



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES and DISCLOSURES

Speech-Language Track

Session: AAC for the Generalist: When to try it, What to Explore & Options for Service Delivery

Presenter(s): Lisa Nobel Martin, MA, CCC-SLP & Meghan Shank, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

Lisa Nobel Martin, MA, CCC-SLP, is the Augmentative Communication Program Coordinator at Children’s Hospital Colorado. She has specialized in the area of AAC for the past 18 years and has expertise in the treatment and evaluation of children using augmentative communication strategies and technology. Lisa has supported and developed various programs that allow children with AAC needs to access services through a variety of service delivery options. She has taught graduate classes and presented locally, nationally, and internationally on the topic of AAC.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by Children’s Hospital Colorado

Meghan Shank, M.Ed.CCC-SLP, is the Augmentative Communication Team Lead at Children’s Hospital Colorado. She has specialized in the area of AAC for the past 6 years and has a variety of professional interests including children with significant medical needs, specifically Rett Syndrome and related disorders, as well as voice messaging and how AAC applies to the inpatient population. Meghan provides evaluations and consultations, as well as individual and group intervention. She has spoken internationally, nationally, and locally on various AAC topics.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by Children’s Hospital Colorado

Session: Clinical Decision Making in Childhood Motor Speech Disorders: Trends and Evidence

Presenter(s): Neeraja Sadagopan, Ph.D., CCC-SLP & Rosemary McKnight, B.A.

Neeraja Sadagopan's primary interests are in speech motor control. Specifically, she has utilized kinematic and other physiologic measures of speech production to study age-related changes in language-motor interactions, and motor learning/plasticity in the speech system. Her long-term goals are to apply the knowledge gained from studying speech production in normal populations to the study of how aspects of speech motor control and learning are affected by neurological disease in individuals with disordered speech motor control. Dr. Sadagopan received her B.Sc. (2000) from the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing in Mysore, India, and her M.S. (2003) and Ph.D. (2008) from Purdue University.

Disclosures: None

Rosemary McKnight is a second year speech-language pathology graduate student at the University of Colorado. Her interests include early intervention, school-age language and learning disabilities and the assessment of concussion. Originally from Dunblane, Scotland, she has a degree in medicine from the University of Edinburgh. In her capacity as a parent, Rosemary has worked for 10 years as the family resource consultant for the toddler/preschool Pathways to the Assessment of Learning team at CU Speech Language and Hearing Center and has served on, and chaired, a variety of school and educational committees in the K-8 school setting. Witnessing the impact of early assessment and intervention on children and their families, followed by individualized education in schools, led Rosemary to pursue a Masters degree in Speech Language Pathology.

Disclosures: None

Session: We're All In! Advocating and Empowering Families is a Team Effort

Presenter(s): Lynne Canales, M.A., & Stephanie Olson, B.A.

Lynne Canales, M.A., graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a Masters of Art Degree in Severe Needs: Hearing and also received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Eastern Illinois University. She has taught students who are Deaf/Hard of hearing for the past 23 years. She co-teaches the Parent-toddler groups and is on the cochlear implant team at Children's Hospital Colorado. Lynne is the liaison for families who have a child with a hearing loss who receive services at *Bill Daniels Center for Children's Hearing* and the school districts they attend. She also works in the public schools as a Hearing Itinerant teacher and has worked as a Home Early Interventionist for Colorado Home Intervention Program. Lynne currently serves on the Colorado Hands and Voices board.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by Children's Hospital Colorado

~ Non Financial: Board Member, Hands & Voices Colorado

Stephanie Olson, B.A., is the Family Consultant for the *Bill Daniels Center for Children's Hearing* at Children's Hospital Colorado and serves as a liaison between families and the health care system. She worked in early intervention through the Colorado Home Intervention Program and has taught preschool and special education in the public and private sector. She currently serves on the Colorado Hands & Voices board. In 2005 Stephanie received the Colorado Hands and Voices Families First award and in 2009 she and a colleague received the Service Excellence award at Children's Hospital Colorado for collaborating with patients and families to increase access to all areas of communication in the hospital. Stephanie was identified with a hearing loss at the age of three, using hearing aids for most of her life and received a cochlear implant in 2006. In her presentations and her work, Stephanie brings this unique perspective to the team and those that she serves.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by Children's Hospital Colorado

~ Non Financial: Board Member, Hands & Voices Colorado

Session: Bridging the Distance: Telepractice in Speech-Language and Learning Therapy

Presenter(s): Stephanie Coe, M.A., CCC-SLP

Stephanie Coe is an associate clinical manager and coordinator for the telepractice program at Children's Hospital Colorado who has a passion for technology. She originally focused her clinical skills in the area of Augmentative and Alternative Communication. After providing telepractice speech therapy to several patients living in rural areas, she coordinated program expansion to include a specialized clinical team that provides telepractice speech-language, learning and feeding services.

