



# TEXAS ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY



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**Join us for our annual  
Conference  
October 28-30, 2021**

**Houston Marriot South at  
Hobby Airport**

*9100 Gulf Freeway  
Houston, Texas 77017*

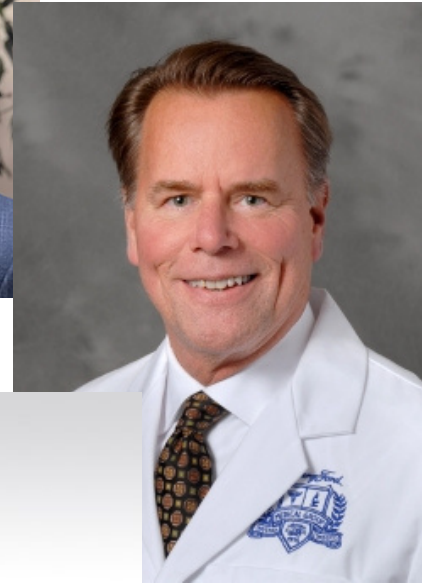
Room rates start at \$129

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# 2021: LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! SPOTLIGHT ON AUDIOLOGY!

October 28-30, 2021

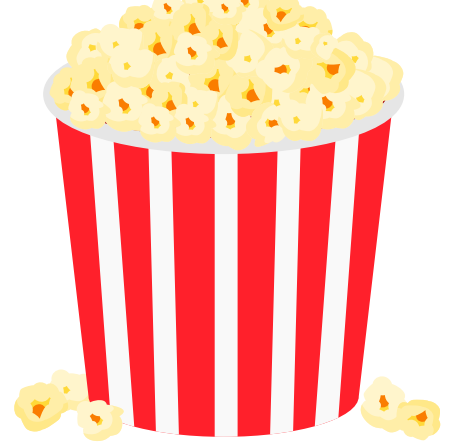
Houston Marriot South at  
Hobby Airport



- New This Year: 3 Dedicated Rooms of Speakers to Incorporate ALL of Audiology!
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. James Martin
- Two Days of AMAZING CONTENT in 3 areas from headliner acts:
  - **Practice Management** starring Dr. Amit Gosalia with Dr. James Martin and Dr. Shawna Jackson in supporting roles
  - **Diagnostic/Clinical Audiology** starring Dr. Brad Stach with Dr. Joshua Hibbert in a supporting role, as well as Clinical Grand Rounds
  - **Pediatric/Educational Audiology** starring Dr. Carol Flexer with Dr. Carmen Landry in a supporting role
- TWO Hours of Ethics required for Texas License Renewal
- Scott Haug Foundation Annual Golf Tournament on Thursday, October 28 9am-12pm
- Pre-Conference Courses from Annual Sponsors: Thursday, October 28, 1pm-4:30pm
- Welcome Reception honoring Lifetime Members/Past Presidents with Sponsors on Thursday, October 28, 5pm-7pm
- TAA/Scott Haug Foundation Annual dinner/dance/costume contest Friday, October 29! Dress as your favorite movie star or movie character and glide down the red carpet to the paparazzi
- Annual Reception with Silent Auction on Friday, October 29 immediately following last session

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SHAWNA JACKSON, AU.D.




***Congrats to all the newest licensed members of Texas Audiology and the AuD class of 2021!***

As a Texas Audiologist, you join an accomplished group of colleagues who have contributed to the growth and propelled clinical excellence for decades before you. I offer a few words of rules and guidance to not only you, but others who commonly have these questions...

