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EHDI E-MAIL EXPRESS

The monthly newsletter of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

This is an e-mail communication from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) "Improving the Effectiveness of Newborn Hearing Screening, Diagnosis and Intervention through the Medical Home" project funded through cooperative agreements with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). It is designed to provide AAP Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Chapter Champions with resources and current clinical and other information. The EHDI E-Mail Express is sent on a monthly basis. Please feel free to share the EHDI E-Mail Express with colleagues working on or interested in childhood hearing detection and intervention issues. Distribution information appears on the last page.

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FROM YOUR CHAIRPERSON

I'm planning to attend a celebration.

It's a holiday celebration. No, not that holiday. I'm planning to attend a birthday celebration. On January 26, I have been invited to attend the birthday party that will be honoring audiologist (and matriarch) Dr. Marion Downs on the occasion of her 100th birthday! It will be held to benefit the hearing center that now bears her name, the Marion Downs Hearing Center at the University of Colorado Hospital campus in Denver.

It's a celebration!

And this week, in addition to Marion's storied career, I celebrate Dr. Louis Cooper, an insightful leader of the American Academy of Pediatrics, whose work fifty years ago during the era of rubella epidemics in New York City highlighted the need for early recognition and early intervention for children who were born deaf or hard of hearing. Lou helped show us the way back then, and he is still an active voice for our AAP EHDI Task Force in giving us focus, and direction, and leverage, and encouragement.

Marion Downs is old enough to be Lou Cooper's mother. And Lou Cooper is old enough to be my father.

That brings the family tree to me. But not just to me. To so many of my contemporaries in health care and audiology and speech therapy and early intervention. Contemporaries who sit on the Joint Committee for Infant Hearing (JCIH) with me. Contemporaries who sit on the AAP EHDI Task Force with me. Contemporaries who attend the national EHDI meetings with me each year, where we carve out time to reflect on our progress, and reflect on the work that stretches out ahead of us still.

And, if you are reading this column, there is about a 50/50 chance that I am old enough to be your father! So many of you now represent a next-generation wave of influence who have joined this powerful march on behalf of newborns who are deaf or hard of hearing, and on behalf of their families.

And even though I may be old enough to be the father of at least some of the readers of this column... those readers are themselves old enough to now have a child or two of their own. A child born into a health care system that now screens the hearing of every newborn baby. A child who need not wait until age 2 (or even age 3...) to have congenital hearing loss recognized, and to have early intervention and early language acquisition newly at their fingertips.

That makes five generations touching and reaching for the same ideals. Marion Downs pointing the way! Lou Cooper carrying the torch! A hundred contemporaries of mine rolling up their sleeves! A thousand followers joining in to help carry the load! And 4 million infants born each year in the United States (and countless more around the globe...), now destined to have their hearing assessed in the first few days of life. That's not a pyramid scheme... that's a pyramid monument!

I will be at Marion's birthday party on January 26. And I'm told that Marion will be there as well, dressed in a gown of purple sequins, purple high-heeled shoes, and a purple boa. And she will be ready to toast all of us, instead of toasting herself.

I sent a message to Marion this week, asking if I might have the honor of one dance on the night of January 26. And I received her kind reply... "Take a number!" Yes, won't we all?

My very best to all of you this holiday season. Celebrate!

~AI

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date	Location	Details
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) 2014 Conference	January 25—28, 2014	Washington, DC	Web site

DECODING NEURAL RESPONSES TO TEMPORAL CUES FOR SOUND LOCALIZATION



A study recently published by Massachusetts Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School in collaboration with researchers at Ecole Normale Supérieure, France challenges the two dominant theories of how human beings localize sounds, explains why neuronal responses to sounds are so diverse, and shows how sound can be localized, even in the absence of one half of the brain.

In order to better understand the world and be able to listen in noisy environments, it is important to localize the source of sound. This ability to localize sound depends on minute differences in the sounds that arrive at each ear, including differences in the time of arrival, also called interaural time differences. Scientists have long understood interaural time differences, however, the way the brain processes this information to determine where the sound originated has been the source of much discussion and ongoing debate.

With advances in laboratory settings there has been some progress in understanding this important human function, but those settings do not match the real world that people live in where a wide range of sounds with background noise and reflections occur simultaneously. Researchers in this study looked more carefully at the two prevailing theories about how sound is localized: 1) the peak coding theory which says that only the most strongly responding brain cells are needed and 2) the hemispheric coding theory which says that only the average response of the cells in the two hemispheres of the brain are needed. They found that neither is entirely correct because the evidence that has been presented to prove these theories has been based on “unnatural/idealized” settings and sounds. If more realistic, natural sounds are examined, both of these theories fall short of explaining the data.

This new research shows that “to do well with realistic sounds, one needs to use the whole pattern of neural responses—not just those that are responding strongly or average response.” The final key findings of this study were: first, it has long been known that responses of different auditory neurons are very diverse, but this diversity was not used in the hemispheric coding theory; and second, previous theories are inconsistent with the well-documented fact that people are still able to localize sounds if they lose half their brain, in other words if one loses the left half of the brain, he/she can still localize sounds coming from the right).