Disclosures: None

Session: Speech Pathology in the Digital World

Presenter(s): Jacob Gutshall, MHS, CCC-SLP

Jacob Gutshall is a practicing pediatric speech-language pathologist at the Walker Scottish Rite Clinic at Maryville University in Saint Louis. In his role as the Clinic Coordinator, Jacob has initiated the implementation of the clinic's

Social Language Group, the Hanen Center's "It Takes Two to Talk" Parent Training Program, and led the clinic's adoption of an electronic health record and practice management software.

Disclosures: None

Session: Behavioral Strategies for Success with the Challenging Learner

Presenter(s): Lina Patel, Psy.D., Syd Martin, M.S., Kathleen Mays, M.S.

Dr. Lina Patel - Prior to joining the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Children's Hospital Colorado in 2008, Dr. Patel completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University's Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. She received her masters and doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Denver's Graduate School of Professional Psychology in 2007. She has worked with children with behavioral issues and special needs for the past 9 years. Currently, Dr. Patel is the Director of Psychology for the Sie Center for Down Syndrome at Children's Hospital Colorado. She specializes in treatment planning, diagnostic evaluations, and intervention and is responsible for management of all referrals for psychological treatment and evaluation. Dr. Patel provides consultation with schools, parent training regarding the management of challenging or unsafe behaviors, evaluation for dual diagnoses (Down syndrome and Autism), potty training, and desensitization to medical devices (such as hearing aids and CPAP) and procedure-related distress. Outside of her clinical work, she has presented to numerous organizations in the community with a focus on understanding the behaviors of individuals with Down syndrome. She also conducts research on clinical issues impacting individuals with Down syndrome.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by Children's Hospital Colorado

Syd Martin - Syd has 24 years of experience of clinical, pediatric and leadership experience and has worked in clinics and school systems. She received her bachelor degree in occupational therapy from Pacific University in 1992 and her masters in occupational therapy from San Jose State University in 2011. She has received specialist certifications in the school system from Texas Women's University in 2005 and has received various certifications related to pediatric occupational therapy (Sensory Integration and Assisting Hand Assessment AHA). She is Board Certified Pediatrics through the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). Currently, Syd is the occupational therapist for the *Sie Center for Down Syndrome* at Children's Hospital Colorado and is a treating occupational therapist at Children's Hospital Colorado and Developmental Fx. She specializes in evaluation, treatment intervention and participates in research with children with chromosome variations. Outside of her clinical work, she has presented to numerous organizations in the community and internationally with chromosome variations, sensory processing and occupational therapy services and recommendations.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by Children's Hospital Colorado

Kathy Mays - Kathy has over 30 years of clinical, pediatric and leadership experience, and has worked in early intervention, schools, universities, and medical settings. Kathy completed her master and bachelor degrees in Speech Language Pathology at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas in 1997 and 1999 respectively. She joined the staff at Children's Hospital Colorado in 2015 and works in the Sie Center for Down Syndrome, as the Team Lead SLP. She has specialized training in PECS and Hanen's It Takes Two To Talk. She has particular interest in literacy, articulation disorders, parent training and working with children with special needs. She has served/serves on several state association boards (CSHA, HSHA, SDSHA, and AFSP-Colorado), curriculum advisory boards (Mitchell Technical Institute and University of Hawaii) and a community board (Ups of Downs Family Support, Inc.) and maintains her Adjunct Instructor position at the University of Hawaii. She enjoys volunteering for Special Olympics and various community programs as well as being a grandmother to two young boys.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by Children's Hospital Colorado

Session: Building connections and relationships... practical strategies in autism treatment for toddlers to teens and beyond

Presenter(s): Amy Frisbie, M.A.