1. Texas licensure incorporates the ability to diagnostically evaluate and rehabilitate the auditory system including the dispensing of hearing aids. There is no need for a separate license to dispense hearing aids in Texas. There are specific rules and regulations of what must be included in fitting devices including patient contract requirements, verification, and testing needs. Make sure you read and understand these rules. Don't just rely on employers to ensure you are doing what is correct for your licensure.
2. Texas has a written law for use of the term "Dr". "In using the title 'doctor' as a trade or professional asset or on any manner of professional identification, including a sign, pamphlet, stationery, or letterhead, or as a part of a signature, a person other than a person described by Section 104.003 shall designate the authority under which the title is used or the college or honorary degree that gives rise to the use of the title." (§104.004 of the Texas Occupations Code). This means, you should always specify that you are a doctor of audiology on professional writing or communication with patients.
3. Texas laws for hearing aids govern the requirements to fit and dispense hearing aids. The FDA regulates the "sale" of the hearing aid.
4. As you start your careers in Texas, make sure to include low-cost, annual renewal to the Texas Academy of Audiology in your budgeting, or if you are like me and easily forget small expenses, consider a lifetime membership so you don't have to worry about remembering membership dues yearly. Membership runs from January-January. Don't wait to renew just for conference as this adds the late fee and isn't it better to support your profession year-round?!?
5. Get involved! Make sure your membership or file stays up to date on TAA website so you can stay in touch with happenings, but remember, TAA can only support you with financial and professional support of our members. Getting involved increases your ability to network as well as your ability to practice!

*I wish you well as you venture into employment in clinics, schools, hospitals, industry, research, and more throughout our great state of Texas!*





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**TAA Board of Directors  
Call for Nominations**  
We will have the following openings for terms beginning January 1, 2022:

**3 Year Term**

**President-Elect**

**2 Year Term**

**Secretary - Treasurer**

**Member-at-Large VP of Legislative Issues**

**Member-at-Large VP of Public Relations**

If interested, please contact **Adriana Miciak**, [a.miciak@oticon.com](mailto:a.miciak@oticon.com), by May 31st. Slate of Nominees will be announced on the TAA website July 1st.



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FOUNDATION

# THE SCOOP



What excitement! Registration for the 2021 Texas Academy of Audiology Conference is open AND. . .it will be a live, in-person conference!!! We are all ready for that! So, while you are registering for the conference, take a few minutes to complete two equally important tasks:

1. **REGISTER** for the Annual TAA/SHF Golf Tournament. This yearly outing spells fun, friendship, networking, and support in the sunshine that is the typical October day in Texas. It's your opportunity to create memories by making new friendships, renewing old ones and having loads of fun!

In addition, you will be supporting The Scott Haug Foundation's mission to acknowledge the best audiology student from each of the five Texas Universities with doctoral programs in Audiology. With monies raised through this event we will honor the Outstanding Audiology Student of 2021 through the Dr. Robert J. Dunlop Memorial Student Scholar Fund; providing registration, room and board for the 2021 TAA Conference.

To register, please mail your non-refundable check (\$65/person) by October 4th to:

The Scott Haug Foundation  
1671 Stallion Springs Drive  
Fischer, TX. 78623

The fun will begin at 9am on Thursday, October 28/2021, @Clear Creek Golf Club  
(3902 Fellows Road, Houston, TX 77047) [clearcreekgolfclub.com](http://clearcreekgolfclub.com)

2. **PLAN** for the fun-filled, yearly tradition of our Friday Night Dinner & Dance. This year's conference theme "Spotlight on Audiology," has the makings of an evening with the spotlight on . . . YOU! That is, if you arrive in a costume that captures all the excitement and fun of the evening. Put yourself in the spotlight when you come attired to impress your colleagues and depict a character or item that out-shines all others.

The possibilities are endless!!!! Think all those areas or events that put people or characters in the spotlight. From movies, Broadway shows, TV, music and awards you can draw on a wide variety of characters or things.

## ***Picture yourself----***

### **In the Movies:**

·as a recent movie character:

Cruella     Ironman     The Black Phantom     Wonder Woman

·or pick a classic:

Miss Scarlet & Rhett Butler     Dorothy, Toto, or the Tin Man from OZ

Star Wars' Yoda, Princess Leia, Darth Vader, or a Jedi

·or go animated:

Toy Story's Woody, Buzz Lightyear; Tangles' Rapunzel; Raya, Nemo, Scooby-Doo or

Tom or Jerry, Elsa,

Anna or Olaf.

### **On Broadway:**

·Alexander Hamilton. The Phantom, Elphaba from Wicked, SpongeBob, or Miss Dolly

### **On TV:**

·The Big Bang, Mork & Mindy, Friends, Jay Leno. . .

