State University. Her research interests center on the connections between early speech and language skills and later literacy acquisition. She is interested in improving both the clinical identification and treatment of literacy difficulties in children with speech and language impairment, identification and treatment particularly in school-based settings. She teaches coursework on literacy and language development and speech sound disorders.

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Cabbage has been awarded an NIH grant and is a salaried employee at Washington State University. She received reimbursement for travel costs and a registration waiver for presenting at the USHA conference.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Cabbage is a member of ASHA and WSLHA. She is also a member of the Professional Advisory Council for the Apraxia Kids Foundation.

Garrett Cardon, AuD is an audiologist and cognitive neuroscientist currently working on projects related to atypical sensory processing in autism. Dr. Cardon also examines how to facilitate empathy between autistic and neurotypical individuals through both scientific and artistic representations of the mind. His work has contributed importantly to the areas of cortical plasticity and function in adults and children with hearing loss.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Cardon is salaried by BYU and received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Cardon is a member of ASHA, the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR), and serves on the Professional Advisory Board on Disability, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Sarah Cheung, MS, CCC-SLP is a medical speech-language pathologist (SLP) at Intermountain Health. She received her MS degree in SLP from Brigham Young University and has experience working at the acute care, inpatient rehab, and skilled nursing facility (SNF) setting.

Financial Disclosures: Sarah Cheung receives a salary from Intermountain Health and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Sarah Cheung is a certified member of ASHA.

Maria Chisolm, M.S., CCC-SLP, is a bilingual speech-language pathologist who operates a private practice serving culturally and linguistically diverse children and their families across Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico. With specialization in early intervention and school-based settings, Maria provides comprehensive, culturally responsive, and linguistically appropriate assessments that honor the unique cultural and linguistic backgrounds of each child and family. Beyond her clinical practice, Maria is passionate about mentoring private practitioners and supporting professionals and organizations working with multilingual families and learners. Through individual consultations, organizational training, and her online community, she offers tailored strategies for both optimizing business systems and enhancing service delivery to better meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse populations. Maria regularly presents workshops and seminars on best practices for screening and assessing culturally and linguistically diverse populations, as well as effective strategies for starting, scaling, and managing private practices.

Financial Disclosures: Maria is the founder and director of Layers Consulting, a firm that offers educational consulting, business consulting, and professional development services. She receives a salary from Layers Consulting. Maria is an adjunct professor at the Metropolitan State University of Denver and receives compensation for her teaching responsibilities. She received a conference registration waiver.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Maria is the Vice-President Elect of Education for the Colorado Speech-Language-Hearing Association; she receives no financial compensation for this affiliation. Maria is a certified member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Emma Davis, BS is a second-year speech-language pathology master's student at the University of Utah with a strong interest in specializing in voice and swallowing disorders. She works in the Clinical Voice Studies Lab under the mentorship of Dr. Brett Myers, where her research focuses on voice outcomes in individuals with Parkinson's disease and transgender voice clients. At the time of this poster presentation, Emma is completing a medical externship under Dan Houtz at the LDS Voice and Swallowing Center.

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

She will graduate in May 2026 following completion of her clinical externships and plans to pursue advanced clinical training in medical speech-language pathology with an emphasis on voice and swallowing.

Financial Disclosures: Received a conference registration waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Russell Belza deJesus, MS, CCC-SLP is a third-year PhD student at the University of Utah studying aerodigestive and communication disorders, including hypokinetic dysarthria, essential tremor, subglottic stenosis, and asthma-related voice disorders, with additional interest in transmasculine voice therapy and extreme metal vocal performance. Beyond research, Russell has been a graduate teaching assistant for gross human anatomy at the School of Medicine, is developing a graduate-level endoscopy course for SLP students, and leads the Philippines IDDSI Reference Group in standardizing healthcare practices abroad. Russell currently resides in Salt Lake City with his wife and baby.

Financial Disclosures: Received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Mr. deJesus is a member of ASHA.

Faith Dryden, AuD is an audiologist at Primary Children's Hospital. She completed her fourth-year externship at Oregon Health and Sciences University and recently graduated from the Doctor of Audiology (AuD) graduate clinical program at the University of Utah. Faith has completed LEND fellowships in Utah and Oregon. She is passionate about reducing barriers to hearing healthcare.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Dryden is a salaried employee at Primary Children's Hospital and received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Hallie Dunn is an Undergraduate Research Assistant in the Human Interaction Lab at Utah State University. She is completing her undergraduate degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences and plans to attend graduate school to become a licensed speech-language pathologist. Her research interests center on neurogenic speech disorders, with a particular focus on their pragmatic components.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Dunn received a conference fee discount for presenting. Ms. Dunn receives wages from USU and works in the Human Interaction Lab at Utah State University with Dr. Stephanie Borrie. She was awarded a travel grant from USU to attend the conference.