Amy Frisbie is a speech language pathologist who has been working with children and families at Children’s Hospital Colorado since 2001. Her areas of specialty include augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and Autism Spectrum Disorders. Amy also teaches AAC at the graduate school at the University of Colorado, Boulder, in the department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences (SLHS). Over the last 15 years, she has worked with her colleagues to develop a Social Skills Group program at the hospital for children with social communication impairments between ages 4-21 years old. She is a member of a multidisciplinary diagnostic team in Developmental Pediatrics, helping to diagnose autism and to develop care paths for families. Amy received her B.A. in psychology from the University of Wisconsin and her M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology from CU Boulder. She has advanced training in ‘Social Thinking’ and the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) and is pursuing certification in ESDM at this time. Amy presents locally and nationally on such topics as outcomes measures and ongoing assessment, AAC, parent education, communication partner strategies and autism spectrum disorder. Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by Children’s Hospital Colorado

Amy Thrasher teaches clinically in the Toddler Group and Preschool programs of the Child Learning Center at the Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder (SLHC). She has developed a program for young children with autism focusing on joint attention and peer interaction through the use of storybook reading and video modeling, “Story of Friendship.” In collaboration with the Temple Grandin School, she has developed a social communication intervention program for adolescents with autism and similar learning profiles using coaching and video self-review, “Perspectives.” Amy Thrasher received her B.A. in psychology from Williams College and her M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology from CU Boulder. She has advanced training in the Early Start Denver Model and The Hanen Programs: It Takes Two to Talk and More Than Words. Amy Thrasher presents locally and nationally on the topics of early childhood curriculum, peer interaction for young children on the autism spectrum, and social communication coaching for adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. Her practice is inspired by respect for the culture of the family and the celebration of the strengths of each individual learner.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by the University of Colorado – Boulder

Non-Financial: Reviewer, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association ASD Topic Committee 2016

Literacy Track

Session: State of the Science of Dyslexia: From Genes to Brain to Social Context

Presenter(s): Robin Peterson, Ph.D.; Lauren McGrath, Ph.D.

Robin L. Peterson earned a PhD in Child Clinical Psychology/Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience from University of Denver and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology through University of Denver and Children’s Hospital Colorado. She currently works as a board certified pediatric neuropsychologist in the Department of Rehabilitation at Children’s Hospital Colorado. She is the author of multiple peer-reviewed research articles on dyslexia and other learning disorders, and has contributed to books for practitioners including *Diagnosing Learning Disorders (2nd Ed)*. and *Pediatric Neuropsychology*. She remains active in research through the Colorado Learning Disabilities Research Center.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Royalties from Guilford Press for contribution to a book on learning disorders

Lauren M. McGrath earned a PhD in Child Clinical Psychology/Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience from University of Denver and completed a postdoctoral fellowship through the Psychiatric & Neurodevelopmental

Genetics Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Denver. She is the author of multiple peer-reviewed research articles on dyslexia and other learning disorders, and has contributed to books including *Diagnosing Learning Disorders (2nd Ed)*. Her primary research interests focus on the cognitive, genetic, and environmental risk factors for developmental disorders with a special emphasis on learning disabilities and associated disorders, such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and mood and anxiety disorders.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Royalties from Guilford Press for contribution to a book on learning disorders

Session: Looking for a Quick Fix? Controversial Therapies in the Treatment of Language and Learning Disorders

Presenter(s): Jeffery Black, M.D.

Dr. Jeffrey Black is the medical director of the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children and clinical professor of pediatrics at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He currently serves as Chairman of the Research Advisory Panel at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. He has held faculty positions with the departments of pediatrics at the University of Maryland, the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of California at San Diego. He has received awards for service from the Academic Language Therapy Association and the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council. He has been a member of the editorial board of the Journal of School Health and is a reviewer of publications for Pediatrics, the Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics and the Annals of Dyslexia. His publications cover topics ranging from children's reaction to divorce, AIDS education, pediatric residency training, learning disorders, academic achievement, school readiness, subtypes of arithmetic disabilities, and dyslexia intervention efficacy. He has presented to audiences consisting primarily of speech-language pathologists at the annual Dubard Symposium at the University of Southern Mississippi, the Cullowhee Conference at Western Carolina University, and at prior Rite Care conferences.

