

From the President

Candice A. Corriher, DVM

AMPHL President

I hope all of our AMPHL subscribers are as excited as I am about the release of the first issue of *AMPHL Pulse*! As you may know, the *Journal of the Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses (JAMPHL)* was discontinued due to lack of submissions. *JAMPHL* editor Samuel Atcherson and AMPHL's board of directors felt that part of the problem was that *JAMPHL* appeared to be too formal, too much like a real medical journal, discouraging people from submitting articles. *AMPHL Pulse* is our attempt at a more informal journal/newsletter. We hope that it will generate more interest than *JAMPHL*, and that we will have no problems getting plenty of submissions for each issue of *AMPHL Pulse*.

One of the most exciting new trends within AMPHL is that we are becoming more diverse and that we are starting to see other medical professions become a more important part of AMPHL. So far this year, the audiology, fire/rescue/EMT, nursing, and physical therapy professions have all attained official AMPHL

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the President
- 1 Audiologists with Hearing Loss Meeting
- 2 Clear Surgical Mask Update
- 3 Calendar of Events
- 3 AMPHL Pulse Classifieds

Audiologists with Hearing Loss Gather at the 17th Annual American Academy of Audiology Meeting

Samuel R. Atcherson, MEd, CCC-A

Memphis, TN, AMPHL Webmaster

During the week of March 29th through April 2nd, 2005 audiologists and audiology students with hearing loss had the opportunity to attend sessions designed specifically for them at the 17th Annual American Academy of Audiology (AAA) meeting in Washington, D.C. A Focus Group, co-presented by **Samuel Atcherson, MEd, Jay Sheehan, MHS, and Pam Geiger, AuD**, was conducted to discuss issues self-advocacy and clinical accommodations, as well as to introduce to the attendees the humble origins of the group. At this session, Samuel introduced to the group the Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses. He strongly encouraged attendees to check out the website and consider subscribing. Later in the week, a Round Table, co-presented by **Karen Kushla, ScD and Lisa Klop, AuD** and moderated by **Suzanne Yoder, AuD**, was conducted to discuss issues of speech audiometry and self-disclosure. Approximately 30 professionals and students attended these two sessions with our network list expanding to 55 individuals (nationally and internationally).

At the beginning of each session, brief introductions were conducted and we learned how broad and diverse the group was. Attendees were in various specialties including private practice, hospital clinic, university clinic, corporate/manufacture, and academia. The types, degrees, severities, and technological devices or accommodations used were also quite broad. Some of the attendees were sign language users, a very new, but growing trend in our group. Some were quite pro-

continued on page 3

recognition by filling out AMPHL's focus group application and writing professional guidelines for the AMPHL website. One of those groups- audiology - is represented in this issue of AMPHL Pulse.

Want to see your medical profession become a more important part of AMPHL? See www.amphl.org for more details on the focus group statement and how to put in an application for professions that have not yet been given AMPHL recognition. Please note that acceptance of each profession is considered on a case by case basis and is granted by majority vote of AMPHL's Executive Committee. Acceptance is not guaranteed.

Clear Surgical Mask Update

Stacey Cordwell Carroll, RN, MSN, PhD

AMPHL Advocacy Chair

Many subscribers have contacted AMPHL requesting updates on the clear surgical mask project. We're pleased to report that progress is being made, although the mask is not yet a reality.

For those of you who have recently joined AMPHL, the clear surgical mask project has been a long and time consuming, but very exciting endeavor. The man who invented the mask, **Skip Carlson**, developed it after his hearing daughter was afraid of the dentist because she could not lip-read him. Mr. Carlson wanted to "put the smile back in healthcare." His invention was patented and held by Kimberly-Clark Corporation. Kimberly-Clark held the patent but was not manufacturing it. This posed a problem because no other company could manufacture a patented product.

AMPHL subscribers knew that such a mask would greatly increase access for them because it would enable them to lip-read others who were wearing masks. Not only would such a mask be helpful for healthcare professionals with hearing loss, but it would also benefit deaf patients and all children (hearing or deaf). AMPHL embarked on a written petition drive to get the mask manufactured. In response to this petition, Kimberly-Clark sent a representative to AMPHL's 2002 convention in Miamisburg, OH. This representative, **Corrine Sukiennik**, spoke to the conference attendees and brought sample prototypes of the mask. Since Kimberly-Clark was not in a position to manufacture the mask, but we had

demonstrated the mask's necessity for access and its potentially very large market, Kimberly-Clark released the patent to another company.

This new company, Global Technologies, plans to manufacture the mask after a temporary delay. They have successfully identified an anti-fog material so that when the mask wearer is speaking, the film does not fog and therefore obstruct vision of the speaker's mouth. Global Technologies is currently working on developing a sample mask. They need to modify their manufacturing process and machines to enable the anti-fog material to be placed in the center of the mask. Despite this necessary modification, they still feel the costs of producing the mask will be manageable. The production of the mask is occurring at present in Global Technologies' plant in China.