Non-financial Disclosures: None

Dr. Julia Ellerston, SLP.D., CCC-SLP serves as the most senior voice, upper airway, and swallowing speech-language pathologist (SLP) at the University of Utah Voice Disorders Center, providing advanced evaluation and management of complex laryngeal and neurogenic communication disorders, including Parkinson's disease, on the multidisciplinary team. Dr. Ellerston earned her clinical doctorate in Speech-Language Pathology from the MGH Institute of Health Professions, where her capstone research focused on expertise in videolaryngostroboscopic interpretation. She has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications and presented nationally and internationally on topics including voice disorders, cough, inducible laryngeal obstruction, and swallowing rehabilitation. Dr. Ellerston's peer-reviewed research includes work on quantitative measures of swallowing deficits in Parkinson's disease, noninvasive esophageal transit assessment, and interdisciplinary models of voice and swallowing rehabilitation. Her current research interests include the interaction of hearing loss with voice production in communication partners and the development of expertise in voice evaluation and interpretation of laryngeal imaging.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Ellerston is a salaried employee at University of Utah Health and an adjunct instructor for SPA-504: Voice Disorders at Mississippi University for Women. She received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Ellerston is the co-chair of the USHA Legislative Committee, Utah State Advocate for Medicare Policy (StAMP) with ASHA, and a planning committee member with The Utah Annual Utah Performance Voice Conference.

Emily Fintak, M.S., CCC-SLP is a licensed speech-language pathologist with over 15 years of experience supporting children with complex communication needs across medical and educational settings. She began her career as a special education teacher in Utah and California public schools before transitioning into speech-language pathology. Her clinical experience includes working in pediatric outpatient rehabilitation settings in both Washington state and at Primary Children's Hospital in Utah, in addition to school-based roles. Her passion for AAC has led to valuable hands-on experience with AAC assessments and funding, as well as service implementation. Emily is committed to promoting functional communication and AAC access through collaborative, evidence-based practices.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Fintak is salaried by American Preparatory Academy. She received a conference fee waiver.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Fintak is a member of ASHA.

Lisa Froehilch, PhD, CCC-SLP has worked in education over the last 30 years as a speech-language pathologist (SLP), SLP Supervisor and an Administrator. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati with research emphasis in Literacy and Language. She currently works for Cincinnati Public Schools where she supports transition age-youth and special education teams.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Froehilch is salaried by Cincinnati Public Schools and received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Froehilch is a member of ASHA.

Dawn R. Girten, SLPD, CCC-SLP is an Outpatient Clinical Manager for speech-language pathology services at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. In addition to managing outpatient satellites and daily operations within the Division of Speech-Language Pathology, she is involved in providing comprehensive speech and language evaluations to preschool and school-aged children. Her specialty areas include evaluations for children with autism spectrum, language processing, receptive, expressive, pragmatic, reading and written language deficits. She also enjoys working with the child who displays behavioral difficulties.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Girten is salaried by Cincinnati Children's Hospital and received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Girten is a member of ASHA.

Nicole Greenhalgh, BS is a master's student in speech-language pathology clinical training program at the University of Utah with interests in voice therapy and early childhood language. During her bachelor's studies at the University of Utah, she volunteered in Dr. Redmond's Childhood Language Learning Lab and currently works in Dr. Jaime Lee's Aphasia Lab at the University of Utah. She was continually on the Dean's List, received numerous academic scholarships, and participated in volunteer work in underserved communities in Oaxaca, Mexico, where she provided free hearing and speech screenings. She is also currently serving as a graduate representative for the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSHLA).

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Greenhalgh receives wages in Dr. Jaime Lee's Lab and received a conference fee waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Greenhalgh was a volunteer in Dr. Redmond's Lab.

Abigail (Abi) Gregory, BS recently graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in communication disorders. She also holds an Associates of Science degree in Psychology and plans to pursue graduate training in speech-language pathology. Abi's academic interest centers on medical practice within speech-language pathology, particularly working with medically complex populations.

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

Financial Disclosures: Abi received a conference registration waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Allison Hancock, PhD is a postdoctoral fellow at the Alzheimer's and Dementia Research Center at Utah State University. She brings expertise in neuroimaging methods like functional Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (fNIRS), electroencephalography (EEG), and eye-tracking. Her work focuses on language, learning, attention, and decision-making, with an interest in applying neuroscience to real-world clinical challenges. Currently, she's studying how hearing aid use may affect cognitive decline in older adults. Allison is excited to expand her research into the Alzheimer's and dementia field and to explore how neuroscience can help improve understanding, prevention, and care.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Hancock received a conference registration waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Lindsey Hardcastle, MS, CCC-SLP has been a school-based speech-language pathologist for over 11 years since graduating from the master's program at University of Utah. She has worked with preschool, elementary, high, and post-high students. She served on the DOPL board from 2023-2025 and was Chairperson from 2024-2025. She is also the Speech-Language Pathology Delegate for the state of Utah in the Interstate Compact.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Hardcastle is salaried by American Preparatory Academy and received a conference fee waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Hardcastle is a member of ASHA and USHA. She served on the DOPL board from 2023-2025 and was Chairperson from 2024-2025. She is the Speech-Language Pathology delegate for the state of Utah in the Interstate Compact. She volunteers on USHA's Legislative Committee.

