

# AB-AAC: THE FUTURE OF SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION IN AAC!

ASHA 2022  
NEW  
ORLEANS



## ALL ASHA MEETINGS ARE INTENDED TO BE SAFE SPACES. PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Be respectful
- Listen actively
- Be collaborative
- Respect diversity, including communication differences
- Respect privacy of participants
- Ask for consent for audio-visual recordings, quotes, or photography
- Be aware of language diversity
- Handle disagreement constructively
- Act fairly, honestly, and in good faith with other participants



## DR. KATYA HILL

### Financial Disclosures:

Dr. Hill holds a faculty position in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS) at the University of Pittsburgh

Senior Director of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Augmentative Communication Program.

She receives funding from NIH and NIDILRR on research projects related to AAC-BCI testing and clinical trials.

### Non-financial Disclosures:

AAC Institute, Inc (unpaid volunteer)

Unpaid/volunteer position on the American Board of Augmentative and Alternative Communication;





MIKE COLE

M.S. CCC-SLP



Financial Disclosure:

President of Use Your Words, P.C.

Non-Financial Disclosure:

Unpaid position on the American Board of  
Augmentative and Alternative  
Communication



## DR. MEHER BANAJEE



- Financial Disclosure:
  - Associate Professor and Program Director, LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans
- Non-Financial Disclosure:
  - Unpaid/volunteer position on the American Board of Augmentative and Alternative Communication





# MIKE O'LEARY

## M.S. CCC-SLP

### Financial Disclosures:

Mike O'Leary is an NIH funded graduate student researcher at the University of Pittsburgh and part-time employee for the ICAN Talk Clinic of the AAC Institute.

### Non-financial Disclosures:

Unpaid/volunteer position on the American Board of Augmentative and Alternative Communication



## DR. OVETTA HARRIS, CCC-SLP



### Financial Disclosures:

Associate Professor and Department Chair at  
Howard University, Cathy Hughes School of Communications,  
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### Non-financial Disclosures:

Unpaid/volunteer position on the American Board  
of Augmentative and Alternative Communication;





DR. CAROLYN WILES  
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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES:

PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES  
AND DISORDERS  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

NON-FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES:

UNPAID/VOLUNTEER POSITION ON THE AMERICAN BOARD OF  
AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION;  
VOLUNTEER CAA SITE VISITOR,  
CEO OF WILES HIGDON AND ASSOCIATES, LLC





# JENNIFER DRENCHKEK-CRISTIANO

M.S. CCC-SLP

## Financial Disclosure:

Owner of Technology for Education and  
Communication Consulting, Inc. DBA  
South Jersey Speech Center

## Non Financial Disclosure:

Unpaid position AB-AAC Board (Lead  
Portfolio Committee)

Volunteer NJSHA AAC Committee



# GENERAL INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE

- Applied for several different grants; received all grants for a clinical practice analysis study
- Has IRB approval so established as a research project
- Each AB-AAC board member is chairing an ad hoc committee, based on the volunteer database; some committees not active yet/ dependent on the practice analysis results
- Preliminary results, with the psychometrist preparing to analyze. Plan to publish the results.
- Interested parties: go to the website for current information
- More specific info on specialty certification: directed to the ASHA website.



[illegible]

- Info about development of survey?
  - Who was involved?
  - How long?
- Questions related to respondent demographics and background, major competency domains, feedback on BCS-AAC process, etc.





## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Results will be sent to psychometrist for thorough evaluation.
- Results evaluation will be made available...



# OPERATIONS MANUAL OBJECTIVES

## Develop a work group

- Contact volunteers
- Establish interest in working on Manual
- Schedule initial meeting via Zoom

## 2. Writing assignment

- Distribute writing of different sections
- Schedule regular meetings
- Monitor, progress and editing



# OPERATIONS MANUAL OBJECTIVES

1

3. Compile  
Manual

2

4. Obtain approval  
from CFCC

3

5. Upload to  
website



# OPERATIONS MANUAL CONTENT

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INTRODUCTION

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MEMBERSHIP

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APPLICATION PROCESS

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EXAMINATION

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MAINTENANCE AND RENEWAL OF APPLICATION



A large green decorative shape on the left side of the slide, featuring a rounded right edge and a subtle pattern of small white dots.

## OPERATIONS MANUAL CONTENT

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6. Governance and Board Members

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7. Procedures

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8. Standing committees

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9. Fiscal responsibilities

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10. Appeals

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11. Appendices



# WEBSITE

<https://aacspecialist.org>







# CENTRAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION

- Mission statement
- Quarterly newsletter
- Presentation handouts
- Information responding to questions from other organizations
- Information on board members
- Frequently asked questions
- Contact Us



COMING ONLINE STARTING 2024...INCLUDING



ONLINE EXAM



MEMBER  
DIRECTORY



RESOURCES



# PORTFOLIO



At our annual meeting a framework was developed to identify the portfolio process.



This process will be used for all applicants and will include:

Applicant data

Artifacts

- Artifacts may include items such as redacted reports, trainings attended, Plan of Care/Present levels



The artifacts will be evaluated using developed rubrics



Upon completion of the AAC core competencies survey, the portfolio committee will begin to meet to outline the artifacts, develop the rubrics and assessment measures, and determine a platform for submission of portfolio artifacts



# MENTORING PROGRAM



The initial committee will define the Mentoring Program



This is the last committee to be totally formalized.



The AB-AAC will do this immediately before we kick off the application process.



This part of the program is not to develop knowledge and skills.



The purpose of the program is to assist individuals in preparing their intent and application packet.



## CCSC (COMMITTEE ON CLINICAL SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION) ANNUAL MEETING OF BOARDS

- Annual reporting of active and petitioning Boards
- Collegial, collaborative relationship among Board members and ASHA staff
- Boards have a shared common goal to promote quality and advance practice
- New ASHA **Community Site** for Board members
- ASHA convention activity – involvement of Boards
- Continuing education – activity of Boards
- ASHA promotion of specialty certification – building awareness and excitement in future





**HEY YOU! THANK YOU!**