Disclosure ~ Financial: Employed by Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children

Session: The multiple-deficit model of dyslexia: What is it and what does it mean for assessment and intervention?

Presenter(s): Jeremiah Ring, Ph.D.

Jeremiah Ring, Ph.D., is Research Scientist in the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders at the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. His background is in cognitive psychology, with a focus on reading processes and the identification of and intervention for reading disabilities. Dr. Ring's current research interests include the neuroscience of reading and the study of individual differences in response to treatment for reading disabilities.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children

Session: ABC to XYZ: What the Research Says about Letter Learning from Early Literacy to Early Reading and Writing

Presenter(s): Lucy Hart Paulson, Ed.D.

Dr. Lucy Hart Paulson is a speech-language pathologist and literacy specialist with years of experience working with young children and their families in public school, Head Start, private, and university settings. Currently, she is on the faculty of the Communicative Sciences and Disorders Department at the University of Montana sharing responsibilities for teaching, supervising, research, and service. Lucy presents a unique and broad-based perspective blending areas of language and literacy together resulting in effective and engaging learning opportunities for children. She has provided professional development for a variety of audiences across the United States and internationally. Lucy is the lead author of the *Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) for Early Childhood Educators, Building Early Literacy and Language Skills*, a resource and activity guide for

young children, and for *Good Talking Words*, a social communication skills program for preschool and kindergarten.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Royalty and speaking fees from Voyager Sopris Learning

Session: Intervention to Improve Expository Reading Comprehension in Older Children and Adolescents with Language Disorders

Presenter(s): Jeannene Ward-Lonergan, Ph.D.; Jill Duthie, Ph.D.

Jeannene M. Ward-Lonergan, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-CL is a Professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology at the University of the Pacific. Currently, she serves as Co-director of the Language-Literacy Center (LLC) at the University of the Pacific which is funded through a grant from the Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Ward-Lonergan also serves as the liaison for the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA) to the Decoding Dyslexia California group, and she previously served as a member of CSHA's Literacy Task Force. She has published research articles, book chapters, and presented numerous seminars and workshops in the area of expository discourse comprehension and production in school-age children and adolescents. She teaches courses in language disorders, assessment procedures, multicultural populations, and research methods at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In addition, she provides clinical supervision and direct intervention to students with spoken and written language disorders.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by University of the Pacific; SEED Grant for Language-Literacy Center

Jill K. Duthie, Ph.D., CCC-SLP is an Associate Professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California. She teaches courses in language development and language disorders, including instruction in written language assessment and intervention at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She serves as Co-director of the Language-Literacy Center at the University of the Pacific. She also provides clinical supervision and direct intervention to students with spoken and written language disorders.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by University of the Pacific; SEED Grant for Language-Literacy Center

~ Non-Financial: CSHA, Director-Elect

Session: *That says "Mommy and Daddy and Sophia"*: Evidence-based Practices to Support Emergent Writing

Presenter(s): Robyn Ziolkowski, Ph.D.

Dr. Ziolkowski is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences at the University of Northern Colorado. Her research interests include early intervention, language and literacy development/disorders, socioeconomic differences in achievement, and SLP/teacher preparation and education. In addition, her work includes an examination of the impact of Response to Intervention and inclusive practices on the educational outcomes for preschool and school-age children. Her experience includes many years in educational and clinical settings working as a speech language pathologist and school/district level administrator.

Disclosures: None

Session: Using a Language Lens to View Reading Comprehension Deficits: Assessment and Intervention Considerations

Presenter(s): Kim Murza, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Kim Murza received her Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Central Florida, where she specialized in language and literacy with a focus on autism spectrum disorder. She is currently an assistant professor in the Audiology and Speech- Language Sciences Program at the University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Murza has worked privately and in the public school system as a speech-language pathologist with children and adolescents in pre-school through high school. She is currently the University of Northern Colorado Scottish Rite Program Director and a member of the Colorado Department of Education Speech-Language Advisory Council. Dr. Murza has participated in numerous research projects, co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles and presentations, and professional development workshops. She has been an invited author and presenter for several

topics including adolescent language and literacy and the Common Core State Standards. Her main research area is pragmatic language intervention and vocational support for individuals with high-functioning forms of autism spectrum disorder. Additional research interests include systematic review and meta-analysis, strategic learning, workforce literacy, inference generation, disciplinary literacy, and the delivery of high-quality professional development.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by University of Northern Colorado