Tyson Harmon, PhD, CCC-SLP is an associate professor at Brigham Young University in the Department of Communication Disorders. His research is focused on understanding how attention, emotion, and language combine to impact everyday communication for people with aphasia. He also investigates novel approaches to improving communication within the family system for people with aphasia.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Harmon is a salaried employee of Brigham Young University where the approach being discussed was developed and investigated. He received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Harmon is a member of ASHA.

Taylor Haycock Jackson is an undergraduate student at Brigham Young University pursuing a degree in Communication Disorders with a minor in Family Life. She joined the BYU Stoke Outreach Program in August 2025. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school and become an Audiologist. In her free time, Taylor enjoys reading, visiting national parks, and spending time with her husband and family.

Financial Disclosures: Taylor Jackson receives wages from Brigham Young University for work in the Communication Disorders program relevant to her course contributions. She received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Communication Disorders student at Brigham Young University.

Nathan (Nate) Hendriksen, AuD provides audiology services including diagnostic hearing testing as well as cerumen removal. He also performs hearing aid fittings with real-ear measurements, as well as troubleshooting and repairing of hearing aids and osseointegrated devices. He is passionate about hearing conservation and provides custom hearing protection for all types of needs. He also performs

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

Electroneurography (EnoG) for patients with acute Bell's Palsy and facial paralysis. Dr. Hendriksen grew up in Salt Lake and currently lives in Kaysville with his wife and children.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Hendriksen receives a salary from the University of Utah Otolaryngology & Audiology Clinic and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Hendriksen is a certified member of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA)

Corey J. Hollinger, M.A, CCC-SLP, TSSLD is currently working as a voice, upper airway, and swallowing specialized speech-language pathologist at the University of Utah Voice Disorders Center and is the upper airway disorders lead for the team. Corey comes to Utah from New York, where they received their master's at CUNY Queens College and received specialized training in the evaluation and treatment of voice, swallowing, and upper airway disorders at Mount Sinai Union Square and Stony Brook University. Corey completed their Clinical Fellowship (CF) year at the University of Utah (2024-2025) while also completing a CF research project on "Distinguishing Essential Vocal Tremor from Vibrato", which was presented at the 2025 Voice Foundation Symposium. Corey also received one of ten Dysphonia International Travel Grants to present this same work as a poster presentation at the Fall Voice 2025 Conference. Additionally, Corey's previous research project during graduate school, "HIV/AIDS and communication impairments: What do Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists know?", was awarded an Outstanding Research Award from the CUNY Graduate Center Student Research Poster Day.

Financial Disclosures: Corey Hollinger receives a salary from the University of Utah and received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Corey Hollinger is a member of ASHA and of Special Interest Group (SIG) 3.

Megan Houston is a Communication Disorders Student at Brigham Young University. She will graduate with her BS in 2027 and is interested in pursuing a Doctor of Audiology degree. Megan has been involved in undergraduate research in Dr. Garrett Cardon's research lab related to audiology and autism and is currently working on her honors thesis.

Financial Disclosures: Megan received a conference registration waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Genoveva "Veva" Hurtado, AuD is a clinical audiologist specializing in vestibular assessment and management. Originally from New Mexico, she earned her undergraduate degree from New Mexico State University and her Doctor of Audiology (AuD) from the University of Utah. She further advanced her expertise through a vestibular fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina. Veva's primary passion lies in vestibular testing, as she values its critical role in ensuring patient safety and enhancing quality of life. Her work focuses on comprehensive evaluation and evidence-based care for individuals experiencing dizziness and balance disorders.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Hurtado is salaried by Intermountain Health and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Hurtado is a member of ASHA, AAA, and ABS.

Ashlee James is a senior at Brigham Young University majoring in Communication Disorders with a strong interest in speech-language pathology. She is currently gaining experience through her volunteer work with the Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association (USHA) as a member of the social media team, where she promotes awareness and education related to communication disorders.

Financial Disclosures: Ashlee received a conference registration waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ashlee is a volunteer on the social media team with USHA.

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

Barrett Johnson AuD, CCC-A is a Doctor of Audiology committed to serving the students at the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB). Specializing in pediatric audiology, Barrett brings an unprecedented passion for early intervention and comprehensive hearing health management in young populations. Her clinical focus centers on maximizing communication potential for children, particularly within educational and home environments, ensuring that every child can reach their full linguistic and developmental goals. A core principle of Barrett's practice is family-centered care. She believes that empowering parents and caregivers is the single most effective way to improve long-term outcomes for children with hearing loss. Barrett dedicates time to working closely with families, providing them with the necessary tools, education, and confidence to become effective advocates for their child's needs including navigating complex educational plans to securing essential resources. This hands-on, collaborative approach is driven by the goal of helping children meet and exceed their language acquisition and educational benchmarks, turning potential challenges into achievable milestones. Barrett's academic journey established a robust foundation for her specialized career path. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Science from Texas Christian University (TCU) in 2018. Following her undergraduate studies, Barrett completed her Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) degree at the University of Utah in 2022. Her commitment to service deepened during her crucial 4th-year graduate residency at USDB, leading directly to her current full-time position. This continuous thread of clinical experience at USDB has given Barrett unique insight into the specific challenges and rewards of supporting the deaf and hard-of-hearing community in a comprehensive educational setting.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Johnson receives a salary from the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Johnson is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Kate Johnson, AuD, CCC-A is a trained audiologist, and provides services including cochlear implants, adult diagnostics, and hearing aids. Her passion lies in adult cochlear implantation, and she is trained to work with individuals with severe to profound hearing loss. She enjoys guiding patients through the cochlear implant process, from evaluation to activation, to lifelong follow-up care. Her research interests include cochlear implant patient outcomes, and quality of life.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Johnson is salaried by University of Utah Health and she received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Johnson is a member of ASHA and USHA. She volunteers on the legislative committee with USHA.

