

PAT CONFERENCE



2025 Pediatric Audiology Translational Research CONFERENCE

COLLABORATING TO ADVANCE CLINICAL OUTCOMES

Our Namesake

Pat Stelmachowicz, Ph.D.

The **Pediatric Audiology Translational Research Conference** is named in memory of Pat Stelmachowicz, Ph.D., a leading translational researcher at Boys Town National Research Hospital. Dr. Stelmachowicz was a pioneer in translational pediatric hearing research. She set the standard for laboratory research supporting clinical practice. Her work was informed by the questions that clinicians and families have about children who are deaf or hard of hearing and has had a lasting impact in both clinical and research spheres.

MAY 30-31, 2025

BOYS TOWN
National Research
Hospital



Friday, May 30

8:00 a.m. Registration and Light Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

9:00 a.m. SESSION 1: KEYNOTE Address – Susan Scollie, Ph.D.

Translational Technologies for Pediatric Hearing Aids: Past, Present, and Future

The translational progress made in pediatric hearing aid research has thrived on integrating basic science with engineering against clinical experience... and Pat Stelmachowicz was at her best in the middle of those three things. In this presentation, I will consider three major advances that have changed, fundamentally, how we think about hearing aid fitting, and implications for the future.

9:50 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. SESSION 2: Kathryn Wiseman, Au.D., Ph.D.

Considerations for Pediatric Implantation in Borderline Candidates

Choosing the appropriate audiological intervention – hearing aids or cochlear implants – for children with bilateral sensorineural hearing loss can be challenging, especially if children are audiometrically borderline candidates for implantation. This talk describes evidence for device candidacy for children who are deaf and hard of hearing.

10:50 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. SESSION 3: Karen Muñoz, Ed.D.

Partnering with Parents to Support Behavior Change and Increase Hearing Aid Use

Auditory experience in early childhood impacts spoken language development. Early access to appropriately programmed hearing aids provides audibility; however, hearing aid use is often inconsistent. Audiologists can partner with parents to understand factors interfering with hearing aid use and support parent behavior change to improve the auditory experience for young children.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. SESSION 4: Dawna Lewis, Ph.D.

Remote Microphone Systems and Communication Access for Children

Hearing instruments alone may not be sufficient to allow communication access for children with hearing loss in complex environments. Children with normal hearing and special listening needs can be negatively impacted in poor acoustic settings. Remote microphone (RM) systems are designed to overcome the negative effects of noise, distance, and reverberation and are an important option for speech understanding in complex acoustic environments. This talk will discuss research on personal RM technology for children as it relates to communication access.

1:50 p.m. Break

2:00 p.m. SESSION 5: Tiana Cowan, Ph.D.; Lori Leibold, Ph.D.; & Ryan McCreery, Ph.D.

The Children's English/Spanish Speech Recognition Test

The Children's English and Spanish Speech Recognition (ChEgSS) test is a computer-based tool for assessing closed-set word recognition in English and Spanish in noise or competing speech. In this course, we review its psychometric properties, evaluate feasibility and reliability in bilingual children, and present normative data.

2:50 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. SESSION 6: Ashley Kaufman, Au.D.; Elizabeth Kelly, M.D.; & Jessie Patterson, Au.D., Ph.D.

Clinical Presentations and Management of Congenital Cytomegalovirus

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is one of the leading causes of congenital hearing loss and is often progressive. This presentation will explore case studies of patients with congenital CMV (cCMV), focusing on audiological, vestibular, and medical management. Key insights, including best practices and challenges in medical treatment, will be highlighted.

4:00 p.m. Poster Session & Evening Social — *Poster presenters will be at their posters until 5:00 pm*

Saturday, May 31

8:30 a.m. Light Breakfast

9:00 a.m. SESSION 7: Kristen Janky, Au.D., Ph.D.

Pediatric Vestibular Loss: Prevalence, Functional Effects and New Assessment Techniques

During this course the prevalence of vestibular loss in children will be discussed, highlighting specific etiologies of vestibular loss. Children with hearing loss are at an increased risk of vestibular loss and the functional effects of having dual sensory impairments (hearing and vestibular loss) will be reviewed. Lastly, new techniques for assessing vestibular involvement will be reviewed.

9:50 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. SESSION 8: Krystal Werfel, Ph.D.

Language and Literacy Acquisition in Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

In this session, I will present information from an ongoing longitudinal study addressing spoken language and literacy acquisition in children who use cochlear implants and/or hearing aids from age 4 to grade 1. Developmental trajectories, as well as predictors of elementary school literacy, will be reported. Clinical implications will be discussed.

10:50 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. SESSION 9: Carlos Benítez-Barrera, Ph.D.

Acoustic Environments for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

This study examines how auditory environments impact language in children who are deaf or hard of hearing (CDHH). The Speech Accessibility Index (SAI) assesses real-world language access, with preliminary findings highlighting its potential to guide interventions and enhance language outcomes.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. SESSION 10: Nicole Corbin, Au.D., Ph.D.

Speech Perception in Children with Unilateral Hearing Loss

Children with unilateral hearing loss demonstrate challenges in speech perception that are likely to have cascading effects on broader development. This talk will consider the speech perception challenges of children with unilateral hearing loss in the context of neural plasticity and language abilities resulting from atypical auditory input to one ear.

1:50 p.m. Break

2:00 p.m. SESSION 11: Monita Chatterjee, Ph.D.

Emotional Prosody Perception and Production by Children with Cochlear Implants

Prosodic cues – particularly voice pitch changes – are not adequately perceived through cochlear implants. In this presentation, I will describe our team's recent work on emotional prosody perception by pediatric cochlear implant recipients, and links between their perception and production of emotional speech.

2:50 p.m. Closing Remarks

We're so excited to welcome such a prestigious list of speakers.

Scan the code to learn more about each presenter.

If you have to leave one of the conference days early, please email PAT.Conference@boystown.org to complete your CEU information.

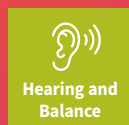


About Boys Town Research

Since the beginning, Boys Town has been committed to saving the lives of children and healing families. Each of our more than 40 research labs has an area of focus that directly supports our outstanding educational and clinical programs.

Our research is unique because we take our findings from the lab and apply them directly to the latest, most innovative care for the children, families and patients we serve. We share our research nationwide to impact healthy outcomes across the country and around the world.

Our Core Research Areas:



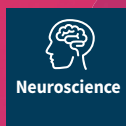
Hearing and Balance



Behavioral Health



Speech and Language



Neuroscience

Support the Audiology and Hearing Science Research Fund

If you would like to contribute to the Audiology and Hearing Science Research Fund in Memory of Patricia G. Stelmachowicz, Ph.D., established in 2021, **please scan the QR code provided**. Your gift will be added to this endowed fund, which supports innovative research in audiology and hearing science at Boys Town National Research Hospital.



This fund was created by Dr. Michael P. Gorga in loving memory of his late wife, Dr. Patricia G. Stelmachowicz, whose groundbreaking contributions were instrumental in the early development of these vital research programs. Your support will help

Funding for this conference was made possible (in part) by 1 R13 DC022793-01 from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention by trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Learn more at boystownresearch.org

