

**January / February 2026**

**Newsletter**

**Vol. 51, Number 1**

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## *From the President*

Dear Members,

In this first newsletter of 2026, I would like to take a moment to thank our members for their continued engagement and commitment to our association. It was exciting to see the level of participation and interest across our activities last year, and the months ahead offer many opportunities to connect, learn, and contribute to our professional community.

One highlight on the horizon is the upcoming MSHA Virtual Conference. This year's program promises to be both timely and comprehensive, addressing a wide range of important and updated topics in our field. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Conference Program



Committee for their hard work and dedication, ensuring our members continue to have access to high-quality professional development and meaningful discussion. Conference registration information is included in this newsletter, so be sure to secure your spot. We are excited to highlight the participation of students, as noted in the Call for Posters, which provides a great opportunity to showcase emerging research and engage the next generation of professionals in our field. I also want to encourage members to consider taking an active role in the leadership of our association. Our regular nomination period for Board Member positions is currently open. Members are invited to self-nominate or nominate a colleague who they believe would contribute positively to the Board and help guide the future of our association. The nomination deadline is February 19. Additional instructions can be found in this newsletter.

Thank you again for your continued involvement and support. I look forward to connecting with many of you during the MSHA Virtual Conference and throughout the months ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana Claudia Harten".

Ana Claudia Harten, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
MSHA President

## *Support Our Mission*

Your donation helps us connect, empower, and advance our community through meaningful programs, advocacy, and resources. Every gift makes a difference - thank you for supporting our work! To make a donation via credit card, please scan the QR code or click [here](#).

Check donations can be sent to:  
MSHA  
P.O. Box 45,  
Buchanan, MI 49107-9998

*The Michigan Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) is a tax-exempt 501(c)(6) organization, EIN 23-7179613. Contributions to MSHA are not tax-deductible. No goods or services will be provided in exchange for the contribution.*



## Honors of the Association



MSHA is thrilled to recognize Robin Pollens as our 2026 Honors of the Association Recipient. Robin Pollens' contributions to the field will be recognized at our upcoming conference.

The Honors of the Association is the highest recognition MSHA can award an individual. It recognizes sustained, outstanding accomplishments in the profession of speech, language, and hearing. The Honors of the Association is conveyed to individuals who actively demonstrate their expertise through ongoing service which directly benefits MSHA and the field as a whole, and has a significant impact on persons with communication impairments. It is considered a coveted and earned award given to truly deserving professionals.

## Dues Reminder

Dear MSHA Members,

As we enter a new year, it is time to renew your membership with MSHA to maintain uninterrupted access to member benefits, including attending the Annual MSHA Conference at a discounted rate and accessing continuing education opportunities. If you have not done so already, please submit your annual dues:

Individual Membership - \$80

Student Membership - \$40

To renew your membership, log into your [account](#) and follow the instructions. If you are a new member, you can click [here](#) to register.



## Advocacy Updates

### Federal Updates

Click the links for important information and resources from ASHA:

- [Executive Orders Impacting Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology and 2025 ASHA Public Policy Agenda](#)

### Proposed Definition of "Professional Degree" Programs Would Exclude Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

- The proposed definition of a "professional degree" program excludes audiology and speech-language pathology, which impacts how eligibility for student lifetime loan limits is determined. Read about recent updates on this issue: [ASHA Advocacy Newspiece on Professional Degree Loan Limits](#)

Sincerely,

Dr. Kennetha S. Thompson

Vice President of Membership

*MSHA 2026 Virtual Conference*

MSHA 2026 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE:

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

EMBRACING CHANGES FOR GROWTH

## VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

March 19-20, 2026

Register today! Early bird pricing is available until 2/15/26. Click [here!](#)

Registration closes March 9,  
2026!

Individual registration is required  
for all conference attendees. Only  
attendees with their own individual

registration are eligible for  
attendance verification and CEU  
credit. Group or shared  
registrations are not allowed and  
do not qualify for attendance  
verification or CEU credit.

### Call for Papers

MSHA continues to accept Call for  
Papers submissions!

You have valuable experience and  
knowledge to share with your peers -  
consider submitting a proposal! Click  
[here](#) for the Call for Papers  
Submission Form.

