

# *Simple & Effective*

## **Who Are We Anyway?**

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### **A New Beginning**

I have enjoyed doing AP therapy for many years. I've been amazed how simple the procedures are and how effective the therapy is. But I feel that I have been bouncing around in an empty box because so few people I know have been involved with these techniques.

Clearly we are coming from different places but what is exciting to me is that we have a common interest in therapy for APD. It seems that we are on the cutting edge. A little bit ahead of the curve, which makes it that much more fun.

Some of you are using Bellis-Ferre procedures or commercially available programs at this time. I don't feel in competition with anyone, but rather in this new area we should encourage all efforts to help. As with testing I suspect some of the weaker techniques will fall into disuse and the others will be used where they are appropriate.

For the most part I believe that you and I are on the same page. Nevertheless, each of us may have our own goals that may differ. As I see it, the important thing is to see if we can learn and improve our effectiveness.

I sent out 15 invitations for this group and have gotten back 10 yeses. All of you have provided basic information about your interest in this work and some have sent in additional information for this newsletter. Thanks.

### **Shelly Miller, Au.D. Arvada, CO**

I have worked in a public school district for 6 years. I do auditory processing testing in the district but we do not provide any therapy there. We send the student and their diagnosis back to the school speech pathologist. There are also very strict criteria for students to be tested in the district and many students do not qualify for testing. Since there are so few places for parents to go privately I started a private practice four years ago specializing in auditory processing testing and therapy. I primarily do diagnostic testing but I do offer therapy to patients. I have done therapy with a few students but not as many as I would like. The therapy is an area outside of my comfort zone and I want to learn more about the therapy techniques so I can benefit more students.

### **Amy Jackson Tinley Park, IL (suburb of Chicago)**

I am an audiologist in private practice and am just starting out offering therapy and very excited about it!! Count me in 100%. I'm ready to jump in with both feet and love the idea of joining together and becoming a Buffalo Model Therapist. Please let me know what I can do to help move this project forward.

### **Gary Pillow, Ed.D., Au.D. Covington, VA**

My Degrees are in Speech Pathology, Audiology, Education of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing as well as a Reading Specialist. However, my love is APD.

I work in the public schools and also in private practice. In diagnostic work I use primarily the Buffalo Battery, but my work with APD therapy to date has been with the PS, Lindamood, and Earobics. I now try to coordinate APD treatment with reading skill development.

**Angela Loucks**  
Lawrence, KS

I am an audiologist and as a student worked with Jack for 1½ years. Now I am an audiologist full time and in my part time private practice I have been providing Buffalo Model-based therapy for a little over a year and have been doing evaluations for the past 6 months.

I would like to get more information about habilitation methods for children under the age of three years, as I think this is an under-treated area. I would also like to have a few meetings as a group where we could all share a case and discuss evaluation and treatment. It would also be very helpful to have one of these discussions at a university (KU, possibly) during their grand rounds, so they can get a feel for this rewarding work.

**Susan Brandner, Au.D.**  
Newark & Freehold, NJ

I am an Audiologist who works in a public school setting during the year and in a private practice during the summer.

Many years ago I used the Phonemic Synthesis program with an adult and it was very successful. I also tried to do some noise desensitization training with a young woman who then graduated from college but I'm not sure the training had anything to do with that. There is a tremendous need for AT in the school

system where I work and hope that I will be allowed to do it. I really want to start some AT for the private practice. I hope to retire to a job where I do therapy on a private basis.

Perhaps we could do some sessions via Skype. Everyone would need a webcam but they are reasonable. Skype service is free for members to speak to, or see and speak with each other.

**Willard Hooks, Ph.D.**  
Naperville, IL

I am an Audiologist & Speech-Language Pathologist working in my own private practice and as a university assistant professor.

My primary expertise is with auditory processing disorder (assessment) and in Speech-language therapy I work with receptive-expressive language disorder symbolic dysfunction and neurogenic communication disorders.

My interaction with families and professionals has shown me that we have to do a better job in educating the public regarding the connection between speech-language and hearing. We may have to return to the basics and re-emphasize the importance of normal language development and language disorders to audiologists.

Alternatively, far too many speech-language pathologists have not seen a connection between so-called oral motor planning-timing problems and auditory perceptual difficulties. As a result, a child may be languishing because of the missing auditory component of speech-language therapy. Somehow, we have to widen the lens, so to speak.

**Jennifer Higgins**  
Lawrence and Topeka, KS

I'm a Speech-Language Pathologist working in a rehabilitation clinic and in my private practice. I have just recently gotten started working with APD. So far I have worked with one college student, a 3rd grader, and currently have a 4th grader that I have just started with and I also work with my son.

Hope this group works out.

**Kavita Kaul**  
Henrico, Glen Allen & Richmond, VA

I work as both an Audiologist and Speech- Language Pathologist working in private practice and in public schools. I just started doing evaluations and treatment for APD in October of 2008. I hope to continue to grow. Any resources and experiences that can be shared would be most appreciated.

**Katie Teague, Au.D.**  
Honolulu, HI

I work at Tripler Army Medical Center primarily with Active Duty Soldiers who have sustained mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) while deployed due to concussive blasts/blast injuries. We are seeing quite a number of these men and women with auditory related complaints who have normal hearing but appear to have APD. I was looking for a quick, but accurate way to evaluate these soldiers and then effective remediation.

I hope to be able to connect with others who have experience in the area of APD and hopefully be able to bring a unique population subset to the table. Thanks!!!

**Jack Katz**  
Prairie Village, KS

I must say that this is an impressive group. We are younger and older and less experienced and more experienced

but all appear to be eager to learn more and to communicate with like-minded professionals.

As for my background, you probably know I am deeply involved with APD. Although my years of experience give me much to talk about; I am constantly learning more; especially over the past 5½ years in my private practice.

**Simple & Effective**

This newsletter is off the ground. Each of us has contributed to it and I hope we will all contribute in the future as well. Some of you have asked me questions and I have simply answered them, but now I wonder if you meant them for S & E or not. I realize now that they might well be questions and answers that others would like to know about. I suppose that is where a listserv would be most helpful to all of us.

If you do have a question or comment for the group please don't assume that I will remember to put it into the newsletter. Please remind me! And if someone knows how to set up a listserv please let me know so we can try that out. Then each person could frame the questions themselves.

I think there is an advantage in starting the group off in a small way, so we can communicate freely and work out the bugs. But, if you know someone who would be interested in joining us then please let them know what our purpose is and what we would like to do.

In the meantime I am working on the next S & E which should come out in August. Let me know your questions or comments or other contributions you would like to make.

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