

Course Faculty Disclosure Information

Course Director:

Melissa Caine, AuD
Audiologist

Melissa L. Caine, AuD, is a clinical specialist and audiologist at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). She received her BA in Communication Disorders and English Literature from Loyola College in Maryland in 2004 and her AuD from Salus University in 2008. Melissa currently provides diagnostic and rehabilitative services at CHOP. In addition to her clinical position, Melissa is the department's lead audiologist for the Balance & Vestibular Program, coordinator of professional development/continuing education, and an adjunct instructor at Salus University - George S. Osborne College of Audiology. Her areas of clinical interest include electrophysiologic assessment in the NICU population, pediatric vestibular assessment, and adolescent focused rehabilitation.

Disclosures:

Melissa Caine is employed by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and receives a salary for her position as an audiologist. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Course Faculty:

Nicklaus Arra, AuD
Audiologist
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Nick Arra, AuD is an audiologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He earned his BS in Communication Sciences and Disorders from James Madison University in 2014 and his Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree from the University of South Dakota in 2018. He completed his clinical externship at Yale University and Yale New Haven Children's Hospital. Nick provides audiological care at the CHOP Specialty Care & Surgery Center, Bucks County, and the Buerger Center for Advanced Pediatric Care in Philadelphia. One of Nick's goals is to serve as an advocate for Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) children and teens. Nick's area of interest includes transition points, especially the transition from high school to college. He leads a recurring webinar series that offers practical tips and resources for D/HH high school students planning for college. The series focuses on navigating disability services enrollment and understanding available educational and residential accommodations on campus.

Disclosures:

Nicklaus is employed by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and receives a salary for his position. He has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

John A. Germiller, MD, PhD
Director of Clinical Research
Division of Otolaryngology

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

John A. Germiller is an attending surgeon and director of clinical research in the Division of Otolaryngology. His research interests include hearing loss in children, disorders of inner ear and auditory nerve development, cochlear implantation, congenital abnormalities, and genetics of hearing disorders. Dr. Germiller has published several chapters and papers, presented at numerous academic conferences, and directs several prospective research trials within the Division of Otolaryngology. He serves as an executive member of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Committee on Protection of Human Subjects.

Disclosures:

John is employed by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and receives a salary for his position. He developed a vector delivery system and is principal investigator with Akous for their AK-OTOF-NHS-002 Natural History Study (NCT05572073).

René H. Gifford, PhD
Chief of Audiology and Research
Hearts for Hearing

René Gifford, PhD, is Chief of Audiology & Research at Hearts for Hearing in Oklahoma City as well as co-CEO of the clinical board of directors for the Institute for Cochlear Implant Training (ICIT), and Director of the ICIT Advanced Audiology Course (AAC). Her research has been NIH funded for over 20 years and focuses on speech & music perception, spatial hearing, and development of speech, language, and literacy for children with hearing loss. She has authored over 170 peer-reviewed publications, two books, and multiple book chapters in the field of cochlear implants and auditory (re)habilitation.

Disclosures:

René is employed by Hearts for Hearing and receives a salary for her position. She received an honorarium for this lecture. Additionally, she serves as a consultant for AB, Cochlear, Skylark Bio, and Sony. She also is an advisory board member for Cochlear and Skylark Bio.

Lauren Levine, AuD
Audiologist
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Lauren Levine, AuD, is an audiologist in the Center for Childhood Communication at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia with 2 years of clinical experience. She received a B.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the Pennsylvania State University and a Doctorate in Audiology from Washington University in St. Louis. She completed her clinical externship at Weill Cornell Medicine prior to graduating in 2023. Lauren provides audiologic services at the CHOP main location and Specialty Care Center in Plainsboro, New Jersey. These services include behavioral audiologic testing, auditory brainstem response testing, as well as hearing aid fittings and management.

Disclosures:

Lauren Levine is employed by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and receives a salary for her position. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Laurie Mauro, AuD
Audiologist
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Laurie Mauro, AuD, is a pediatric audiologist at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) with over 20 years of experience providing audiologic care to children and their families. She received a Master of Arts degree (M.A.) from the University of Memphis and a Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) from Salus University. Dr. Mauro is member of the CHOP Hearing Implant Team and is a Clinical Specialist in Bone Conduction Devices (BCDs). Her responsibilities include staff education and training as well as the development and maintenance of evidence-based practice guidelines. Dr. Mauro's expertise is highlighted in various consulting projects with Cochlear Americas and Oticon Medical. She has presented nationally and internationally on BCD practice and is a Clinical Outcomes in Pediatric Audiology (COPA) Working Group member.

Disclosures:

Laurie Mauro is employed by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and receives a salary for her position. Additionally, she has a consulting relationship with Cochlear Americas and Oticon Medical and receives consulting fees from both.

Devin McCaslin, PhD
Clinical Director of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Professor, Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery
University of Michigan/Michigan Medicine

Devin L. McCaslin, PhD, is the Clinical Director of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Michigan Medicine. He also serves as Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Michigan. Dr. McCaslin's research focuses on using artificial intelligence to help patients with vestibular disorders, applying imaging techniques to understand hearing loss, and development of outcome measures for patients with hearing and balance disorders. His work has been funded by the NIH, Department of Defense, and several industry partners. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications and has held leadership roles on national committees within the American Academy of Audiology, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and the Barany Society. Dr. McCaslin was honored with the Jerger Career Award for Research in Audiology and the Fellow and Honors of the Association from ASHA. He is an active clinician, educator, and speaker, known for advancing patient-centered approaches to vestibular and hearing care.

Disclosure:

Devin is employed by University of Michigan and receives a salary for his position. He received an honorarium for this lecture. He has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Kaitlyn Mulray, MS
Speech-Language Pathologist

Hear & Out

Kaitlyn Mulray, MS, is a speech-language pathologist in the Center for Childhood Communication at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She received her undergraduate degree from Temple University and her graduate degree from Gallaudet University. Kaitlyn provides comprehensive evaluations and treatment for pediatric patients of all ages with a wide variety of communication, speech, and language delays and disorders. She is a member of the Hearing Implant Program and has specialized clinical interest in working with children with hearing loss. She has also served as clinical fellowship mentor.

Disclosures:

Kaitlyn is employed by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and receives a salary for her position as a speech-language pathologist. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Marne Sullivan
Hearing Loss Advocate
Hear & Out

Marne Sullivan is a former Division I athlete, hearing loss advocate, and public speaker. Born deaf and fitted with a cochlear implant at age three and a half, she went on to compete in cross country and track at Boston College and the University of Southern California, setting five school records and earning multiple academic honors. At Boston College, she founded and led the Disability Pillar of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, advocating for athletes with both visible and invisible disabilities, which led to her feature in Runner's World Magazine. In July 2024, Marne launched Hear and Out, an initiative dedicated to raising awareness about life with hearing loss and amplifying d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing voices in sports, media, and entertainment while bridging gaps with the hearing world. Today, she continues to advance accessibility, inclusive marketing, and representation through her work as both an athlete and advocate.

Disclosures:

Marne is the creator of Hear & Out. She received an honorarium for her lecture. Additionally, has an advocacy/partnership relationship with InnoCaption.
