

REPORT ON THE AMERICAN AUDITORY SOCIETY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGY MEETING, 5–7 MARCH 2015, SCOTTSDALE AZ, USA

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The 2015 American Auditory Society (AAS) Scientific and Technology Meeting took place at Scottsdale, Arizona, USA, the same place where, by tradition, it always meets. The scientific sessions comprised about 50 oral presentations and more than 150 posters. Over the years the number of oral presentations has stayed about the same, but the number of posters keeps growing.

Translational research lectures were presented by Brent Edwards on emerging technologies in amplification, Christine Yoshinaga-Itano on universal newborn hearing screening, and Steven Rauch on vestibular function testing. Dr Lina Reiss of Oregon Health and Science University gave the young investigator presentation on “Brain plasticity and adaptability: factors in success with cochlear implants and academia”.

A distinct feature of AAS meetings are special sessions called technology updates. Here, representatives of commercial companies present their latest products and recent developments. They are of interest to both practicing audiologists and to researchers, as the updates are not intended to be simply promotional but to focus on information and its scientific value.

An important event at AAS meetings is the Carhart Memorial Lecture and Award. It is the American Auditory

Society’s highest honor, reserved for those who have made the most significant contributions to the study of hearing, hearing science, and the management of hearing disorders. This year’s recipient was Brenda Lonsbury-Martin. She presented a lecture entitled ‘Can understanding the complex nature of DPOAE generation make the DP-gram more clinically useful?’ in which she gave an overview of her lifetime work and reviewed her studies on humans and animals. Among other things she related how Nelson Kiang, who was supervising her experiments, would regularly come by to check how her work was progressing, even at a very late hour.

A life achievement award was presented to Richard Wilson, with an introductory talk by Rachel McArdle. Richard Wilson has made great contributions to audiology with over 100 publications. He taught many students and has made impressive teaching achievements. Among other endeavors, he is responsible for developing the ‘Audiology Primer’, a booklet about the basics of audiology which is now freely available on the Internet.

The conference concluded with a special session on “Military and VA research: advancing our understanding of hearing”, with presentations by Lucille Beck, Marjorie Leek, Douglas Brungart, and Frederick Gallun.

The official journal of AAS is Ear and Hearing (E&H), so at each year’s meeting an annual report on E&H is presented. Importantly, we heard that E&H is moving to an electronic only format.



Saguaro cactus at the entrance to the conference hotel



Conference rooms hosted lively discussions



The Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix displays native instruments from different countries and allows the visitor to hear the sounds they make

During the gala dinner, we had an opportunity to view the musical instrument museum in Phoenix. The museum has an extraordinarily large collection and instruments are displayed country by country. Many of the original instruments are centuries old. Displays include movies and



An oversized but fully functional model of how one note of a piano works, on display at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix

samples of music, with performance clips of musicians from various countries and of music from different genres. The various stages involved in creating an instrument are illustrated, and exploded views of particular instruments reveal their inner construction.