### **Awarded:**

·an Oscar, a Tony, a sealed envelope, or the ultimate achievement in Hollywood an EGOT--an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and a Tony. (There are 16 actors, producers, directors, and composers who have been awarded all four. One person, Robert Lopez, is a double EGOT winner.)

### **or be The Red Carpet!**

The sky's the limit; and that's where the spotlights will be!!! Wow your colleagues and friends as you step into that spotlight. . .and maybe even win a prize!!!

Friday night promises to be a fun-filled and glamorous evening with all kinds of stars, including you: in the spotlight and on the red carpet!!!

**Be seeing you there,**

**Jacque Patton**

**President, The Scott Haug Foundation**

## Support your TAA PAC!

Each year our TAA PAC is here to support the TAA Board in supporting its causes in the State Legislature. We have several bills we are sponsoring this legislative session and we need funds to support the legislators who are helping us. Please consider donating to the PAC to help us in our endeavors.

Donations can be sent to TAA PAC, c/o Kimberly DeBona, 4016 Tiffany Trail, College Station, TX 77845

We are now taking funds via VENMO. Send your donations to TAA-PAC with your Venmo account or with our QR code

Please remember, we can only take personal funds, not from business funds. As always, we thank you for your support!



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**Kimberly DeBona**  
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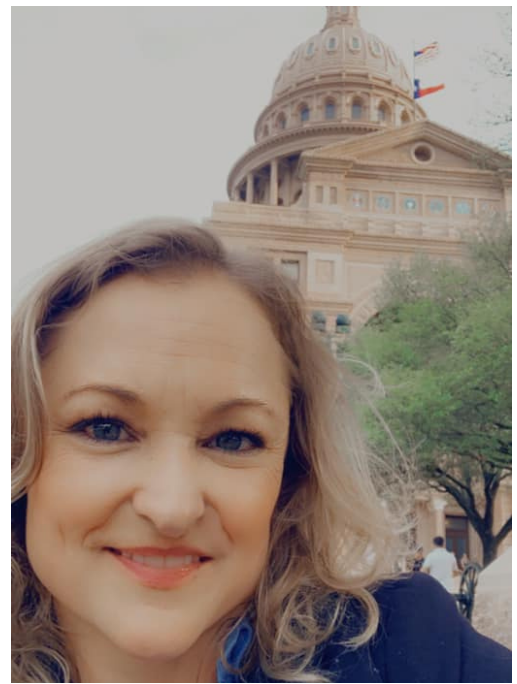
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# TAA NEWS FROM AUSTIN:

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**HALEY OWEN, Au.D., ABA, FAAA, CCC-A**  
**VP of Legislative Issues**

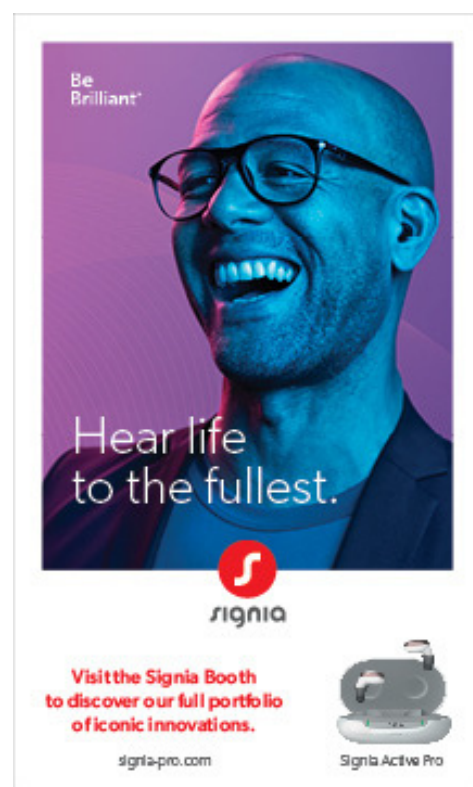


The Texas 87th Legislative Session has been an active legislative season and the members of the board of the Texas Academy of Audiology have been busy tracking, supporting, and participating in furthering many bills that were filed that could affect audiology professionals this year. Unfortunately, with the Texas Senate adjournment on May 31st, many of these bills have timed out. Here is an update on what we have been involved with over the past year. Three bills, HB4, SB 40, and HB 1560 are in their final stages of legislation and are expected to become law.