### Sponsors & Exhibits

If you are interested in sponsorship  
or exhibitor opportunities during the  
2026 MSHA Conference, please click  
[here!](#)

REGISTRATION TYPE	FEES
<b>EARLY BIRD (12/16/25 - 2/15/26)</b>	
Members	\$240.00
Non-members	\$365.00
<b>REGULAR (2/16/26 - 3/9/26)</b>	
Members	\$290.00
Non-members	\$415.00
<b>STUDENT (12/16/25 - 3/9/26)</b>	
Members	\$90.00
Non-members	\$140.00

# Conference Speakers

MSHA 2026 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE:

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

EMBRACING CHANGES FOR GROWTH

MARCH 19-20, 2026  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM



## Featured Speakers



**KELLYN HALL**  
*Ethics and Artificial Intelligence*



**NATHANIEL FREIDMAN**  
*Supervision*



**GREG SPRAY**  
*Implicit Bias*



**MARILEDA TOME**  
*Myofunctional Therapy*



**DIANE KAITAKOWSKI**  
*Implementation Support for the 2025 MSHA Guidelines*



**MEGAN M. NORTHCUTT**  
*Preliteracy skills: Early Literacy for Preschoolers*



**MARIAN LOWTHER**  
*Framework For Managing Contentious IEP Meetings*



**WHITNEY NEAL**  
*Information Processing and Memory after TBI*



**KATELYN REED**  
*Selective Mutism Assessment and Evidence-Based Intervention*



**KRISTI JONES**  
*Identifying Dyslexia and DLD Using Dynamic Assessments of Language*



**SHELDON HERRING**  
*The Conscious Therapist-Introduction to Mindfulness in Rehabilitation*



**LAURA DETHORNE**  
*Neurodiversity & Implications for Educators*



**MEIRA CHEN AND ROSS MAYERHOFF**  
*The Symbiosis of Laryngology and Speech Pathology*



**LINSEY JONES**  
*Speech Sound Intervention:*



**KELI LACATA AND ELISE JONES**  
*Addressing Social Connection and Mental Health in Aphasia Care*



**MALLORY FRANK AND LISA OWENS**  
*Literacy Through Shared Understanding The Science, Structure, and the Learners*



**KELLI PIERCE AND KATHY RIGLEY**  
*What New Grads Need to Know: State Licensure, Certification and Advocacy*

## Additional Topics

- HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- BUILDING AUTHENTIC TEAMS
- BRAIN-COMPUTER INTERFACES FOR PEOPLE WITH SEVERE MOTOR & SPEECH DEFICITS
- LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT FOR NON-SPEAKING & MINIMALLY SPEAKING STUDENTS
- COLLABORATION FOR EARLY AUDITORY DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION SUCCESS
- ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN AAC
- PAIN MANAGEMENT
- CUBED LANGUAGE SAMPLING
- THERAPEUTICALLY APPLIED ROLE-PLAYING GAMES
- VOICE ACROSS THE LIFESPAN
- SLP INTERVENTION FOR CHRONIC COUGH
- TOOLS TO DIAGNOSE & TREAT THE ROOT CAUSE OF SPEECH DISORDERS
- AAC IN ACUTE CARE: COMMUNICATION & DYSPHAGIA
- NEONATAL CARE FOR SLP'S

Stay tuned for updates as we confirm additional speakers & CEU opportunities!

# Knowledge Quest & Call for Posters



- **Knowledge Quest** is coming to the 2026 MSHA Conference!
- Have some **fun** and test your CSD knowledge across ASHA's Big 9
- **No preparation** needed!
- Sign up once you register for the 2026 MSHA conference
- Showcase your knowledge, meet new people and have some fun!
- There will be **PRIZES!!**
- Event takes place on 3/20/26 from 1:00-2:30pm
- We hope to see you there!!

## Attention Students!

Share your research study or project at the MSHA 2026 Virtual Conference by submitting a poster. It's a great opportunity for you to showcase your research and celebrate your work with the MSHA community!

**Deadline: February 14, 2026**

Scan the QR Code below or click [here!](#)



# Outstanding School Clinician Award

Do you know or work with a school clinician who goes **above and beyond** for their students, families and colleagues?

MSHA wants to recognize these individuals at our 2026 Virtual Conference



Nominate an **Outstanding School Clinician** before 2/14/26!

[NOMINATION FORM](#)

# NEW Products!

## NEW Tracheostomy Filter from Passy Muir!

- Single-patient use
- Lightweight
- >99% Efficiency



PM-APF15



Answering the call for an effective, lightweight filter for patients with tracheostomy, the new **Passy Muir Tracheostomy Viral & Bacterial Airway Protection Filter (PM-APF15)** attaches easily to the 15mm hub of a tracheostomy tube and safely and effectively filters out 99.9% of viral, bacterial, and other particulate matter. Made in USA and latex free.

## NEW Heat Moisture Exchanger for Tracheostomy Patients



PM-HME

- Single-patient use
- Non-sterile
- Lightweight

Not to be confused with a speaking valve, **The PM-HME** attaches easily to the 15mm hub of a tracheostomy tube to warm and humidify air breathed by a patient. The PM-HME is intended for use in clinical settings including hospitals, sub-acute, rehabilitation, outpatient, pre-hospital, skilled nursing, long-term care, and the home setting.

