



Chicago North Shore Chapter

Our mission is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

Chicago North Shore Chapter Newsletter



Dear Readers:

We are pleased to invite all members of the former HLAA ICIC Chapter to join us at the Chicago North Shore Chapter meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month.

For information about our group and its activities, please refer to the Chapter website at

www.hearinglosschicagonorthshore.com

2020 - 2021 Chapter Sponsors

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We are very grateful to these Sponsors for their generosity and support of the HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter. **NOTE:** if your name or business is not listed correctly, please let us know.

Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3871624 and



Amazon will donate to the Hearing Loss Association of America Chicago North Shore Chapter.

HLAA NEWS

The HLAA has been busy reaching out to various Federal agencies as described below.

Results of the May 25 HLAA/FDA Patient-Focused Drug Development Meeting

The Case for Better Hearing: Recently our Chapter prepared and filed with HLAA the following document: “Submission from the Chicago North Shore Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, (“Our Submission”). You may access the document by following this link: <https://shared-assets.adobe.com/link/f669b8de-085f-4c16-7b1a-a68322b9d40c>. Our Submission was prepared for inclusion in the “Voice of the Patient” report, which will be assembled by HLAA for the FDA in connection with the Patient-Focused Drug Development (PFDD) Meeting for the Food and Drug (FDA) held on May 25, 2021. You may view a recording of the May 25 meeting by following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vF1UEhv3HdU>

Our Submission consists of Statements submitted by eight individuals: Dr. Linda Remensnyder, Doctor of Audiology (ret.); Ana Pinshower, Supervisor of Program Evaluation and Quality Assurance, North Shore Senior Center, Northfield, IL; and six members of our Chapter, namely, Jean Draths, Elizabeth Hupp, Marion Anders, Elizabeth Buino, Christine Rudolph and Sharon King.

We believe Our Submission contains an important message not only for the FDA but for society in general, namely, that hearing loss is a significant public health concern for which there is inadequate treatment. The current treatments for hearing loss consist primarily of hearing aids, cochlear implants (“CI’s) and a variety of assistive hearing devices.

These treatments, as demonstrated by the Statements in Our Submission, do not restore hearing, do not provide a cure for hearing loss, do not prevent further hearing loss and are inadequate for the most part in providing a reasonably engaged lifestyle for those with hearing loss, no matter how much money is spent on treatment. We believe that adequate treatment for hearing loss is more than important, it is essential.

We invite you to share Our Submission with others in order to raise more public awareness of the burden of hearing loss on society and the need to address it.

Sharon L King

HLAA Joins Consumers Commenting on FCC Rules

HLAA signed onto comments drafted in concert with TDI (Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and other Accessibility Advocacy Organizations and Research Organizations that were filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) June 7, 2021. Those comments were drafted in response to the FCC’s Public Notice to update the 21st Century Video and Communications Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA) regulations.

Our (HLAA) filed comments focused on several issues, including the accessibility and usability of video conferencing and other internet-based communication platforms, as well the need to update video programming accessibility rules. These Comments also covered the need to ensure that connectivity to wireless phones remain reliable, affordable and accessible for people with hearing loss. We also commented on standards for amplification measurement of amplified phones and access to wideband and ultra-wideband audio services over VoIP phone lines.

Convention Update



The HLAA 2021 Convention is going virtual! Join us June 24-26, 2021 for the world's premier event for people with hearing loss-safely from the comfort of your own home! This three-day event will be jam packed with the same robust educational workshops, innovative HLAA exhibitors, and unique networking opportunities you are used to having at HLAA Conventions.

Join us to learn the latest about hearing health, communication access and the technologies and strategies that help people with hearing loss live well. This three-day event includes a research symposium on Hearing Care for All, and robust workshops on advances in hearing aids, accessibility through mobile devices, hearing access in the workplace and more.

Register Today for best rates for HLAA Virtual Convention 2021!

- Early-bird registration will be \$35 through June 15
- Beginning June 16, registration will be \$45

New This Year

A state-of-the-art virtual exhibit hall that displays up to four exhibitor tiles per row for attendees to scroll and browse exhibitor and sponsor information. Each tile displays the company name, logo and a cover photo to entice attendees to click and follow to learn more about the organization.

2021 HLAA Research Symposium

Hearing Care for All: Innovations in Extending the Reach of Hearing Care
Saturday, June 26, 2021

Future HLAA Conventions

2022: Tampa, Florida
June 23-25, JW Marriott Tampa
2023: New Orleans, Louisiana
June 27-July 2, New Orleans Marriott

Please visit the HLAA website for the latest information on registration, schedules and event information. <https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention/>



For the fall season, the HLAA Walk4Hearing hopes to be back in-person and we will update you in the coming weeks.