Surgical masks are FDA regulated items. This means that Global Technologies must obtain 510K approval from the FDA in order to sell the mask in the U.S. The testing to obtain 510K approval can take up to three months and it involves demonstrating through bio-compatibility tests that the materials do not present any hazard to the human body. One these data are available, the 510K paperwork can be filed. The big stumbling block, however, is that there is an estimated \$12,000 upfront cost associated with obtaining the 510K approval. Global Technologies needs to find a way to raise this money, and AMPHL has offered to assist with fundraising efforts (such as seeking grants) if necessary. We are waiting to hear from Global Technologies regarding how AMPHL can help with this process.

Ming Tang, the project director for the clear mask at Global Technologies, stated, "We are very confident about making this product successfully." AMPHL will continue to monitor the progress of the project and updates will be posted on the website in the "behind the scenes" section. Once the mask is manufactured and distributed, we're sure that we will see, literally, many smiles on the faces of healthcare professionals with hearing loss! ❖

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3RD ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WITH HEARING LOSSES CONFERENCE

KELLOG CONFERENCE CENTER AT GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY,
WASHINGTON DC, SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2005

SEE WWW.AMPHL.ORG FOR DETAILS.

AMPHL PULSE CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: BOB MENDOZA STETHOSCOPE AND STETHOSCOPE
AMPLIFIER, \$100.00, CONTACT CANDIE CORRIHER AT
PRESIDENT@AMPHL.ORG IF INTERESTED.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING STETHOSCOPES,
FM SYSTEMS, OR OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MEDICAL
PROFESSIONALS WITH HEARING LOSS, AMPHL PULSE CLASSIFIED
ADS ARE AVAILABLE FOR A \$5.00 FEE PER AD PER ISSUE. SEND ADS
AND \$5.00 FEE TO: AMPHL, 3709 WATERBRIDGE LANE,
MIAMISBURG, OH 45342.

AMPHL PULSE SUBMISSIONS

AMPHL PULSE IS NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR FUTURE
ISSUES OF AMPHL PULSE. IF YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE, OR A
PROFESSIONAL ARTICLE/ABSTRACT TO SUBMIT, PLEASE SEND IT VIA
EMAIL TO AMPHL PRESIDENT CANDIE CORRIHER, DVM AT
PRESIDENT@AMPHL.ORG FOR CONSIDERATION OF PUBLICATION IN
FUTURE ISSUES OF AMPHL PULSE. THANK YOU!

AMPHL REGISTRY

HAVE YOU FILLED OUT AMPHL'S REGISTRY FORM YET? AMPHL IS
TRYING TO COMPILE A LIST OF ALL MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WITH
HEARING LOSS FOR STATISTICAL AND HISTORICAL PURPOSES.
AMPHL OFTEN GETS INQUIRIES FROM THE MEDIA AND INDIVIDUALS
AS TO HOW MANY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WITH HEARING LOSS
THERE ARE. PLEASE HELP US COMPILE THIS IMPORTANT DATA BY
FILLING OUT THE REGISTRY FORM ON THE AMPHL WEBSITE AT
WWW.AMPHL.ORG/SUBSCRIBE.HTML. THANK YOU!

active with their assistive listening devices (ALDs). Others were able to hear well with their hearing aids or cochlear implants alone. Most, if not all, were quite adept at lipreading. It was particularly funny to see how we overcame listening obstacles by advocating both for ourselves and for each other. Perhaps the most exciting realization was that there are endless possibilities for improving our clinical experience using various ALDs, modifying clinical test batteries and techniques (without sacrificing quality, reliability, and validity of tests), and physically modifying clinical equipment such as audiometers to enhance our listening experience and clinical efficiency.

Those who attended one or both of these sessions left with a sense of empowerment and collegiality. We agree that hearing loss does not have to define who we are personally or professionally. The take-home message of our sessions is simply that audiologists with hearing loss can be successful and can be effective, caring, competent, and passionate hearing healthcare providers.

As a sub-group of audiologists, we intend to host a Round Table at every AAA meeting as a means of sharing resources and as a means of continuing to empower each other in our work as clinicians. Furthermore, our actions are an effort to continually educate our hearing Audiology colleagues. We are in a unique position to really teach them about what it's like to have a hearing loss and how our non-Audiology peers with hearing loss really feel. In the last three years of working with AAA, we have seen a rise their awareness by their provision of quality and flexible ALDs for use at AAA meetings and the provision of quiet meeting rooms for our sessions. We have submitted an e-mail of gratitude to the Executive Director of AAA.

In an effort to disseminate Audiology-related information and become collegial with other healthcare providers with hearing loss, a small segment of our group has submitted a paper to the 2005 AMPHL Conference to briefly introduce the field of Audiology and to provide a panel. Hope to see you there!

*For more information about this group or to be added to our network list, please contact **Samuel R. Atcherson, MEd** at satchrsn@memphis.edu. ❖*