~ Non-Financial: Member of Colorado Department of Education Speech-Language Advisory Council

Executive Management Track

Session: RiteCare Models of Service Panel

Presenter(s): Stan Dodd, 33⁰, BA; Vern Ingraham, 33⁰, Grand Cross, MA; Micah Evans, 33⁰, MPA; Ray Godeke, 33⁰, MBA; Kristin Hoffman, MA; Robert McNiel, 33⁰BA

Stan Dodd is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a B.A. in Communication, a 3rd Generation Mason and an elected 33rd Scottish Rite Freemason. After Stan's 25 year career in radio, TV and print communications, he was retained by the Supreme Council as a communications consultant in 2005 and subsequently joined the Supreme Council as the Associate Director of Membership Services for the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. During his tenure, Stan has gained an extensive knowledge of the Scottish Rite and its many RiteCare clinics. Having managed many events promoting and raising funds for the RiteCare clinics, Stan is uniquely qualified to speak about the many venues and the various forms of the Speech and Language clinics across the Southern Jurisdiction.

Disclosure: None

Vern Ingraham, 33⁰ Grand Cross, MA, has served the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado as the Executive Secretary since 2000. As such he manages and conducts administrative and fundraising activities. He is retired from a 29-year career in the Federal Service in the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Department of the Interior. He is a CPA (now inactive). He has over 46 years of Masonic experience.

Disclosures: None

Micah Evans, 33⁰, MPA, is the Development Director for the Scottish Rite Foundation of Nebraska, serving in that capacity since 2010. He has a variety of experience in accounting positions with several companies as well as fundraising and development work for the Alzheimer's Association of Nebraska. He has 14 years of Masonic experience.

Disclosures: None

Ray Godeke, 33⁰, MBA is the Executive Vice President and Secretary of the California Scottish Rite Foundation. He has considerable senior financial & operational management experience in several major public and private companies. Prior to his current position with the Foundation, he served as Personal Representative of the SGIG in the Valley of Orange County California. Up until recently he taught, on a part-time basis, Strategic Management in both the undergraduate & graduate programs in the school of business at California State University at Fullerton. He has over 30 years of Masonic experience.

Disclosures: None

Kristin Hoffman, MA, CCC-SLP, is Director of RiteCare Operations for the California Scottish Rite Foundation. She coordinates standards and practices as well as development and implementation of foundation resources and trainings for the 14 RiteCare Childhood Language Center Directors and Boards in California. Her professional experience includes work in a variety of early childhood settings including early intervention and Head Start programs, public schools, and private practice. Prior to her present position, she was Director of the Pasadena Scottish Rite Language Center.

Disclosures: None

Robert C. McNeil, 33^o, holds a BA and is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Las Cruces Scottish Rite Children's Learning Center. He is a retired electric executive working for utilities in Louisiana and New Mexico. His last 18 years of service were predominately in government and public relations at the local, state, and federal levels. He is a past chairman of the board of the following organizations: Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, Las Cruces Chapter of the March of Dimes, and Las Cruces Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association of New Mexico. He has 40 years of Masonic experience.

Disclosures: Non-Financial: Board Member Las Cruces Scottish Rite Children's Learning Center

Session: Engaging the Masonic Community Panel

Presenter(s): Stan Dodd, 33^o, BA; Vern Ingraham, 33^o, Grand Cross, MA; Micah Evans, 33^o, MPA; Ray Godeke, 33^o, MBA; Kristin Hoffman, MA; Robert McNeil, 33^oBA

See Session: RiteCare Models of Service Panel for speaker biographies and disclosures

Session: National Grant Funding for RiteCare

Presenter(s): Matthew Szramoski, 33^o

Matt Szramoski, 33^o serves as the Director of Development for the Supreme Council. Under his leadership, more than \$40 million for the current Rebuilding the Temple Campaign for the House of the Temple has been raised and recently he obtained the largest gift in the history of the Scottish Rite Foundation in a \$5,000,000 planned gift. Matt has working in the non-profit arena for 20+ years. Prior to being employed by the Supreme Council he served as the Youth Programs Manager for the NRA where he raised funding for Boy Scout, JROTC, 4-H and many other youth programs. He is a graduate of Christopher Newport University and holds an A.A.S. in Public Administration, a B.A. in History and a Graduate Certificate in Education.

