

Meaningful Outcome Measures in Adult Hearing Health Care

Webinar Panelist Biosketches

Patricia Gaffney, AuD, MPH is a professor at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in Ft Lauderdale, FL. She earned her bachelor's degree from The George Washington University in Washington, DC, her Doctor of Audiology (AuD) from the University of Pittsburgh and her MPH from Nova Southeastern University. She joined the audiology department at NSU in 2007. Her specialty is vestibular diagnostics and treatment. At NSU she teaches the introductory vestibular class, vestibular lab, the advanced vestibular class, and a vestibular specialty course designed for advanced students who wish to specialize in vestibular diagnostics and treatment. She also teaches geriatric audiology, amplification I and II and accompanying labs. In addition to teaching, she sees patients in the NSU Audiology clinic with students seeing a mixture of vestibular and hearing aid patients. She has served as the director for the NSU interprofessional fall prevention clinic. Dr Gaffney has presented at various national and state meetings on various topics including vestibular, amplification, and professional issues. Dr Gaffney also maintains memberships in several organizations, volunteers for various committees, and has previously served on the American Academy of Audiology Board of Directors and American Academy of Audiology Foundation Board of Trustees, American Balance Society Board of Directors, and as president of the Audiology Practice Standards Organization. She is currently president of the American Academy of Audiology.

Sierra Sharpe, MBA, PMP is the Director of Professional Development at the International Hearing Society, a role she's held for 3.5 years. In this role, she oversees the development and maintenance of education and examinations for the entire professional lifecycle of hearing aid specialists. With nearly seven years of experience at the International Hearing Society, Sharpe is well-versed in clinical matters related to hearing healthcare. She works with all the education committees at IHS to advance the field of hearing healthcare for IHS and the members it serves. Sharpe holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and an MBA with a nonprofit management focus from Eastern Michigan University. She earned the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification in October 2023.

Donna Smiley, Ph.D., CCC-A is the Chief Staff Officer for Audiology at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Prior to coming to ASHA, she was the coordinator for the Educational Audiology/Speech Pathology Resources for Schools (EARS) Program at Arkansas Children's Hospital. Dr. Smiley has practiced audiology for 30 years, co-authored a textbook about school-based audiology practice (Title: School-Based Audiology; Plural Publishing) and was named a Fellow of ASHA in 2018. She received her Ph.D. in Hearing Science from the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D. is the Audiologist and President of Designer Audiology. She completed her fourth-year externship at the Mayo Clinic Arizona and earned her Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) degree from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. After graduation, Dr. Spoor joined the hearing aid and cochlear implant teams at Mayo Clinic Arizona before returning to Maryland. She opened her own business in 2014 with an unbundled pricing structure to demonstrate the value of the audiologist. Alicia is a Past President of the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (ADA) and current Advocacy Chair. She often visits the United States Congress to lobby for better access to audiologic and vestibular healthcare. She was the first recipient of ADA's Craig W. Johnson Advocacy award. At the state level, Dr. Spoor is the Legislative Chair for the Maryland Academy of Audiology (MAA), assuming the position after the passing of Dr. Johnson (aforementioned) in 2013. The MAA Legislative team works on both legislative and administrative issues related to hearing and balance healthcare in Maryland, most recently with the passage of HB 464/SB795. Alicia was named a 2021 Outstanding Alumni from the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree. When she is not doing something audiology-related, Alicia enjoys traveling both domestically and internationally, playing