Omar Juarez, AuD is a native of Guatemala. He relocated to the United States to further his education. As a teenager he enrolled at Utah State University to learn the language and complete general education. He obtained a Bachelor's and Master's degree in audiology from the University of Utah. He later obtained an AuD. Degree from the University of Florida at Gainesville. He started his professional career as an Army Officer at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Concurrent with his military career he owned and operated a hearing conservation company which conducted business preventing noise induced hearing loss at a national level. In 2013 Omar joined the Intermountain Hearing and Balance Center and shortly thereafter retired from the military, a career that lasted 29 years and provided many invaluable service opportunities. He is looking forward to another retirement and pursuing a wood-working hobby.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Juarez is salaried by Intermountain Hearing and Balance Center and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Juarez is a member of ASHA.

Danica Kilton is a junior in the Communication Disorders program at Brigham Young University. She is interested in working with pediatric and bilingual (French and English) populations. She is specifically

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

interested in helping patients with dysphagia, voice, and speech sound disorders. She plans to pursue her master's degree in speech-language pathology in fall of 2027.

Financial Disclosures: Danica received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Kristin Knight, M.S., CCC-A, is a pediatric audiologist and a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Oregon Health & Science University, in Portland, Oregon. Ms. Knight's clinical research has focused on audiologic monitoring and hearing outcomes reporting for children exposed to ototoxic cancer therapy and improving diagnostic assessment for children who have neurodevelopmental differences.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Knight receives a salary from the Department of Pediatrics at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Oregon Health & Science University. She received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Knight is a member of ASHA and voluntary member of the Auditory Late Effects Committee of the Children's Oncology Group.

Aubree Laaw, BS has her bachelor's degree in Speech and Hearing Science and is a first-year master's student in the graduate speech-language pathology program at the University of Utah. She has volunteered with the University of Utah's U-Fit program and the Canyons School District's Newcomers Academy program. Aubree volunteered with the U-Fit program for two semesters, working once a week with a child with autism and engaging in physical activities such as swimming. She also participated in the Newcomers Academy program for two summers, which ran for two months each summer, four days per week, and focused on supporting students who spoke English as a second language. Additionally, Aubree worked one summer as an ABA behavior technician, allowing her to gain further experience working with children with autism.

Financial Disclosures: Aubree received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Aubree has volunteered with the University of Utah's U-Fit program and the Canyons School District's Newcomers Academy program

Bryan Layton, AuD, CCC-A has worked for Intermountain Healthcare for 30 years. Much of his clinical career with Intermountain has centered around vestibular diagnostics. He was a member of the original staff of the Intermountain Hearing and Balance Center. Bryan recently retired from the US Army Reserve after 30 years of service as an Audiologist and Army Officer. For the past 17 years, Bryan has been a very part time instructor for the AuD program at the University of Utah, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Bryan is a past President of USHA.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Layton is salaried by Intermountain Health. Dr. Layton received a conference registration waiver.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Layton is a member of ASHA.

Tracy Liu, MS CCC-SLP has over 30 years of experience as a speech-language pathologist in acute care, inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient, and home health settings. Currently, Tracy is an assistant teaching professor at Brigham Young University. She leads the Utah Valley Brain Injury and Stroke Survivor Support Group and enjoys working with survivors in the community. She currently serves as president of the Utah Valley Stroke Association.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Liu is a salaried employee of Brigham Young University and received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Liu is a member of ASHA.

Jenny Longenecker, MS, CCC-SLP is a graduate of Brigham Young University (B.S. 2014) and Utah State University (M.A. 2017). Jenny has been a speech-language pathologist (SLP) for Canyons School

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

District in the middle school setting for the last 8 years. She is part of the district's assistive technology team (UATT) as well as Mentor Academy. Jenny has mentored grad students and new SLPs in elementary, secondary, and the district's special education school. Jenny is always learning and implementing new strategies to be both effective and efficient with her students and caseload management. Areas of special interest to Jenny include articulation, language, and AAC. She has presented alongside her colleagues at professional developments on evaluations/eligibility, multi-language evaluations, and tech hacks.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Longenecker is employed by Canyons School District and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Longenecker is a member of ASHA.

