



TEXAS ACADEMY
of AUDIOLOGY

Contents

- 1 Presidential Address
- 2 Professional Issues
- 3 The Scoop SHF
- 4 Legislative Update
- 5 Conference/PAC
- 6 Membership/Board /Job Posting

Shaping the Future of Audiology: Advocacy, Education, and Growth in 2025

As I begin my fifth year on the TAA Board of Directors, I'm more excited than ever about what's ahead in 2025. From legislation to education to long-term strategic planning, the Academy is working hard to advance our profession and improve care for the patients we serve. It's an honor to collaborate with such a dedicated group of professionals.

First, thank you for renewing your TAA membership for 2025! If you know colleagues who haven't renewed—or have never joined—please encourage them to become part of TAA. As the largest audiology organization in Texas, we're making strides, but we still have work to do to ensure every audiologist's voice is heard—especially in Austin.

Speaking of Austin, our 2025 Advocacy Day is just around the corner! Join fellow audiologists and AuD students at the state capitol on Wednesday, March 12, for a dynamic day of advocacy.

We'll meet with lawmakers and regulatory agencies to advance our legislative priorities, alongside colleagues from the Texas Speech & Hearing Association and the Texas Hearing Aid Association.

With the short legislative session ending in May, now is the time to act. Over 30 people have already signed up. Will you be next? Email GOV@texasaudiology.org to register. Unable to attend? Consider donating to our TAA Political Action Committee. [Donate Here!](#)

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for our 25th Annual Conference in Denton, October 9–11. Alongside an outstanding lineup of speakers and industry representatives, we'll unveil TAA 2050, our strategic vision for the next 25 years of Texas audiology.

Your input is invaluable, so stay tuned for opportunities to share your thoughts throughout the year.

I'd love to hear from you! Feel free to reach out at president@texasaudiology.org with any questions or feedback. Here's to a bright and impactful year ahead!

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your continued support!

TAA PRESIDENT

ALEXANDER MORRIS, AUD



PROFESSIONAL ISSUES | AUSTIN ADVOCACY DAY 2025

AMPLIFYING AUDIOLOGY: MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD AT THE TEXAS CAPITOL!

On March 12, 2025, we have a group of 40 audiology advocates registered, so far, to attend advocacy day at our state capitol in Austin. Our goal is to meet with elected officials and use our audiology voice to talk about the future of our profession.

Your Texas Academy of Audiology will be represented by 16 students (15 AuD students and 1 undergraduate student from Lamar University, the University of Texas at Austin, and from the University of Texas at Dallas), 1 audiology assistant, and 23 professionals coming from the DFW, Houston, and Austin metro areas.

Because the Texas legislature is only in session for 6 months once every two years, it is critical for us to utilize this opportunity to put a spotlight on audiology. This will be our fourth in-person advocacy trip since 2017 and this is the largest group thus far.

As a group, we will have the opportunity to meet with the TAA lobbyist Brad Shields, meetings with elected officials throughout the day, and the students will be able to meet with Erica Rodriguez at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

There are several bills up for consideration this year on topics including insurance coverage relating to cochlear implants and hearing aids, language amendments relating to the licensing and regulation of speech-language pathologists and audiologists, and the audiology interstate compact.

The current 89th Texas Legislature is in session through June 2, 2025. Please use this link to determine your state representative and state senator. Take 3 minutes to call/write to them to let them know you are an audiologist in their district and ask for their support! A list of the bills impacting audiology can be found on the TAA website member portal under "Legislative Updates."

PLEASE SEND ANY QUESTIONS TO GOV@TEXASAUDIOLOGY.ORG.

Breaking Barriers: Training the Next Generation of Bilingual Audiologists

An interview with Julia Campbell, PhD, AuD, CCC-A
and Arianna M. Garcia, AuD, CCC-A

1. Please tell me about the Bilingual Training Program in Audiology at the University of Texas at Austin Doctor of Audiology Program

Dr. Campbell:

The Bilingual Training Program in Audiology provides a one-year focus in audiologic care to the Spanish-speaking population. UT Austin is currently the only Audiology program in the US offering a badge for bilingual training in Audiology. Second-year student clinical experience will include a rotation through the University of Texas Speech and Hearing Clinic and will consist of one-on-one mentorship and training with a qualified Spanish speaking clinician. Students are required to complete a minimum of 20 clinical hours in one year with Spanish-speaking patients, as well as a course in the use of Spanish in the health field (offered at UT Austin). Finally, students will translate a clinical document into Spanish and complete a research or community project focused on audiologic care in the Spanish speaking population. At the completion of these experiences, the student receives a digital badge from the college with a link to their accomplishments, which may be included on their CV/resume.

2. What inspired you to offer this program?

Dr. Campbell:

Our clinic sees an overwhelming majority of Spanish-speakers, which is also a major population in the state of Texas. Many of our students speak Spanish but require extra training in applying this skill to audiologic care. Clearly, this is a major need in audiology as a field, so we wanted to take the first steps to fill this hole and better serve our patients.

Dr. Garcia:

I agree, having well trained professionals is vital to providing great patient centered care to this Spanish-speaking population we serve at the UTSHC. On a more personal note- I grew up in a Spanish speaking family and know what it's like to be the child translating for your parents during an appointment or some interaction. This program is a step towards removing that barrier for our patients and allows the students to create a trusting professional relationship with the patient because we are communicating in their language.

