



What's new?

**Get your krewe
ready for TAA
this fall!
Save the Date
10-12 to 10-14-
for TAA 2023**

**Sponsor a
Student! by SHF**

**NEW TEXAS LAW
HB109 and how
it affects your
practice**

**ATTN STUDENTS
Call for Posters**

**Have you seen
the TAA Job
Board?**

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TAA PRESIDENT

**Tracy Board, AuD
TAA President**



It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through 2023! The TAA Board has been working diligently in the interest of Texas Audiologists over the past 6 months, and we are excited to tell you what's been going on most recently.

I first want to first recognize a couple of folks who have volunteered their time to help elected board members. Hunter Gehrhart has been a fantastic help for Alex Morris and Matt Lyon this year. Hunter has a very strong interest in government issues and started lending us his time right after our 2022 conference. More recently, Arun Joshi, who you may know from the Cochlear Center in Houston, came on board as a volunteer, helping Anna Jilla with professional issues. We are looking forward to having Arun be part of the team!

I'd also like to spotlight our President Elect, Stephanie Williams, who has started the TAA Pediatric Working Group Committee. The committee has been created with the goal of following up with babies who do not pass their newborn hearing screenings to ensure appropriate testing and intervention for all children in Texas. So far, over 20 audiologists have joined her in this effort. Of course, we can never forget that Janet Kruger has, for many years, dedicated her time to keeping our TAA website and communications with members up to date and accurate. We lean on her so very often for her knowledge, and she deserves an incredible amount of attention and appreciation!

We know that there are many extremely talented audiologists in our state, and we welcome anyone to volunteer their time and energy with the TAA Board. If you are interested in volunteering, please don't hesitate to contact any Board member!

New Law

UPGRADE LAW TO BE IN
EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2024

Hunter Gerhart, AuD
TAA Legislative Committee

The 88th Legislative Session has been an active legislative season and the members of the board of the Texas Academy of Audiology have been hard at work! We have been busy tracking, supporting, and participating in furthering many legislative pieces that could affect audiologists this year. While the regular legislative session is over, the board's work is not! We will continue to monitor legislation that will affect audiologists in Texas as the Special Session(s) convene throughout the remainder of this legislative year.

Of note, one important bill that passed this legislative session is House Bill 109. House Bill 109 prohibits health benefit plans (that provide coverage for hearing aids) for denying an enrollee's claim for a hearing aid solely based on the price of the hearing aid.

Do you have patients that would like to utilize their hearing aid benefit for premium technology but can't due to their benefit amount? As of September 1, 2023, they will be able to! House Bill 109 stipulates that a health benefit plan would not be required to pay an enrollee's claim for a hearing aid that costs more than the benefit available under the health benefit plan, however, the enrollee or other entities may make up the difference between allowable benefit and actual cost.

What this means is that if you have a patient with a \$1,000.00 in-network benefit, they may now pay the difference to upgrade to a hearing aid that costs more than their \$1,000.00 benefit amount. While the bill is scheduled to take effect on September 1, 2023, it will only apply to health benefit plans delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2024.

Special thanks to Kim Ringer for traveling to the Capitol to testify in favor of House Bill 109 on behalf of TAA!

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The Scoop from The Scott Haug Foundation

Scott Marquardt
Scott Haug Foundation President

Greetings, Texas Audiologists,
We at the Scott Haug Foundation, together with the Texas Academy of Audiology Board, are always looking for more ways to engage Audiology students in our professional organizations.

This year, we are setting a goal of sponsoring every graduate student in Texas to attend the Texas Academy of Audiology Annual Conference in San Marcos in October. We are reaching out to YOU for help!

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Scott Haug Foundation to sponsor student registration for the conference – a donation of **\$150** will cover the cost of registration for one student.

Whether you choose to sponsor one student or 20, this is your opportunity to help students connect more with the Audiology community in Texas!