HB 4 a telehealth bill seeking to make permanent the temporary waivers issued during the pandemic to expand telemedicine, was filed by State Rep. Walter Thomas Price, IV, on 2/25/2021. These waivers proved beneficial to patients by providing for the use of technology in the delivery of timely and cost-effective healthcare. The utilization of telemedicine provides greater access to medical specialists statewide and this bill is intended to provide services under Medicaid and other public benefits programs, using telecommunications (telemedicine, telehealth, and technology-related health care services) or information technology and to allow for reimbursement for some of those services to Texas citizens and address the technology gaps that exist in more rural communities by incorporating audio-only services into the scope of the telehealth exceptions in the state. HB 4 follows the trend of recent legislation across the country by expanding the use of virtual health care services to address the underserved and more vulnerable Texas residents by providing for Medicaid reimbursement for certain services. The Bill also establishes minimum standards to ensure a managed care organization provides Medicaid recipients sufficient access to certain services and authorizes a federally qualified health center to be reimbursed for the originating site facility fee and/or the distant site practitioner fee for a covered telemedicine or telehealth service provided to a Medicaid recipient. This Bill passed the House on 04/15/21, passed the Senate on 05/24/2, and is awaiting governor's signature. So long as this bill is not vetoed in its final stage, we can expect HB 4 to become law.



Senator Judith Zaffirini, the second-highest ranking member of the Texas Senate filed a similar bill based on the success of temporary regulatory changes made due to COVID-19. SB 40, which would authorize health professionals regulated by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, including speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and hearing instrument specialists, to practice via telehealth was filed on 11/9/2020. SB 40, which was sponsored Texas Academy of Audiology, also adds a definition of Telehealth within the Occupations Code, and includes in that definition of a health professional any health provider who holds a license issued by the state. SB 40 also allows for the remote supervision of assistants, apprentices, interns, or other similar trainees using telecommunications or information technology that continues the "Use of Telehealth health professional programs. The definition also states that the provision of telehealth shall meet the requirements of "direct care" or "direct observation." This bill passed the Senate on 4/13/21, passed the House on 5/18/21, and is awaiting governor's signature. So long as this bill is not vetoed in its final stage, we can expect SB 40 to become law.



HB 1560 (TDLR Sunset Bill) was filed by Rep. Craig Goldman and Sen. Dawn Buckingham on 3/10/2021. Following its most recent review, the Sunset Advisory Commission found TDLR performs critical functions for the state and should be continued for 12 years. However, to help alleviate administrative burden and allow TDLR to become even more efficient, the sunset commission recommends eliminating certain license types, removing unnecessary regulations, and streamlining certain licensing programs. HB1560 seeks to continue TDLR and the related Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation with statutory modifications aimed at implementing certain sunset commission recommendations and improving TDLR operations. HB 1560 passed the House on 5/3/21, passed the Senate on 5/24/21 and is awaiting governor's signature.

**FOUR OTHER BILLS (HB 440, 1633, 2545, AND 2566) WERE REMARKABLY CLOSE TO PASSING. THESE BILLS MADE IT OUT OF COMMITTEE AND PASSED THE HOUSE. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY ALL RAN OUT OF TIME AND DIED IN THE SENATE.**

HB 440 Supporting health benefit coverage for hearing aids for children and adults was filed by Rep. Julie Johnson 11/10/2020. HB 440 was sponsored by the Texas Academy of Audiology and aimed to allow patients to upgrade to a hearing device that is more expensive than what their insurance policy would pay for if the patient is willing to pay the higher cost. This bill passed the House unanimously on 4/30/21 but Sen. Zaffirini was unable to get the bill set for a hearing, and it ran out of time in the Senate Business & Commerce committee. This bill is dead for this season.