3. How does this program benefit students who participate?

Dr. Campbell:

I already slightly answered this, but they receive a digital badge to put on their resume and to show potential employers of this desirable skillset. They also have an opportunity to engage deeply with the Spanish-speaking population and serve through their translation of clinical documents and research or community outreach project. Hopefully, it encourages them to continue in this vein and support Spanish-speaking patients throughout their career.

Dr. Garcia:

Exactly. The bilingual training program will provide students with the skills necessary to be confident bilingual audiologists and provide the same level of professional care they would in English.



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THE SCOOP | THE SCOTT HAUG FOUNDATION

SCOTT MARQUARDT
SCOTT HAUG FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Scott Haug Foundation!

We at the Foundation are incredibly thankful for your support at last year's TAA conference. We ended up meeting our **\$40,000** dream on our 40th anniversary. The generosity of the audiology community is truly inspiring. These donations will go directly to fund student scholarships.

Work has begun collecting nominations for the student scholar awards. Each year we recognize outstanding third-year students from each of our five Texas universities. Do you know a phenomenal audiologist? Every year the Foundation recognizes the Outstanding Texas Audiologist. In Texas we have many amazing audiologists that deserve to be recognized for their contributions to the profession and to the communities we serve. To learn more about the process of nominating an audiologist go to: www.scotthaug.org

The foundation is looking forward to seeing each of you in Denton this fall for fun, fellowship and education as TAA celebrates their silver anniversary.



BailyAnn Toilver
2024 Robert J. Dunlop/Craig
Dunckel Student Scholar

Expanding Access, Strengthening Advocacy: Your Voice Matters in 2025!

The 89th legislative session kicked off January 14, 2025. SB 905 was filed by Senator Judith Zaffirinni on January 24, 2025. SB 905 amends language Section 401.2021 relating to the **licensing and regulation of speech-language pathologists and audiologists**. Our TAA president Alex Morris, AuD, a representative from TDLR, and TAA lobbyist Brad Shields met with Senator Judith Zaffirinni's office February 6th and were successful in providing recommendations to update the language of the bill for pediatric medical clearance to say "a licensed physician."

Currently, **we need support from our membership for HB3090 filed February 20, 2025**. "The bill amends Section 1367.253(a) of the Insurance Code to require health benefit plans to provide coverage for the cost of medically necessary hearing aids and cochlear implants for individuals who are 25 years of age or younger, replacing the previous age limit of 18 years. **This change aims to expand access to essential hearing devices for a broader range of young individuals who may require them for medical reasons.**"

Lastly, waiting on a response from a Senator for the DFW area to file an ASPL-IC bill. "The ASPL-IC is an interstate compact designed to allow licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice across state boundaries and through telepractice both legally and ethically without necessitating that an individual become licensed in every state to practice." Michelle Moore, the government relations manager for the American Academy of Audiology, has been working with TAA to outline the key aspects of the compact and resolve any misconceptions.

Please check the TAA website for letter templates you can send to your state representatives. You just need to download and add your state congressperson's name and address and add your signature. TAA membership can significantly influence legislative issues that are important for our patients and our profession.

The 89th legislative session ends June 2, 2025. Let's work together to move our profession forward!



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A HOMECOMING TO
REMEMBER:
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
TAA



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
& JOIN US
OCTOBER 9-11, 2025
IN DENTON!

FAQ

Conference will be held at
Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton
Convention Center

Early bird deadline for conference
registration is **September 5, 2025**

Booking Link:
[TX Academy Audiology Annual
Conference](#)

PLEASE HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

TAA PAC | WE NEED YOU!

STRENGTHEN OUR VOICE: SUPPORT PRO-AUDIOLOGY LEGISLATION WITH 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 monitoring this legislative session and we need funds to support the legislators who help us. Last year we sent \$15,000 to candidates that support us and we need to replenish that money. Please consider donating to the PAC to help us in our endeavors.



: TAA-PAC



: c/o Kimberly DeBona, 4016 Tiffany Trail,
College Station, TX 77845



Scan QR code for payment



The Texas Academy of Audiology relies on annual membership dues to support Texas Audiologists in every facet. We ended the 2024 year with a total of 413 members- thank you for your support!! 2025 Membership is open, please renew- and if you've never joined, now is a great time to do so!

Membership Perks Include:

- **UPDATES ON CURRENT LEGISLATION**
- **NETWORKING**
- **ACCESS TO JOB POSTINGS**
- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
- **WEBINARS**
- **MEMBER'S ONLY FACEBOOK PAGE**

A big thank you for all the continued support! Membership not only enables TAA to advocate on your behalf but helps us do more to protect our scope of practice, reimbursement, representation, and bring in more learning opportunities!



RENEW NOW!!

2025 Membership is OPEN!! A late fee of \$40 will be included after March 31st!



TAA Board of Directors

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Who is hiring?

- **See all of the current job listings:** <https://texasaudiology.org/classifieds.php>
- Looking to hire a Texas Audiologist? Looking for a new position? Post your job listing and view current jobs available. Contact us at website@texasaudiology.org with any questions.

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