Donate to the Scott Haug Foundation using the SHF Venmo account:
<https://account.venmo.com/u/ScottHaug84>

Add a note “Sponsor a Student” along with your name and/or your practice’s name so that we may recognize your contribution.

“Since my first Scott Haug Conference in 1998 when I was a graduate student, I always told myself that when I had the financial capacity to give back to students I would. I have always lived by the adage of “pay it forward”. As veteran audiologists it is our responsibility to foster the next generation in whichever capacity suits us best” – Kelli House

“When I was a student, attending conferences was one of the most important and exciting opportunities to become more involved with the audiology community. Last year, I was able to sponsor two students from my alma mater, UTD, and both students were able to make very important connections with both conference sponsors and audiologists in the position to hire them in the future – it actually was a life-changing event for them! I hope that every private practice owner in Texas can make a commitment to the future of our profession in this way” – Tracy Board



TAA 24th Annual Conference in San Marcos

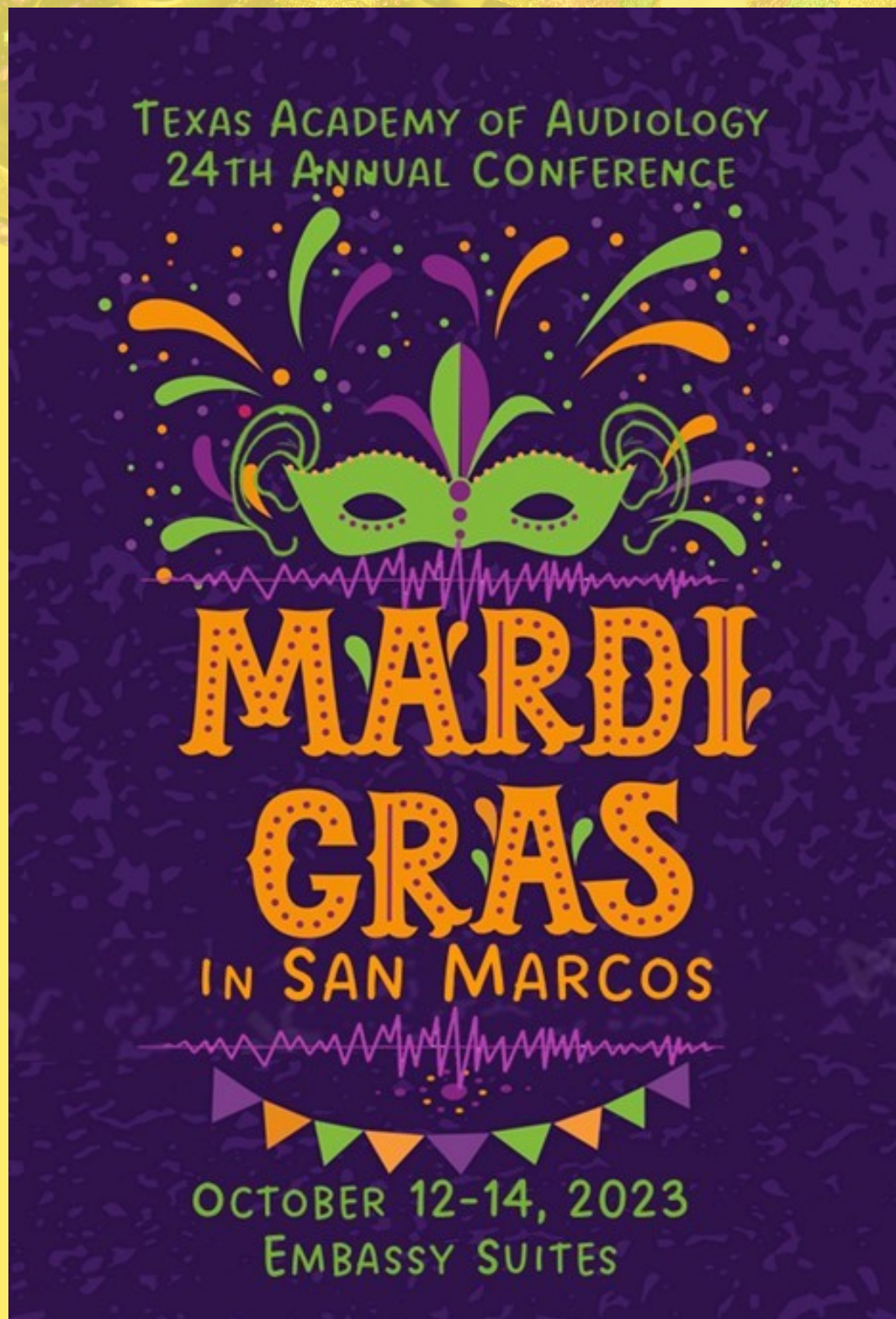
Carmen Landry, AuD
TAA Conference Chair

Greetings from your TAA
Conference Chair,

We are beyond excited to announce our schedule for TAA 2023 - Mardi Gras in San Marcos! Our featured speakers this year are Nancy Duncan, Chris Spankovich, and Gail Whitelaw. Needless to say, TAA is one of the best state conferences across the country, and it is you, our members and supporters, that make it all happen! Be on the look out for conference early bird registration specials, and don't forget to renew your membership. I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at TAA October 12-14th so we can make this year an event to remember! As they say from my home state of Louisiana,

Les Le Bon Temps Rouler!!!

Carmen Landry



Attention All Students!

Grace Kendrick, AuD

Call for student posters!

Please click on the link below to apply

Call for Student Posters - Todd H. Porter Memorial Student Poster Scholarship 2023 ([click here to access](#))

The Todd Porter Memorial Poster Competition is now accepting abstracts! The 2023 competition will be in-person at the Texas Academy of Audiology Annual Meeting. Our poster session will feature posters highlighting either clinical cases or novel research projects from students of the Texas AuD programs or externs at Texas facilities. Submissions are open only to student members of TAA. Student must be available on Friday, October 13 for poster presentation at the conference, times to be determined.