The study and its findings are published in the online journal *eLife*: <http://elifesciences.org/content/2/e01312>.

SAVE THE DATE! AAP EHD LTF/D RESOURCES FOR MEDICAL HOME WEBINAR



Please mark your calendars for Friday, January 17, 2014 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm CT to participate in Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI): AAP Tools for Medical Home Providers to Address Loss to Follow-Up/Documentation (LTF/D) webinar.

An infant’s primary care medical home provider plays an important role early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) – particularly in terms of ensuring timely follow-up and appropriate documentation of follow-up. Without active assistance of the medical home, the infant may be considered “lost” in the EHDI system. To support the efforts of medical home providers, a subcommittee of the national AAP EHDI Task Force, the EHDI LTF/D Workgroup, has developed five tools/resources for medical home providers to improve care around early hearing detection and intervention, including reducing loss to follow-up/documentation. These include a glossary of EHDI terms; newborn hearing screening checklist; office rescreening guidelines; algorithm for clinical decision support; and a set of considerations for medical homes to employ best practices regarding newborn hearing screening.

After participating in this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Understand the role of the medical home in reducing loss to follow-up/documentation
- Identify specific ways to reduce loss to follow-up/documentation within their practice
- Become familiar with how to effectively utilize the above mentioned resources in practice

This webinar will be presented by Jack Levine, MD, FAAP and Rachel St John, MD, FAAP. Both presenters are EHDI chapter champions, national EHDI Task Force members, and served on the AAP EHDI LTF/D Workgroup.

Register today at <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/293858862> to reserve your seat!

AUDITORY PRACTICES FOR STUDENTS USING SIGN AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE

Auditory practices is a series of training modules focused on creating comprehensive educational and therapeutic programs for students who are deaf or hard of hearing who use sign and spoken language. This learning opportunity offers a variety of successive topics such as listening technology, comprehensive assessment, current research, auditory skills development across environments, and principles for creating strong teams. Case studies from children ages birth through school-age will be presented. A multi-disciplinary team at Boys Town National Research Hospital will demonstrate tools and resources from the Auditory Consultant Resource Network's Handbook you can instantly implement in your teaching or practice.

Topics in this series include:

- How Student Needs Have Changed and a Strengths-Based Approach to Communication Methods
- Comprehensive Assessment and Individualized Intervention Plans
- Optimizing Auditory Access and Individualizing Auditory Development
- Individualizing Goals Across Environments
- Principles and Practices for Successful Collaboration



To learn more about the training modules and review costs, visit

<http://www.boystownhospital.org/hearingservices/EducationalOutreach/Pages/AuditoryPracticesforStudents.aspx>.

SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

AG Bell is currently accepting applications for its Leadership Opportunities for Teens (LOFT) program to be held in Orlando, Florida in the summer of 2014. LOFT is for high school students with bilateral hearing loss who use listening and spoken language. The four-day program is designed for participants to develop skills in individual leadership, teamwork, understanding group dynamics, communication, public speaking, and self-advocacy. Scholarships are available for families with financial constraints. The application deadline is February 26, 2014. Visit the AG Bell website to learn more and to download an application:

<http://www.listeningandspokenlanguage.org/LOFT/>.



INTEGRATING GENETICS INTO YOUR PRACTICE WEBINAR SERIES



Tune in on Wednesday, January 15 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm CT for a webinar on genetic counseling presented by Emily Edelman, MS, CGC to learn strategies for incorporating genetic counseling into your practice, including risk assessment, evaluation, and management of patients during primary care visits. After participating, you will be able to:

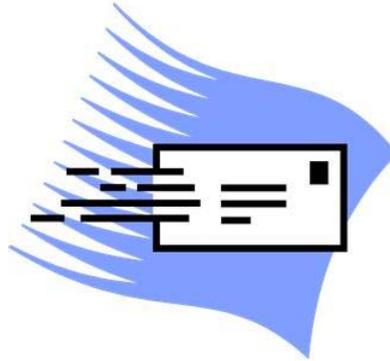
- Recognize key competencies and skills in practice of genetic counseling
- Apply genetic counseling skills to the risk assessment, evaluation, and management of patients in the primary care setting
- Explore opportunities for collaboration with genetic counselors for improved patient care

Registration is now open, reserve your spot today! This webinar will be archived on GeneticsinPrimaryCare.org one week after the live event. Continuing medical education (CME) credits are not available for this webinar.

Words of Inspiration ...

The task of leadership is not to put greatness into people, but to elicit it, for greatness is already there.

~ John Buchan



Distribution Information:

The AAP EHDI Program implementation staff send this e-mail update to the Academy's EHDI Chapter Champions, other interested AAP members, staff and state EHDI coordinators. For additional information on hearing screening and to access previous editions of the EHDI E-mail Express, click on the following link <http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/PEHDIC/Pages/Early-Hearing-Detection-and-Intervention.aspx>. Previous e-mail updates are available upon request from Faiza Khan, fkhan@aap.org or (847) 434-4924. If you would like to unsubscribe to the update, please notify staff by responding to this e-mail.