Lanie Lund is a senior undergraduate student at Brigham Young University with an interest in Audiology. She works as the hearing wellness coordinator with Professor Katie Stone at Brigham Young University. Over the summer, Lanie volunteered at Cedar Ridge Elementary School for the "Talking Time" program, there to aid students in grades K-6 with language/speech disorders. She also volunteered to assist with hearing screenings at Vineyard Elementary School and Brigham Young University.

Financial Disclosures: Lanie earns wages from BYU and received a conference registration waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Lanie volunteers for BYU and Alpine School District.

Eli Lyon, BA is a third-year Au.D. student at the University of Utah, planning to graduate in 2027. Primary interests include pediatric audiology, cochlear implants, and electrophysiology. Eli is a Research Assistant in the Auditory Perception & Physiology Lab with Dr. Skyler Jennings, Au.D., Ph.D., CCC-A. Eli's capstone project is a literature review examining intraoperative electrocochleography during cochlear implantation as a method for real-time monitoring of cochlear health. Eli also serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Electrophysiology, Advanced Anatomy and Physiology, Advanced Amplification, and Principles of Amplification courses. Eli holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and has received multiple academic and service-related awards recognizing leadership and mentorship.

Financial Disclosures: Eli received a conference registration waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Tessa Paulsen McBride is an undergraduate student at Brigham Young University majoring in Communication Disorders. She works as a teaching assistant at BYU, where she supports coursework in the communication sciences. Tessa is particularly interested in speech sound disorders and plans to pursue graduate training in Speech-Language Pathology.

Financial Disclosures: Tessa received a conference registration waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Ryan McKinnon, MS, CCC-SLP is a speech-language pathologist with school-based, skilled nursing, and hospital experience. He serves on a district-wide clinical mentorship team that supports clinical fellows, assistants/technicians, externs, and early-career clinicians. Aside from his therapy/assessment caseload, his professional focus includes mentorship, clinical education, and developing sustainable models with the mentorship team that support both students and clinicians.

Financial Disclosures: Ryan McKinnon is a salaried employee at Canyons School District and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Mr. McKinnon is a member of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA).

Stephanie B. McVicar, AuD, MS, CCC-A is the Director of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, the Children's Hearing Aid Program, and the Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Public

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

Education & Testing Program at the Utah Department of Health & Human Services. Dr. McVicar is an audiologist with expertise in infants and pediatrics, an advocate for CMV testing in newborns, and passionate about the prevention of congenital CMV infection. She is originally from Western New York and has extensive experience and knowledge in Audiology and the management of health care programs.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. McVicar is employed by the Utah Department of Health & Human Services and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. McVicar is a member of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA).

Alison Meagher, AuD, CCC-A, F-EAA is a bilingual pediatric audiologist at Primary Children's Hospital. Prior to her move to a clinical role, she was an educational audiologist in Colorado and Utah for several years. Her professional interests include auditory processing disorder, hearing aid and bone conduction device management, working with Spanish-speaking families, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Meagher is salaried and employed by Primary Children's Hospital and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Meagher is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Brett R. Myers, PhD, CCC-SLP is an Associate Professor (Clinical) and the Director of Clinical Education for speech-language pathology in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Utah. As a clinical faculty member, Brett instructs and supervises graduate students in conducting behavioral treatment of voice disorders. Brett is the director of the Clinical Voice Studies Lab, which focuses on motor control of voice and speech, treatment modalities relevant for Parkinson's disease and gender-affirming voice care, and voice-related quality of life measures.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Myers receives a salary from the University of Utah and a conference registration waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Myers is a member of USHA, ASHA, and serves as the Media Chair on the USHA Board.

Nathan Naillon is an undergraduate senior studying communication disorders with a Spanish language minor at Brigham Young University. He plans to attend graduate school in the fall to pursue a career as a speech-language pathologist. He is particularly interested in culturally responsive clinical practice, developmental language disorders, and voice and resonance.

Financial Disclosures: Nathan received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Allison Oliver is a senior undergraduate student at Brigham Young University studying Communication Disorders. She plans to begin graduate school in speech-language pathology (SLP) this fall. Her current interests include working with multicultural populations with hopes to one day become a bilingual SLP service provider.

Financial Disclosures: Allison receives wages as a student research assistant at Brigham Young University and a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Albert Park, MD is the former chief of the Pediatric Otolaryngology Division in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Utah and at Primary Children's Hospital. He is the director of the multidisciplinary hearing center that he and Dr. John Carey created in 2004. He is a co-PI on an NIH funded project to assess the role of resident tissue macrophages on CMV infection and on cochlear development. He has been on the Board of Directors for the National CMV Foundation and

