

Speaker Biographies



Speech Language Pathology



Katy Cabbage, PhD CCC-SLP

Katy Cabbage, PhD, CCC-SLP is an Assistant Professor in the Speech and Hearing Sciences Department at Washington State University known for her work connecting early speech and language development with later literacy outcomes. With experience in research, teaching, and school-based practice, she focuses on improving the identification and treatment of literacy challenges in children with speech and language impairments. Dr. Cabbage will discuss evidence-based, school-based interventions for children with developmental language disorder and practical strategies for balancing best practices with the realities of school settings.



Katelyn Fornshell, MS, CCC-SLP

Katelyn Fornshell, MS, CCC-SLP is a Clinical Educator at Minot State University known for her work supporting children with complex communication and feeding needs. With eight years of clinical experience in public schools and pediatric private practice, she has specialized training in AAC and pediatric feeding and swallowing interventions. Katelyn will discuss assessment and treatment strategies to support infants and young children with feeding difficulties and how collaborative care can support successful mealtimes.



Carrie Axt, EdD, CCC-SLP

Carrie Axt, EdD, CCC-SLP is a speech-language pathologist and faculty member at the University of Mary known for her commitment to person-centered care and ethical clinical practice. With experience across settings including early intervention, outpatient care, and skilled nursing, she focuses on supporting individuals with neurogenic cognitive-communication and swallowing disorders. Dr. Axt will discuss practical strategies for ethical decision-making in everyday practice and how clinicians can advocate for meaningful, person-centered care.

Audiology



Sarah Matthews, Au.D

Sarah Matthews, Au.D. is a Clinical Training and Business Development Manager at Neuromod known for her expertise in tinnitus management and hearing technology. With more than 20 years of experience across private practice, ENT collaboration, and hearing device development, she specializes in tinnitus treatment approaches including Tinnitus Retraining Therapy and sound therapy. Dr. Matthews will discuss the science, evidence, and clinical use of the Lenire device for tinnitus management.



Amanda Leddige, Au.D

Amanda Leddige, Au.D. is the founder of Alliance Center for Hearing in Bismarck and is known for her work in comprehensive hearing healthcare and tinnitus management. With over a decade of clinical experience, she specializes in hearing evaluations, tinnitus treatment, cochlear implants, and hearing rehabilitation. Dr. Leddige will discuss how Lenire is used in clinical practice and how clinicians can support patients experiencing tinnitus.

Speaker Biographies



Audiology (cont.)



Jessica McLindsay, Au.D

Jessica McLindsay, Au.D. is an audiologist and Adjunct Professor at the University of Mary known for her work in hearing healthcare, tinnitus treatment, and audiology education. With experience in both private practice and ENT settings, she works with children and adults across a range of hearing needs. Dr. McLindsay will discuss the clinical application of Lenire and strategies for supporting patients with tinnitus in everyday practice.



Joseph F. Hribar, Jr., Au.D

Joseph F. Hribar, Jr., Au.D. is a Research Audiologist with the Global Audiology team at GN Hearing known for his work in hearing aid verification and modern hearing technology. His work focuses on testing and validating hearing instruments, accessories, and connected hearing solutions to improve patient outcomes. Dr. Hribar will discuss when, why, and how to verify advanced hearing aid processing strategies in clinical practice.



Molly Gerards, Au.D

Molly Gerards, Au.D. is a Clinical Trainer with Phonak based in Minneapolis known for her work supporting clinicians through education and technology training. With clinical experience across pediatric and adult audiology, she specializes in hearing aid fitting and assistive listening technology. Dr. Gerards will discuss advanced signal processing strategies and how they can support patients in complex listening environments.



Jessica James, Au.D., CCC-A

Jessica James, Au.D., CCC-A is an Education and Training Specialist for Oticon known for her work training hearing care professionals on hearing technology and clinical applications. Prior to her current role, she worked in a high-volume ENT practice providing diagnostics and hearing aid care for patients across the lifespan. Dr. James will discuss Oticon's BrainHearing™ technology and how modern signal processing helps patients navigate challenging listening environments.



Navid Taghvaei, MA, Au.D., ABAC, CCC-A

Navid Taghvaei, MA, Au.D., ABAC, CCC-A is a Lead Clinical Education Specialist known for his expertise in clinician training, hearing technology, and patient-centered hearing care. With extensive experience in hearing aid and cochlear implant programming and rehabilitation, he has worked in multidisciplinary clinics in the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Taghvaei will discuss the everyday experience of hearing loss in older adults and strategies clinicians can use to support communication, engagement, and well-being.