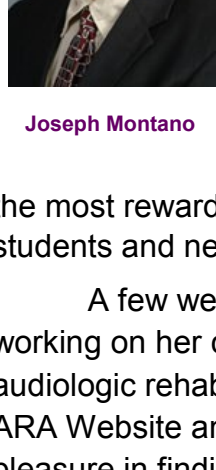


March 2011

## President's Message



Joseph Montano

ARA had a great year in 2010. I would like to thank **John Greer Clark** for his leadership and the entire board for their dedication and commitment. I would also like to welcome **Carol Cokely** as our President-Elect and look forward to working with her in the years to come. As you know, we had a very successful Institute in San Francisco and I wish to acknowledge the work of **Robert Sweetow** and **Gaby Saunders** for planning and running this meeting. It is always enlightening to hear the presentations of ARA members and be able to spend time with our friends and colleagues. One of the most rewarding parts of last year's meeting was the contributions of the students and new Doctors of Audiology.

A few weeks ago I received an email from a doctoral student who was working on her capstone project, which, to my delight, was a topic related to audiologic rehabilitation. While doing her research she happened upon the ARA Website and wrote inquiring about the organization. She expressed her pleasure in finding us and I immediately invited her to become a student member. The future of our organization is with the students and it is heartening to know they are finding us. By encouraging more and more of our doctoral candidates to become student members of ARA, we not only infuse a new spirit but we help to ensure the future of our Association. So to all student members of ARA, thank you and welcome.

## ARA Visibility in 2011

As you know, it was decided that the ARA Institute would occur on a biennial basis. Planning for the next meeting in 2012 is already in progress. Since there will be no dedicated ARA Institute this year, efforts are underway to increase our visibility through presentations at related professional meetings throughout 2011. The following is a summary of some of the planned ARA presentations for the AAA Audiology Now meeting in Chicago, April 7 – 9th, the Hearing Rehabilitation Foundation (HRF) 6th International Adult Aural Rehabilitation Conference in St. Petersburg, FL. May 23-25th; and the ASHA Convention (submitted) in San Diego, Ca. in November.

**AAA Grand Rounds in Audiologic Rehabilitation** Scheduled for Saturday morning April 9th 8AM to 9:30 AM Featured Session FS 129

Moderator; **Gabrielle Saunders, Ph.D** Presenters: **Kathleen Cienkowski, Ph.D; Joseph Montano, Ed.D., Jill Preminger, Ph.D. and Robert Swetow, Ph.D.** The purpose of this session is to discuss interesting and/or difficult audiologic rehabilitation cases for audience consideration. These cases will highlight the fact that hearing aids and/or cochlear implants are essential but not sufficient for successful rehabilitation. The cases, primarily adults, will demonstrate models for the incorporation of rehabilitation into clinical practice.

In addition to this ARA sponsored presentation, there are a number of AR sessions being presented throughout the meeting with ARA members presenting. For further information on the Audiology Now schedule visit [www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org)

### HRF Audiologic Rehabilitation: From Theory to Practice

Scheduled Tuesday May 24, 2011

A special thanks to Geoff Plant for allowing ARA to take an active part of this meeting. In addition to ARA members presenting a three hour session, our members have been offered a reduction on the registration rate. For further information, contact [www.HearRF.com](http://www.HearRF.com)

ASHA ( Submitted) **Infusion of Audiologic Rehabilitation and Counseling into Educational Curriculum and Externship Placement.** Further information will be provided if the submitted program is accepted for presentation.

As you can see, our Academy is well represented in upcoming meetings.

## AAA Distinguished Achievement Award

A special congratulations to ARA member **Theresa Hnath-Chisolm** who will receive the AAA Distinguished Achievement Award at this year's Audiology Now Convention. Dr. Hnath-Chisolm has provided outstanding and innovative contributions to the profession of audiology as a teacher, researcher advocate and clinician, tackling each commitment with heart-felt dedication. Her research has primarily been in the areas of adult rehabilitative audiology, evidence-based practice, quality of life and outcome measurements. In fact, Dr. Hnath-Chisolm's name is almost synonymous with the topic area of the impact of audiological intervention on health-related quality of life. We at ARA are proud of her accomplishments and offer our heartfelt best wishes.