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

has had the honor to work with NIDCD, FDA, Genentech and about 30 academic institutions to introduce hearing targeted early CMV testing to over one hundred birth hospitals in the US. He also established a CMV Working Group that includes individuals with expertise in pediatric neonatology, infectious disease, genetics, otolaryngology, audiology, healthcare economics, biostatistics and neurology from the University of Utah, and the Utah Department of Health. These collaborative efforts resulted in a state-wide expanded targeted early CMV screening for newborns, a multi-disciplinary CMV clinic for children diagnosed with this condition, the first clinically validated dry blood spot and saliva PCR assay available to test any child for congenital CMV infection. He also worked with Representative Menlove to introduce a bill in the Utah legislature to increase overall awareness about congenital CMV infection and to mandate early CMV testing for newborns who fail their hearing screen. In July 2013, Utah became the first state to implement a hearing targeted (HT-CMV) screening program for early CMV diagnosis. For these efforts, he was awarded the Ruben Award for Scientific Achievement from the Society of Ear, Nose and Throat Advancement in Children (SENTAC), the University of Utah Marsden and Lynette Blanch Presidential Endowed Chair for research and the American Academy of Pediatrics Advocacy Award.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Park receives an honorarium in his role on the Scientific Advisory Committee for Akouos at the Asia Pacific Pediatric Otolaryngology Meeting. He received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Park is a member of AAO-HNS, ASPO, AOS, SENTAC, AAP, and Triologic Society.

Kathryn-Anne Pertab, MS, CCC-SLP is a speech-language pathologist currently practicing in adult neuro rehabilitation at Intermountain Health. She earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Communication Disorders from Brigham Young University, where she completed a master's thesis focused on relationship-centered communication partner training (RC-CPT). Kathryn-Anne continues to consult on ongoing RC-CPT work and is passionate about the role of speech-language pathologists in counseling and delivering person-centered, relationship-based care.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Pertab received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Pertab is a non-paid consultant for the RC-CPT project at Brigham Young University and a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Jo Puntil, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, is a highly respected leader in the field of speech-language pathology, particularly in swallowing disorders. As an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Fellow and Past Chair of the Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC), she has made significant contributions to the profession. Her extensive background includes national and international lectures, and she has a strong presence on platforms like MedBridge, where she offers several courses. With over 35 years of experience, Jo has been instrumental in developing interdisciplinary rehabilitation programs in southern California and Utah, focusing on critical and acute care, expanding on Communication, Cognition and Swallowing Evaluations and Treatment. Jo's numerous honors and publications reflect her dedication to advancing knowledge and practice in acute care, making her a valuable resource for both clinicians and researchers in the field.

Financial Disclosures: Jo Puntil receives a salary from St. George Regional Medical Center and royalties from MedBridge Inc. She received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Jo Puntil is a member of ASHA and the Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association (USHA).

Kristin Radi, MS, CCC-SLP is an experienced speech-language pathologist with seven years of clinical practice and currently works at the University of Utah Hospital. She has developed strong expertise in addressing swallowing and communication needs of critically ill patients, a population with unique and often complex challenges.

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

Financial Disclosures: Kristin Radi is a salaried employee at the University of Utah Hospital and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Kristin Radi is a certified member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Joelle Rasmussen, MS, CCC-SLP is a Clinical Professor at the University of Utah and a Speech-Language Pathologist at the Utah Health ALS Clinic. She has over two decades of experience working in schools, where she served on multiple UATT teams and contributed to the State UATT Leadership Committee. For the past five years, Joelle has combined her clinical expertise with academic leadership, mentoring future speech-language pathologists and advancing the use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). She is an active member of the Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association (USHA), where she has served as the State Education Advocate Leader (SEAL) and currently chairs the Scholarship Committee. In addition, she advises the University of Utah's chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA). Joelle has presented on AAC topics at numerous professional conferences, including USHA (2022), ASHA (2024), and ATIA (2026). Her work reflects a deep commitment to collaboration, advocacy, and improving communication access for individuals with complex communication needs.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Rasmussen receives a salary from the University of Utah and a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Rasmussen is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and ASHA Special Interest Group (SIG) 12. Ms. Rasmussen is a member of the Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association and volunteers on the scholarship committee.

Mark Rasmussen, AuD, CCC-A is an Assistant Professor (Clinical) in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. He works primarily in clinical education, working with audiology graduate students in direct patient care. Dr. Rasmussen's primary clinical area of interest is vestibular diagnostics and rehabilitation. He also works regularly with audiological diagnostics, hearing aids, and is introducing cochlear implant programming and tele-audiology into his practice. Dr. Rasmussen has a research background in pedagogy and teacher action research, using sociocultural theory, situated learning, and ecological perception to explore concept internalization in the teaching/learning environment. He enjoys reading, drinking coffee, and spending time with his two children and partner.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Rasmussen is a full-time salaried employee at the University of Utah Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Rasmussen is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Elena Rawlins is a senior undergraduate student in the BYU Communication Disorders Program. She is interested in working with bilingual Spanish-speaking populations, pediatric populations, and stroke recovery/aphasia patients. She plans to attend graduate school in the fall to further her education and ultimately serve these groups as a speech-language pathologist.