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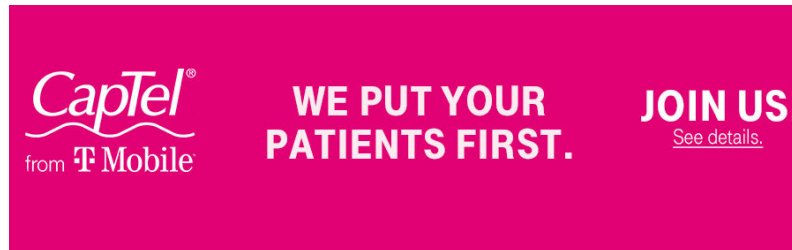
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HB 1633 The Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact Bill is an occupational licensure compact which would allow licensees who choose to participate to expand their ability to practice in other states who have passed legislation to join the compact without having to obtain additional state licenses. The compact addresses increased demand to provide audiology and speech-language pathology services and authorizes in-person and tele practice across state lines. States participating in the compact communicate and exchange information, including verification of licensure and disciplinary sanctions; however, compact states retain the ability to regulate practice in their state. Currently Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky,

Louisiana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming are participating, and New Mexico has a bill in their legislature to join the Compact. On March 31st Rep. Ryan Guillen presented the bill pointing out that 8 states had already passed their compact bills and that Georgia would pass theirs shortly. Texas was hoping to be the 10th state – making the compact complete. Shawna Jackson, AuD (TAA president) testified on behalf of the Texas Academy of Audiology and shared a great story about her experience with patients having to travel to Dallas from out of state to see her. She explained that the compact would allow her to use the compact license and see her patients via telecommunications. Her testimony can be viewed at

[https://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=46&clip\\_id=20009](https://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=46&clip_id=20009). Larry Higdon with Texas Speech and Hearing Association also spoke in favor. HB 1633 passed the house on May 14th with 97 yes votes and only 46 no votes and was assigned to the Sen. Health and Human Services Committee

Unfortunately, the bill never got a hearing in the Senate Committee, so the bill is dead for this session. There seems to be a real hesitancy for legislators to give away state authority for people to practice inside Texas. There were several other bills creating interstate compacts for other healthcare professions that suffered the same fate.



HB 2545 which would have increased the age of mandatory insurance coverage for hearing aids and cochlear implants from the age of 18 to age 21 was presented and explained to the house committee on insurance on April 13th by Rep Shawn Thierry. Haley Owen, AuD (TAA VP of Legislative Issues) testified on behalf of the Texas Academy of Audiology in favor of this bill elucidating long-term consequences of untreated hearing loss such as quality of life, education, and limited employment issues. Her testimony can be viewed at [https://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=46&clip\\_id=20283](https://tlchouse.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=46&clip_id=20283). This bill passed the House unanimously and was referred to the Sen. Business & Commerce Committee where it is has unfortunately run out of time is dead for this session.

HB 2566 The Newborn Hearing Screening Bill (/Senator Nathan Johnson) which would remove the requirement for written consent of a newborns parents before providing screening results to the state health department was filed by Rep. Drew Darby on 3/2/2021. This bill would also require that the Health and Human Services Commissioner develop guidelines to protect the privacy of patients. This bill passed the House on 5/8/21.



Several other bills of note to our profession (HB 980, 280, 3499, 3677, SB 466, 992, 1329) were filed, but either never made it out of committee or never passed the house. They are briefly summarized here however; all have run out of time for this legislative session.

HB 980 Relating to the reimbursement and payment of claims by certain health benefit plan issuers for telemedicine medical services and telehealth services was filed by Rep. Art Fierro on 1/6/2021. HB 980 would add a mental health professional to the definition of a "health professional" in the insurance code which requires reimbursement for telehealth services. The bill also would require health insurers to reimburse providers for telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services and would prohibit any waiver from these provisions.

SB 466 Relating to the licensing and regulation of speech-language pathologists and audiologists was filed by Sen. Angela Paxton on 1/26/2021. Sen. Paxton specifically identified speech-language pathology and audiology in her Telehealth bill for continuation of services and reimbursement for services provided by telecommunication. The bill did not receive a committee hearing and will not pass.