## ARA Institute 2012

The time & place committee is already at work scouting a location for next year's Institute. We will be visiting sites in Providence, Rhode Island in the next few weeks and will provide you with the details once arrangements have been made. Providence is a wonderful city with numerous venues for dining and entertainment. It is easily accessible by plane, and if you are on the east coast, Amtrak runs regularly from cities like Boston, New York, New Haven and Portland. I would like to thank Kathy Cienkowski for her assistance with the early stages of the 2012 Institute. If you are interested in participating in the planning of next year's program, please contact Joe Montano at [jjm2003@med.cornell.edu](mailto:jjm2003@med.cornell.edu).

## ARA's participation in Health Care Economics Committee

By: Carol Cokely [cokely@utdallas.edu](mailto:cokely@utdallas.edu)

Whereas our passions lie in what we do, often our frustrations stem from barriers imposed by third-party interests. Representatives from various audiology organizations participate in monthly meetings to address economic issues facing all audiologists regardless of specific and individual interests. This committee convened and sponsored by the ASHA Health Care Economics Committee (HCEC) is composed of members from ASHA, AAA, EAA, ADA, Military Audiology, VA Audiology and ARA. Members work with the American Medical Association and representatives of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reevaluate audiology service codes. In process are evaluations of CPT codes for OAEs and IOM. A working group was recently established to evaluate hearing aid related CPT codes. Thank you ARA member, Kristin Vasil Dilaj, for representing ARA in this important working group. Ongoing discussions address the advantages and disadvantages of a comprehensive audiology benefit that would allow Medicare reimbursement for aural rehabilitation services. ASHA and EAA support this initiative, and ADA and ARA are still in fact-finding stages. Whereas, coverage for rehabilitation has been a long-standing interest for many audiologists, questions remain whether in the face of this initiative, diagnostic coverage would be reduced and whether providers who bill for non-covered services would see a decrease in revenue. Groups continue to support direct access legislation. Finally, over the past several months, some audiologists working in outpatient rehabilitation facilities (ORFs) have noted that audiologic services were no longer being reimbursed, perhaps because audiologic services are no longer listed as an option for "type of service." We are uncertain whether this happens for audiologists in rehabilitation settings who use their own NPI. Please let me know ([cokely@utdallas.edu](mailto:cokely@utdallas.edu)) if you are having such difficulties, and I will pass this information on in hopes of resolution of this issue.

## ARA Website link to past Institutes

By: Sarah Hargus Ferguson

The ARA Institute is a fantastic place to learn about best practices, cutting-edge research, and issues affecting the everyday delivery of audiologic rehabilitation to children and adults with hearing loss. It's also a wonderful opportunity to network with others who believe in the value of AR just as strongly as you do. While our website cannot replace the networking aspect of the Institute, it can help at least a little with the other aspects. On our webpage you will now see a box on the left-hand side that says "Past Institutes." Currently it links to the program for the 2010 Institute in San Francisco, from which you can click links to 6 of the talks and 6 of the poster presentations. Other years will be added in the coming months. If you've presented at an Institute and would like to make sure your presentation is posted, email ARA Secretary **Sarah Hargus Ferguson** at [sarah.ferguson@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:sarah.ferguson@hsc.utah.edu).

## ARA Speakers Bureau

The ARA website also has an updated speakers' bureau. If you would like your name added to the speakers' bureau please contact the ARA Association Coordinator, Peg Palmiere at [ara@audrehab.org](mailto:ara@audrehab.org) This bureau is put in place to help increase recognition of the benefits of and need for audiologic rehabilitation services for those with hearing loss. Those listed are willing to give presentations at local and state conferences. We encourage each ARA member to encourage local and state audiology conference program chairs to include presentations on audiologic rehabilitation.

Finally, thanks again for your continued support of ARA. I hope to see you at AAA, HRF and ASHA in the upcoming year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions or concerns at [jjm2003@med.cornell.edu](mailto:jjm2003@med.cornell.edu).

Questions, comments or items for possible future editions of the

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