Financial Disclosures: Elena Rawlins is a part-time student research assistant at Brigham Young University and received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Morgan Robertson, PhD is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Utah State University. Her research focuses on phonetics, phonology, and atypical speech, including second language-accented and disordered speech. Working with Dr. Stephanie Borrie in the

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

Human Interaction Lab, her research examines the acoustic properties of atypical speech, listening effort, and clear speech production. She aims to identify factors influencing listening effort and clear speech across typical and atypical speaker populations, with particular emphasis on characterizing the acoustic correlates underlying these phenomena.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Roberston receives a salary from Utah State University. She received a conference fee discount for presenting.

Non-financial Disclosures: Dr. Roberston is a member of the Acoustical Society of America.

Lee Robinson, MS, CCC-SLP is an Associate Clinical Professor and Teaching Faculty in the Department of Communication Disorders at Brigham Young University. Professor. Robinson is currently serving as the Utah Speech-Language and Hearing Association President. Professor Robinson received the Benjamin Cluff award for excellence in teaching in 2014. Dr. Carol Westby and Professor Robinson have given presentations on Theory of Mind as a foundation for social communication.

Financial Disclosures: Professor Robinson is a full-time employee and receives a salary from Brigham Young University. She received a conference registration waiver for presenting and volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Professor Robinson is the 2025-2026 USHA President and will be the immediate past-president on the day the presentation is given. Ms. Robinson is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and is a member of the ASHA Program Planning Committee: Counseling, Trauma-Informed, and Contextualized Care.

Audrey Rowell is a senior undergraduate student in the Communication Disorders program at Brigham Young University. She plans to attend graduate school in the fall to pursue becoming a speech-language pathologist. In her work with the Dual Language and Learning Development Lab at BYU she has worked with Dr. Connie Summers to create and present dialogic reading strategies to parents of preschool-aged children.

Financial Disclosures: Audrey received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Ryan Sainsbury, MS, CCC-SLP is in the middle of his doctoral program at Utah State University. His research areas of emphasis include the development of asset-based approaches for the assessment and intervention of multilingual learners as well as the intervention of complex sentence structures in speaking and literacy. Before pursuing a PhD, he was a bilingual speech-language pathologist (SLP) in the school setting and loved it. He came back to school because the lack of evidence-based practices available to himself and his colleagues working with multilingual populations was discouraging. He believes we as SLPs deserve better support when working with this population and these students deserve better services from us.

Financial Disclosures: Ryan received a conference fee waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ryan is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

Mia Schriever, BA is a second-year Doctor of Audiology graduate student at the University of Utah. She has a strong interest in pediatric audiology. Mia works as a Graduate Assistant in Dr. Sarah Hargus Ferguson's Speech Acoustics and Perceptions Lab and is completing her capstone project in Dr. Skyler Jennings' Auditory Perceptions and Physiology Lab, both at the University of Utah. She is a 2025-2026 URLEND infant pediatric audiology trainee.

Financial Disclosures: Mia receives wages from the University of Utah and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Mia is a student member of the American Audiology Association (AAA). She volunteers in University of Utah's Chapter of the Student Academy of Audiology.

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

Kelly Spensko, MS, CCC-SLP has served as a speech-language pathologist in Utah's public schools for more than 40 years, working with students in preschool and elementary in articulation, fluency, language, and social communication. She is known for her professionalism, collaboration, and dedication to helping every child find their voice. In addition to her school work, she has mentored many new clinicians and served eight years on the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) Board, supporting high standards for the profession statewide. She is honored to share her mentoring experiences with the Utah Speech and Hearing community and grateful for a career that has been both meaningful and inspiring.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Spensko earns a salary from Canyons School District and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Spensko is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Julie A. Stewart, SLPD, CCC-SLP, has been a school-based speech-language pathologist in Utah for 31 years. In addition to managing a large caseload, she was a Collaborative Team Leader. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Utah State University and her clinical doctorate in speech pathology from Rocky Mountain University. She is currently a Clinical Educator at Brigham Young University. Her specialty areas include supervision and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, CF, and SLPs.

Financial Disclosures: At the time of this investigation, Julie Stewart received a salary from the school district. Ms. Stewart received a conference registration waiver for presenting and volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ms. Stewart is a member of the Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association (USHA) and serves as Vendor and Student Sponsor Chair. Julie is also a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Connie Summers, PhD, CCC-SLP is an Associate Professor at Brigham Young University. Her teaching and research focuses on language learning in multilingual populations and culturally responsive practices. She has over 25 years' experience as a speech-language pathologist.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Summers earns a salary from BYU and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Summers is a member of the member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association (USHA).