SB 992 Relating to the provision of telehealth services by health professionals located outside of this state was filed by Rep. Kelly Hancock on 3/3/2021. This bill would have allowed any medical professional licensed in another state to provide telehealth services to patients in Texas.

SB 1329 Relating to health benefit plan coverage for speech therapy services provided through telehealth services filed by Rep. Chuy Hinojosa on 3/10/2021.

HB 280 Relating to an action plan to expand telemedicine medical services and telehealth services and increase access to critical medical care and health care services in this Texas was filed by Rep. Phillip Cortez on 11/9/2020. This bill would require the Health and Human Services Commission to develop and implement an action plan to expand the use of telemedicine medical services by health care providers and increase the availability of critical medical care and health care services to residents in Texas. HB 3677 Relating to the coordination of Medicaid and private health benefits for Medicaid recipients with complex medical needs was filed by Tan Parker on 3/10/2021.





# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

STEPHANIE FOWLER, AU.D.  
STUDENT INVOLVEMENT LIASON

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate AuD grads across the state of Texas on their recent graduation. You've succeeded in accomplishing your goals, despite disruptions from the pandemic. We hope to see how you lead us through the upcoming changes that will no doubt be instigated from the ever-expanding reach of telehealth. Our TAA Student Liaison Team is changing. Wishing the new Dr. Rachael Cook congratulations on her forthcoming adventures, we'll welcome Lauren Ralston as our representative from UT. Similarly, we'll thank Andrea Fuentes for her hard work this year and wish her the best on externship, as we welcome Rozanne Roux from UNT.

We are glad to have Holly Pavlicek from Texas Tech, Grecia Garcia from Lamar, and Rebekah Havens from UTD joining us for another exciting round of program planning.

This summer, we have three important goals for the student engagement team. First, we will hope to formalize the transition process for each university's student liaison position, to make the process more seamless. Second, we are going to work towards developing our student clinical workshops targeting advanced clinical skills like electrophysiology for the conference in October. And finally, we'll begin the planning process for the annual Todd Porter Poster Competition, incorporating the valuable lessons we learned last year with such great virtual attendance!

As always, please let me know if you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions. We look forward to sharing more news about our student projects in the next few months.



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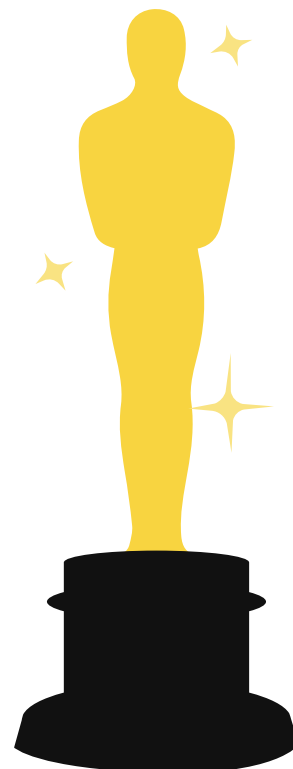
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# FLASC UPDATE

## *Future Leaders of Audiology Student Conference*

The Future Leaders of Audiology Student Conference was held in New Orleans at the Hyatt Centric French Quarter on June 3rd-5th in which 14 top students from the AuD programs in both Texas and Louisiana were in attendance. FLASC is a student focused event that is designed to identify and further develop leadership skills in Doctor of Audiology Students. The conference initiates, promotes, and fosters communication among soon to be practicing professionals about where the profession came from, where we are currently in the healthcare landscape, where we would like to be, and how do we get there. We discussed issues that affect us at the state and national level and talked about what the roles of our state and our national organizations are. The students learned how legislative change happens at each level, and what the costs are associated with it. The students and FLASC Board would like to thank our sponsors for making this year happen: TAA, LAA, Widex, Signia, Oticon, Phonak, ReSound, MG Development, Med-Acoustics, Starkey and ConsultYHN. The FLASC faculty this year included: Dr. Steve Madix, Dr. Jerrilyn Frasier, Dr. Courtney Stewart, Dr. Jennifer Bobo and Dr. Ram Nileswhar. The 2021 FLASC class includes:

**LSU JENNIFER ARNOULT**  
**LSU RACHEL MARINO**  
**LSU LANE HAMMONS**  
**UTA CLAUDIA "KARINA" YEBRA**  
**UTA LAUREN RALSTON**  
**UNT LILY SHIH**  
**UTD CONNER JANSEN**  
**UTD REBEKAH HAVENS**  
**TX TECH VANESSA DELGADO**  
**TX TECH EDITH MARTINEZ**  
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# MEMBERSHIP

# HELLO TEXAS AUDIOLOGISTS

Kim Ringer, VP of Membership  
[k.ringer@oticon.com](mailto:k.ringer@oticon.com)  
512-423-9723

This year, as the Texas Academy of Audiology VP of Membership, I set a personal goal for 2021 membership of 700 Audiologists and Associates. My rationale for that number is it would represent about half of the licensed Audiologists in the state of Texas (approximately 1400). I have faith that at least half would support what TAA does for Texas Audiologists with their membership to their state organization. As of today, May 24, TAA is sitting right at 400 members. This includes 55 Lifetimers and 337 other members. There are also 200 previous members for either 2019 or 2020 that have not renewed their memberships for 2021. To those important folks - Please consider investing again in TAA this year with your membership! The cost is less than \$8 per month to join an organization that works for you and with you.

We have membership levels for all – Audiology Fellows, Retired Audiologists, Associates, Students, Patrons and Lifetimers. Our dues stay low to encourage support – things can be bigger and better in Texas every day!

Congratulations to the new Au.D.s who have just graduated! You too, can renew your membership or join one more time at our student rates. Please get started now as professionals supporting your state organizations who, in turn, support you. TAA stays on top of things in Texas that affect Audiology and Audiologists as well as things that are not in the best interest of the people we serve. So many things start here that could affect us – TAA is always watchful and responding.

Registration for our 2021 Face to Face conference in Houston on October 28 – 30 will be opening soon. This exciting conference provides CEU's available with top speakers and new information. Plus, we get to get together!!!! Did you know that your membership provides more discount for conference registration than you paid in membership dues? 2021 Membership is a winning proposition!

Please check out our website – [www.texasaudiology.org](http://www.texasaudiology.org) for more information! We have a members only Facebook page... check it out too.

Want to get involved in TAA as a board member or on a committee? Please contact Adriana Miciak at [a.miciak@oticon.com](mailto:a.miciak@oticon.com) for more info. I have learned so much about the importance of what we do and the WHY of what TAA does as a Board Member and I encourage you, too, to get involved.



# PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

Alexander Morris, Au.D., VP of Professional Issues

As Texas begins to emerge from the challenges of the pandemic and focus on what's next, the start of the 2021 externship application cycle is just around the corner. The past year has certainly presented many challenges to prospective externs and externship sites alike. However, for many years students have consistently described the process as stressful, confusing, and unstandardized. The fourth year is a critical step in the development of the next generation of audiologists as it provides an opportunity to translate academic knowledge to real-world clinical situations. High quality externship sites are always in demand to ensure the next generation is prepared to tackle the challenges of the changing hearing healthcare landscape.

In recent weeks, a group of audiologists including Dr. Ian Windmill, have launched the Audiology Clinical Education Network to promote standardization of the externship process. The network is focused on the application/acceptance timeline. Below is the network's proposed common timeline for the upcoming externship cycle for Fall 2021:

- September 10, 2021: Deadline for students to submit application materials to individual sites
- September 11, 2021: Externship sites begin interviewing applicants
- October 15, 2021: Interviews completed
- October 20, 2021: Offers of externships extended to students at noon eastern time
- October 24, 2021: Deadline for students to accept offers of externships
- Ongoing: Supplemental offers may be extended to students if positions are not filled
- November 20, 2021: Process closes

Whether you are an established externship site or considering opening your doors to an extern for the first time, the timeline above can serve as a starting point to ensure your clinic stays competitive for the best applicants. Additional resources for the externship process can be found on the American Academy of Audiology's website. Information regarding extern licensing for Texas can be found on this TDLR webpage. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your Texas Academy of Audiology if you have questions or need additional Texas-specific information.

TAA

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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