

OPENING REMARKS

AMPHL CONFERENCE

Gallaudet University- Washington, DC

September 10-11, 2005

Candie Corriher, DVM

AMPHL President



WELCOME

- I would like to welcome everyone to AMPHL's third conference. This is our largest conference turnout ever, and we are very happy about that!

AMPHL History/Mission

- I would like to tell you a little bit about AMPHL's history and mission.
- AMPHL was founded in the year 2000 by Candie Corriher, Kim Dodge, Michelle Nashleanas, Kate Salvatore, Jason Sobel, and Danielle Rastetter. All of whom recognized the need to address issues faced by Deaf/hard of hearing individuals in the health care fields.

AMPHL History/Mission

- AMPHL's mission towards Deaf/hard of hearing medical professionals is to:
 - 1) Promote advocacy and mentorship
 - 2) Provide information on obstacles/solutions
 - 3) Educate the public, work with faculty
 - 4) Establish a social/informational network
 - 5) Encourage development of products-(eg. see-through surgical masks and special stethoscopes)

AMPHL = Diversity

- One of the most important things about AMPHL is that we work hard to ensure that AMPHL is able to offer something to everyone.
- All 6 of AMPHL's founders were DVM's or MD/DO's or students of those professions. So it was hard for us to figure out how to help those in other professions.

AMPHL = Diversity

- AMPHL's solution was to create the focus group application. Each profession became responsible for helping AMPHL create opportunities for their profession.
- The focus group application is a two part process- the initial application and the writing of professional guidelines for the AMPHL website.

AMPHL = Diversity

- Just in the past year, the following professions have gone through the focus group application process and have been voted in as AMPHL recognized professions:
- Audiology, Fire/Rescue/EMT, Physical Therapy, Nursing, and Pharmacy

AMPHL = Diversity

- Other professions are working on submitting applications. Contact AMPHL President Candie Corriher if you are interested in submitting an application for a profession that is not currently AMPHL recognized
- We are very excited that AMPHL now has so much more to offer professions besides the DVM and MD/DO fields.

AMPHL = Diversity

- AMPHL also strives for diversity among Deaf/hard of hearing groups. We are careful not to become too closely affiliated with any one group.

AMPHL = Diversity

- We have had panel presentations at a variety of conferences, trying to reach as broad an audience as possible and to promote diversity:
- Alexander Graham Bell Assn. for the Deaf/hard of hearing, 2000
- Self Help for the Hard of Hearing, 2001
- National Association of the Deaf, 2002
- Postsecondary Education Programs Network, 2004

AMPHL = Common Goal

- The one thing that we ALL have in common, despite which groups we are affiliated with or which medical profession we belong to... is that we spend each and every day fighting other people's skepticism.
- We have to remember that we are the only ones allowed to decide what we can and cannot do. Others do not have the right to do that.

AMPHIL = Common Goal



- I think this picture says it all. This is my favorite picture.

AMPHIL = Common Goal



- When the times get tough, I think of this cat as me. Notice his head is held high, his tail is upright with confidence. I think of all these German Shepherds lined up as all those who have told me along the way that I couldn't be a veterinarian because I was deaf.

AMPHL = Volunteering

- AMPHL's existence depends on the willingness of others to volunteer their time to help AMPHL accomplish its goals

AMPHL = Volunteering

- We would like to ask that all of you consider volunteering your time to AMPHL-
- By joining a committee
- By running for an officer/board of director position. Election information is in your proceedings books.
- No experience is needed. Talk to our current officers/directors for more information.

Thank You

- To those who made this conference possible through their donations- especially Gallaudet University Press Institute and the Gallaudet Biology Department
- To those who have worked hard to make this conference a reality- especially conference chair Kim Dodge and Vice President Danielle Rastetter, and all our conference volunteers.

Thank You

- To all conference attendees for being a part of largest conference AMPHL has ever had. We hope you will enjoy it, learn lots, and make many new friends!