Made in USA and latex free.

For more information call **1-800-634-5397** or visit [www.passymuir.com](http://www.passymuir.com)



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## MICHIGAN SPEECH LANGUAGE HEARING FOUNDATION

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### ABOUT US

MSHF is dedicated to supporting the next generation of speech-language pathologists and audiologists by providing scholarships to deserving graduate students. By contributing, you are investing not only in their future but also in the countless individuals and families who will benefit from their care.

### BECOME A SAINT



Speech Language Pathologists, Audiologists and Friends Investing in the Next Generation of Therapists and Scholars

Please consider giving back to your profession. All donations are appreciated!

### KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

MICHIGAN SPEECH LANGUAGE HEARING FOUNDATION (MSHF) IS NOW PART OF THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

To enroll - if you have a Kroger Plus card -  
Log into your Kroger account  
Under the Menu or My Account Tab  
Select Community Rewards  
Search Organization Name or ID # UF880  
Click Enroll

ONCE ENROLLED - MSHF WILL EARN REWARDS FROM EVERY PURCHASE MADE USING YOUR KROGER CARD

THANK YOU!



### CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK -

MICHIGAN SPEECH LANGUAGE HEARING FOUNDATION - MSHF

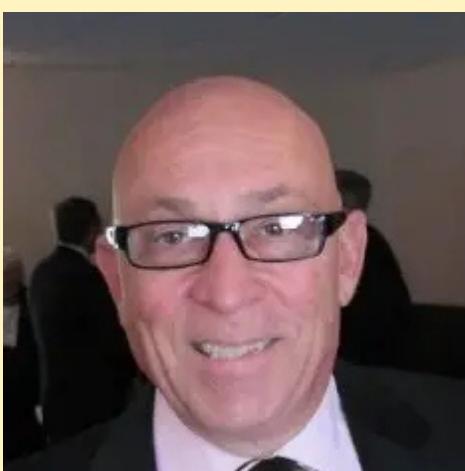
INSTAGRAM - MSHF.FOUNDATION

*Dr. Anthony Cacace*

A memorial service was held at Wayne State University on January 9th, 2026 honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Anthony Cacace, whose scholarship, mentorship, and dedication made a lasting impact on Wayne State University and the academic community.

Dr. Cacace was a full professor of audiology in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders at Wayne State University. Prior to this position at Wayne State University, he was full time tenured faculty at Albany Medical College, Albany, NY within the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Cacace was an expert in the areas of psychoacoustics, electroacoustics, electrophysiology, vestibular and balance assessment, repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation and various magnetic resonance neuroimaging procedures. He taught courses on medical issues, auditory processing disorders, tinnitus, research methods and design. He was also the primary supervisor for capstone projects within the department.





# Therapy Provider Liaison Meeting

Mark your calendar!

Medicaid has scheduled the next biannual Therapy Provider Liaison meeting for **Thursday, March 12th, 2026 from 12-1:30pm**.

Please send any agenda items/questions/discussion topics to [KrulHallA@michigan.gov](mailto:KrulHallA@michigan.gov) or [julie@therapyjackson.com](mailto:julie@therapyjackson.com) ASAP to allow for preparation.

Questions and agenda items will be accepted until 2/26/26.

Therapy Provider Liaison meetings are an opportunity to review Medicaid policy updates and FFS procedural changes or provider concerns in an open forum.

Please join the Medicaid ListServ to subscribe for additional details-- either the The Pro\_Prov, Clinics, or Inst\_Prov would receive the official Medicaid L-Letter Meeting notice.

To make your selections visit:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDHHS/subscriber/new>



# Contact Us

P.O. Box 45, Buchanan, MI 49107-9998

**General Inquiries:** [info@mislha.org](mailto:info@mislha.org)

**Conference Inquiries:** [conference@mislha.org](mailto:conference@mislha.org)

**CE-Related Inquiries:** [CEAdmin@mislha.org](mailto:CEAdmin@mislha.org)

Executive Board & Advisory Assembly

MSHA is made possible by people like you! Volunteer today with the following MSHA committees to help us continue our work.

## Professional Development & Education

Public Schools

Finance

Advocacy

Membership

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Healthcare

Public Relations

Student & University Affairs



# Nominations

Nominations for MSHA Board of Directors are now being accepted. Nominate yourself or someone you admire by 5pm on Thursday, February 19th, 2026, using this [form](#).

Questions? Email [info@mislha.org](mailto:info@mislha.org).

Thank you for your interest!



# Follow Us on Social Media