Edric Thorup, BS is a first-year graduate student in BYU's Master's in Communication Disorders program. He graduated with a bachelor's in communication disorders from Utah State University in 2024 and has been involved in working with children, families, and adults for a total of four years. He enjoys spending time with his lovely wife and two beautiful daughters. Edric seeks opportunities to serve others, especially the underserved, with compassion using skills acquired over the course of his educational and professional experiences. Some of these skills include:

- Multi-disciplinary Team Participation (Speech Therapy, ABA Therapy, IEP teams)
- Proficient in speaking, reading, and writing English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Guarani
- Experience with Hi-tech AAC, Apraxia of Speech, Fluency Disorders
- Background in de-escalation and sensory regulation techniques
- One-on-one and group therapy planning & implementation

Financial Disclosures: Edric receives an hourly wage working for the BYU Stroke Outreach program and received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

Katie Tonkovich, AuD has more than 24 years of experience as a pediatric audiologist. She obtained her Master's Degree in Audiology from the University of Utah in 2001. Her first job was at the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind, where she worked for 10 years, until she joined Primary Children's Cochlear Implant Program in 2011. In 2014, Katie obtained her Doctorate of Audiology through A.T. Still University's Health Sciences Program and later completed her board certification in pediatric audiology (PASC) through the American Board of Audiology. Additionally, Katie has previously co-taught courses as an adjunct professor at the University of Utah and recently received specialized training through the Thomas Balkany Institute of Cochlear Implant Training (ICIT) Program. Katie's areas of interest include Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder (ANSO) and cochlear implants in children. When she is not doing audiology, she is a certified BollyX dance fitness instructor and enjoys camping and traveling with her family.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Tonkovich is employed by Intermountain Health and received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Kelly Trythall, PA-C is originally from the Midwest and previously was employed in neurotology at the University of Cincinnati after graduating as a physician assistant (PA) in 2009 from Midwestern University. She moved to Utah in 2014 where she practices as a PA in general otolaryngology in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Utah. Kelly enjoys living in Utah and all the outdoors it has to offer.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Trythall received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Teresa Ukrainetz, Ph.D., ASHA Fellow, is Professor, Assistant Department Head and SLP Program Director in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Utah State University. Dr. Ukrainetz's research and scholarship pertain to the intersection between skill and context in school-age language intervention. She seeks effective, practical interventions that tap the distinctive expertise of educational speech-language pathologists. Over decades, Dr. Ukrainetz has investigated standardized testing, dynamic assessment, SLP practices in schools, and interventions for phonemic awareness, narrative, and expository discourse. She has two books on school-age language intervention. Dr. Ukrainetz's current research investigates how to help older students with language and learning difficulties gain control of the words and ideas of expository discourse and informational texts.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. Ukrainetz receives a salary from Utah State University and book royalties from Pro-Ed. She received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. Ukrainetz is a member of the member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Brenna Weaver is a senior undergraduate student studying Communication Disorders at Brigham Young University. She is presenting research conducted on the prosodic features of individuals with autism. Her research interests focus on prosody within neurodivergence and the impact it carries within social interaction. Upon graduation, Brenna plans to attend graduate school to pursue a career as a speech-language pathologist. She hopes to use her research background to foster respect and belonging for neurodivergent individuals in her field.

Financial Disclosures: Brenna received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

John J (JJ) Whicker, AuD, PhD, CCC-A is a pediatric audiologist, clinical researcher, and assistant professor (clinical) in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at The University of Utah. As a clinician, JJ works with children who have hearing differences and supports all communication modalities. Dr. Whicker also directs the Multidisciplinary Lab for Pediatric Hearing and

Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference 2026

Development (MLPhD). As a researcher, JJ is interested in understanding the unique challenges posed to parents of children who are Deaf or Hard-of-hearing (DHH) with other disabilities, and how those challenges shift parents' priority for their children's hearing-related needs. He is also interested in understanding the challenges faced by adolescents who are DHH as they prepare to transition to post-secondary opportunities.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. JJ Whicker received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Dr. JJ Whicker is a member of the member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Karl White, PhD is the Emma Eccles Jones Endowed Chair in Early Childhood Education, a Professor in the Department of Psychology, and the founding Director of the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management at Utah State University. Dr. White's work focuses on developing more effective hearing identification and intervention programs for infants and young children through research, improving public health information systems, training and technical assistance, and information dissemination. His accomplishments have been recognized with awards from many organizations, including the Deafness Research Foundation, the American Association for Speech Language and Hearing, the Swedish Society of Medicine, the American Cochlear Implant Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Callier Prize in Communication Disorders. He has also served on many national and international advisory groups for organizations such as the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the World Health Organization, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, the American College of Medical Genetics, the Coalition for Global Hearing Health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Financial Disclosures: Dr. White's research has been funded by the NIH, HHS, and international funding bodies. NCHAM is supported by funds from the Utah State Legislature as well as various private, state, and federal entities. Dr. White also received a conference registration waiver for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: He has served on many national and international advisory groups for organizations such as the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the World Health Organization, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, the American College of Medical Genetics, the Coalition for Global Hearing Health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Hannah Winslow, BS is a first year Master's student in the graduate speech-language pathology program at the University of Utah. She has volunteered with the University of Utah's Voice Disorders Center and Parkinson's Foundation. Hannah received her Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Utah in 2024.

Financial Disclosures: Hannah received a conference registration waiver for volunteering.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None

Laura Wise is a senior undergraduate student at Brigham Young University majoring in Communication Disorders with a minor in Gerontology. She has hands-on research experience in speech prosody, autism, and aphasia, and is actively engaged in a community-based service team providing rural speech-language outreach to individuals with communication disorders.

Financial Disclosures: Laura received a conference registration discount for presenting.

Non-Financial Disclosures: None