Disclosures: None

Session: Developing a State-Wide Dyslexia Services Program: Coalition Building and Legislative Success

Presenter(s): Denise Gibbs, Ed.D.

Dr. Denise P. Gibbs taught for more than 25 years as a professor in Communication Science and Disorders at the University of Montevallo before becoming the Director of the Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation Learning Centers. Dr. Gibbs is the author of *RTI for Early Readers: Implementing Common Core Standards in Your K-5 RTI Model* published by LRP in 2011; *RTI for Middle and High School: Strategies and Structures for Literacy Success* published by LRP in 2008; and *Leading the Dyslexia Challenge: An Action Plan for Schoolwide Identification and Intervention* published by LRP in 2004. Dr. Gibbs has been appointed by the Alabama State Board of Education to the Dyslexia Advisory Council and had been working with leaders at the Alabama Department of Education in the development of the Alabama Dyslexia Resource Guide. Through the philanthropy of the Alabama Scottish Rite Foundation, Dr. Gibbs provides professional development in the areas of dyslexia and RTI at no cost to Alabama schools.

Disclosures: None

Session: Measuring our Success

Presenter(s): Katheryn Boada, M.A., CCC-SLP

Katheryn L. Boada, M.A., CCC/SLP, is the Director, Audiology, Speech Pathology and Learning Services at Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO) in Aurora. She received her B.A. in Psychobiology from the University of Virginia and her M.A. in Communication Disorders from the University of Pittsburgh. She received specialized training with language disorders and voice/resonance assessment in pediatric populations at Pittsburgh's Children's Hospital and her clinical interests include cognitive-communicative disorders, fluency disorders and voice and resonance disorders. She has worked in clinical management and program development since 1994 including quality program leadership, outcomes measurement, home-health therapy services, and departmental leadership. Her passions include inter-professional collaboration, improving access to services via tele-practice, advocacy for rehabilitative

services, collaborative program development, and community and professional service. She is an active committee member and a past-President of the Colorado Speech-Language Hearing Association (CSHA), member of the Colorado Department of Education's (CDE) Speech-Language Advisory Committee, and has served as Colorado's Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Council representative to the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). She regularly provides in-services, trainings and invited lectures on clinical leadership, mentorship and various clinical practice topics.

Disclosures: None

Session: Developing Partnerships: Inviting your Constituents on the Journey!

Presenter(s): Valerie Hernandez, B.A.

Val Hernandez, Office Manager at Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation, has over 20 years in Administrative Healthcare experience. This includes 12 years of focused duties as the Program Assistant to the Kelley Family/Schlessman Family, Scottish Rite Masons Chair in Childhood Language Disorders at Children's Hospital Colorado. She has direct experience in development and tracking of patient scholarship programs, donor relations, providing responsible stewardship, and partnering with colleagues to organize many successful events and volunteer activities. Val holds a BA in Business Administration from the *University of Denver* and has a Certificate in Philanthropic Studies. She is a member of the *Colorado RiteCare Society* and received the *Distinguished Service Award* from the *Scottish Rite Foundation* Board of Trustees in 2007. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the *Colorado Family Life Center* in Aurora. Val is happily married and has two wonderful sons.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Employed by Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation

Non-Financial: Colorado Family Life Center Board Member

Session: Endurance for Life: A Father's Reflections on Autism, Fatherhood, and Endurance Sports

Presenter(s): Hal Walter

Hal Walter is an author, Champion Pack-burro racer (perhaps the most obscure endurance sport in the world), and father of a son with autism. He shares his personal story and reflections on endurance in sports and life with audiences throughout the Rocky Mountain region in engaging and interactive sessions. Hal's books, "Wild Burro Tales" and "Full Tilt Boogie ~ A journey into autism, fatherhood, and an epic test of man and beast" provide a unique perspective on life, love, and perservance in the face of uncertainty.

Disclosures ~ Financial: Consultant for Endurance Alchemy

Website editor for MAF Fitness

Author honorarium from Dream Books