Dates still to be announced:

Boston, MA
Buffalo, New York
Cary, North Carolina
Chicago, Illinois
Houston, Texas
Louisville, Kentucky
Mesa, Arizona
New York City, New York
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
San Diego, California
Washington, DC
West Windsor, New Jersey

Please check our website for the latest information.
<https://www.hearingloss.org/programs-events/walk4hearing/>

If you previously participated in a fall Walk, you will receive an announcement by email explaining how the fall season will be organized.

The HLAA Walk4Hearing Committee reminds us that many HLAA Chapters and State Organizations raise funds through the Walk4Hearing to support outreach programs in their communities. Alliances Walking for 10 or more years raising funds for their communities includes the Chicago Walk4Hearing:

- Ann & Robert Lurie Children's Hospital
- Child's Voice
- Guide By Your Side/Illinois Hands & Voices



Chapter News

The Chapter will resume weekly in-person support groups and monthly meetings following the North Shore Senior Center reopening of on-site activities. In the meantime, please note our upcoming on-line meetings:

Learn about the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC).

You are invited to join us on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. to noon for an HLAA Chicago North Shore Chapter meeting. Jo Gayle will provide

live captioning. We will also have an ASL interpreter. The Zoom Registration Link is below.

We are pleased to present our speaker, Benro Ogunyipe, M.P.A., Executive Director of the IDHHC, who will discuss its work and goals, and how it helps you.

Click the link below or copy and paste the link into your browser.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZwrcuqvqTMjG9z6QZa6hlExZJk5CoXr48RM>

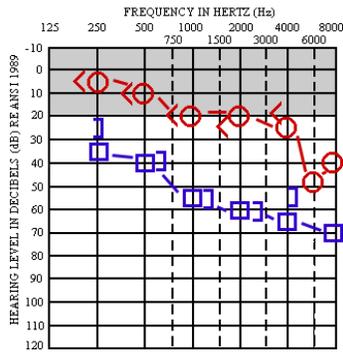
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Looking forward to seeing you Monday.

Elaine

Upcoming Meeting - July 12

Ordinarily, at the July meeting we hear from attendees of the usual June convention. Since this year's convention will be virtual and open to those who register, anyone who does "attend" is invited to share their experience and/or opinions on the 2021 Convention.

Election of Chapter officers for the following year will also be held at this session.



one of the wonderful things about the HRP—the impact spreads throughout the field and beyond.

Future Aims for Hearing Restoration

In the next few years, I hope we will have a molecular language for explaining the phenomenon of regeneration, both when it succeeds and when it fails. HRP consortium members, along with many others in the field, have been collecting and analyzing data from a wide range of systems where

hair cells do or do not regenerate. We will learn a lot just by analyzing these data to find patterns within and across systems.

However, our collective experience and intuition as a field will play a huge role in helping us to make sense of what the computers tell us. This is why we want the data and resources to be readily accessible to anyone. It will take many groups working in parallel to find ways to convert supporting cells into hair cells, to hit the perfect balance of proliferation and differentiation, and to functionally integrate these new cells into the cochlea. The good news is we know it is possible because hair cells regenerate naturally in fish and chicks and even in newborn mice. By studying these systems, we can design a blueprint for what needs to happen and then use our rich understanding of the cells and molecules of the mammalian cochlea to make it happen.

If you would care to learn more on our research and funding needs, please visit us at:

<https://hearinghealthfoundation.org/regrow>

Hearing Health Foundation would like us to know:

Hearing Health Foundation (HHF) scientists study sensory cells in various species to better understand how they are damaged and how they can be regenerated to restore human hearing.

Lisa Goodrich, Ph.D., the scientific director of HHF's Hearing Restoration Project who assumed

the role in January 2021, is central to this critical work.

The Goodrich Lab at Harvard Medical School

Our lab studies how neural circuits acquire their specialized, functional properties, largely in the auditory system. In particular, we are interested in the cellular and molecular mechanisms that create networks of neurons that reliably encode complex sound stimuli, from the initial detection in the cochlea to the first stage of processing in the auditory brainstem. For instance, we showed that there are multiple molecularly distinct subtypes of spiral ganglion neurons and that this diversification depends on signaling from the hair cell.

Although my lab does not study hair cell regeneration, my research benefits from the fantastic tools and resources that the HRP is producing. For example, the gEAR platform created through the HRP makes it possible for anyone to screen hundreds of published datasets, and not just those describing gene expression in the ear. This is

Editor's Note:

We frequently publish website links. If you have a problem with a link, please let us know and we will attempt to provide a printed copy of the reference.

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