

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.

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:

Hilary Davis, AuD
Audiologist
Metro Nashville Public Schools

Dr. Davis is a pediatric and educational audiologist with Metro Nashville Public Schools in Nashville, TN. Prior to working with MNPS, Dr. Davis spent nearly a decade at Vanderbilt University Medical Center as a research, clinical, and educational audiologist. During that time, she worked with Drs. Fred Bess, Ben Hornsby, and Stephen Camarata to study the effect of listening-related fatigue on school-age children. This work culminated in the Vanderbilt Fatigue Scales-Pediatrics, which she now uses as part of her test battery for educational evaluations.

Hilary Davis is employed by Metro Nashville Public Schools and receives a salary for her position as an educational audiologist. Additionally, she receives compensation for reviewing state eligibility guidelines from the Tennessee Department of Education and received an honorarium for her lecture at this conference. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Lauren Fein, AuD
Audiologist
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Lauren Fein, Au.D, CCC-A has 7 years of clinical experience as a pediatric audiologist in the Center for Childhood Communication at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). She received a B.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Pittsburgh and a Doctor of Audiology from Salus University. She completed her clinical externship at CHOP while also participating in the

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) fellowship program prior to becoming a staff audiologist at CHOP in 2017. Lauren provides audiologic services at the CHOP Specialty Care Centers in Plainsboro and Voorhees, New Jersey. These services include behavioral audiologic testing, auditory brainstem response testing, as well as hearing aid fittings and management. In addition, she works as the Tinnitus and Decreased Sound Tolerance team lead at CHOP.

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

Matthew Fasano-McCarron, PsyD
Neuropsychologist
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Dr. Fasano is a pediatric neuropsychologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, specializing in evaluations for deaf and hard of hearing children who face additional cognitive, learning or developmental challenges, including those who are culturally Deaf and use American Sign Language. His practice involves assessing neurodevelopmental and neurocognitive conditions in the context of deafness, with or without language deprivation. Dr. Fasano collaborates with colleagues in audiology, speech-language pathology, behavioral health, and education to create individualized recommendations that support optimal learning and development for deaf and hard of hearing children.

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

Michael Hoffman PhD
Psychologist
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Perelman School of Medicine - University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Hoffman provides integrated psychological services with an emphasis patient-centered, collaborative care for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families. He serves on the cochlear implant team and provides outpatient consultation for cochlear implant candidates, and those who were recently implanted. He also helped to develop a tiered model of service to screen all DHH patients and provide brief interventions for challenges related to deafness (deaf identity, adjustment to hearing loss/limited device usage, family stress related to hearing loss, academic/peer difficulties, and traditional psychiatric diagnoses such as anxiety, depression, and ADHD). Dr. Hoffman is deaf himself, and utilizes one cochlear implant and one hearing aid.

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

Michelle Hu, AuD
Audiologist
Mama Hu Hears

Michelle Hu is the powerhouse behind the Instagram account Mama Hu Hears, a vibrant community space where she blends her personal journey with her professional expertise to uplift hearing parents of Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) children and foster community among her DHH peers. As the author of the must-read guide, "My Child Has Hearing Loss, Now What?", Michelle brings over 15 years of experience as a pediatric audiologist, specializing in everything from diagnosis and amplification to cochlear implants and aural rehabilitation. What sets Michelle apart? She grew up hard of hearing herself—fit with hearing aids at 3 years old and thriving as a deaf adult with bilateral cochlear implants. This lived experience makes her an extraordinary role model, offering not only professional insight but personal hope and resilience. With thousands of DHH individuals and parents seeking her guidance, Michelle knew she needed to expand her impact. Her guide, "My Child Has Hearing Loss, Now What?", is a lifeline for parents navigating the complexities of raising a DHH child, offering practical support and empowerment through every step of their journey. Her mission? To be a beacon of strength for underserved and underrepresented families, ensuring they feel seen, heard, and equipped to thrive. Explore more about her work and resources at www.mamahuhears.com or interact with her on Instagram at [@mama.hu.hears](https://www.instagram.com/mama.hu.hears).

Michelle Hu is creator and owner of Mama Hu Hears and received an honorarium for her lecture. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Hannah Kanas, AuD
Audiologist
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Hannah Kanas is an audiologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia with a passion for helping children overcome their hearing challenges and improve their quality of life. She decided to pursue the field of audiology after she was diagnosed with unilateral hearing loss during college. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Audiology at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, received her Doctorate of Audiology degree from the University of Texas at Dallas, and completed a year-long Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) fellowship and clinical Audiology externship at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Her clinical interests include treatment and management of inpatient populations, evoked potentials, and management of unilateral hearing loss.

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

Frank Wartinger, AuD
Audiologist
Earmark Hearing Conservation

Frank Wartinger is the founder of Earmark Hearing Conservation, a music audiology clinic in Philadelphia. He is adjunct faculty at Drexel University and Wayne State University, and co-hosts the music audiology podcast "Talking Ears". Committed to improving the hearing healthcare of noise-exposed individuals, he serves on the CAOHC (Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation) Council representing the American Academy of Audiology and co-authored the American Academy of Audiology's 2020 Clinical Consensus Document "Audiological Services for Musicians and

Music Industry Personnel". The work of eliminating preventable noise-induced hearing injury has led to recent collaborations with the American Tinnitus Association and occupational health service providers such as Soundtrace and Tuned Care. When not working with ears, he is often making (responsibly) loud music with friends and singing silly songs with his family.

Frank Wartinger is the founder of Earmark Hearing Conservation and received is employed by Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and received an honorarium for his lecture. He has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Rebecca Witmer, LCSW
Clinical Social Worker
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Rebecca Witmer is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she works in the Center for Childhood Communication's Integrated Psychosocial Program. In this role, she provides behavioral health services to deaf and hard-of-hearing children and their families. As a member of the Hearing Implant Program, Rebecca is involved in conducting evaluations and providing therapy to children and families throughout the cochlear implant candidacy process. In addition to her work with hearing loss, Rebecca's areas of expertise include supporting families through challenges related to learning differences, grief and loss, childhood trauma, foster care, and adoption.

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