Presentations should document research projects (including novel research, results from pilot studies, or systematic literature reviews) or clinical cases in the areas of hearing or balance science.

Submission Guidelines

Research submissions must include the (1) title of poster, (2) names of all authors, (3) abstract of 75 words, and (4) multiple choice question for audience about the research

Clinical case study submissions must included (1) title of the case study, (2) name of the presenter, (3) summary of the case (75 words or less), and (4) multiple choice question for audience about the case

Submissions must include the contact information (email; phone number; university/externship facility affiliation; and physical address) of the primary author (i.e., the entrant). Questions may be addressed to our student engagement liaison, Grace Kendrick (grace.kendrick@cookchildrens.org)

Closes: 2023-08-25

YOUR OTC MANUAL

OTC finally became a reality in October 2022. Many in our industry were worried about their disruptive power and how they might drastically change the landscape for audiologists. In response, Fuel developed our OTC manual to let members take back control of the decisions around these products and develop a plan to either incorporate them into the practice or not while ensuring ongoing success.

Scan the QR code to request your copy of the OTC manual.



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TAA Political action committee (@taa-PAC)

ATTN: TEXAS AUDIOLOGISTS



TAA PAC Needs YOU!!



Kimberly DeBona

@TAA-PAC

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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 are helping us. Please consider donating to the PAC to help us in our endeavors.

You may go online to the TAA website
https://texasaudiology.org/PAC_Donation
Or you may Venmo with the QR code to the right or
@TAA-PAC last 4 of cell: 7091

Finally, you can mail a check payable to TAA PAC to:


Kimberly DeBona
4016 Tiffany Trl
College Station, TX. 77845

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


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WHO IS HIRING?

**SEE ALL OF THE CURRENT JOB LISTINGS:
[HTTPS://TEXASAUDIOLOGY.ORG/CLASSIFIEDS.PHP](https://TEXASAUDIOLOGY.ORG/CLASSIFIEDS.PHP)**

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Contact us at website@texasaudiology.org with any questions.

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