

## **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**

The United Nation's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> of August every year to raise awareness. According to the UN, there are estimated 476 million Indigenous people in about 90 countries. Indigenous populations have distinct cultures, languages, and knowledge systems and despite that the Indigenous population in most countries are the poorest, have low access to educational services and in general experience discrimination.

The 2021 theme is "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract". To celebrate this day, International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders (formerly known as IALP, <https://ialpasoc.info/>) is hosting series of webinars (in September 2021) highlighting hearing-related research and clinical services by the Indigenous Peoples and for the Indigenous Peoples from across the world.

The aim of the webinar is to build network across researchers and clinicians to engage, collaborate and learn. The exercise is particularly relevant this year as WHO released its first hearing World Report that mandates to all its member countries to integrate the ear and hearing care into the respective national health goals.

The webinars will be held via zoom for about an hour

Hosts: A/P Mridula Sharma & Prof Christie Yoshinaga-Itano

Meeting ID: 794 148 0147;

Passcode: 10102020

Check <https://ialpasoc.info/> for details

<https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html>

## **Schedule**

- 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Sept: 11 am- 12 noon (AEST): 'Community collaboration in ear and hearing health: Australian perspective'**
- 2. 9<sup>th</sup> Sept: 10- 11 am (AEST): 'Hearing Healthcare in Rural Northwest Alaska: Provider and Consumer Perspectives'**
- 3. 15<sup>th</sup> Sept: 11 am-12 noon (AEST): 'Researching with Māori and Pacific communities in Aotearoa and the Pacific Region'**
- 4. 17<sup>th</sup> Sept: 9-10am (AEST): 'Hearing loss prevalence and hearing health among school aged children in the Canadian Arctic'**

## Abstracts and bios

### 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Sept: 11 am- 12 noon (AEST): 'Community collaboration in ear and hearing health: Australian perspective'

**Speakers:** Victoria Stroud, Rose Walley, Kerry Stack, (Telethon Kids Institute). Elders in the Koornlungkas Yarning project Nanna Madge Hill, Auntie Vivien Hansen, Mort Hansen, Christine Hill, Brett Hill, Leon and Raelene Hayward, Roberta Hansen

**Bio:**

Vic, Kerry and Rose: *Koornlungkas Yarning* is a collaborative research project between Telethon Kids researchers Victoria Stroud, Rosemary Walley and Kerry Stack, and an Aboriginal leadership group focused on integrating culture into language and communication development. Victoria has a background in speech pathology, environmental science and community development. She has worked with the Institutes Urban Aboriginal Ear Health program for the last five years and is currently conducting a PhD research. Rosemary is a community educator and has recently been awarded her Masters for her research project *Kadadjiny Dwank* (listening and thinking with your ears), A Noongar perspective on ears and hearing health. She has also been involved in the Urban Aboriginal Ear Health program for the last five years. Kerry is a community educator and community facilitator for the Koornlungkas Yarning project.

**Jack DeLacy** is an audiologist and public health researcher. He has worked with the Sax Institute on the Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH) investigating ear health and early childhood development, with focus on integrated models of care and social prescribing. Commencing his PhD in 2019, this project focusses on the social determinants of ear health in urban Aboriginal children in NSW, including an MRFF-funded project co-creating best-practice models of care. Jack teaches at Western Sydney University- The College (Health Science & Nursing), and at The University of Sydney (Graduate Diploma of Indigenous Health Promotion).

**Samantha Harkus** is a clinical audiologist by profession, working in a hearing research setting. She lives and work in Sydney on Gadigal land, part of the Eora nation. Sam has moved from providing individual clinical care to adults and children with hearing loss, into policy development and program leadership, and more recently into translational projects. A common thread across has been the drive to create more equitable and earlier access to culturally safe, high-quality hearing care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in particular for young children. Sam continues to provide clinical services on Arrernte country, and feels privileged to have worked with and learned from many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people during this time.

**Abstract:** Aboriginal language systems are diverse, and oral systems of knowledge, social exchange and storytelling are central to Aboriginal identity and culture. Ear disease and hearing loss in Aboriginal children, which anecdotally first appeared with colonisation, may prevent access to spoken language critical for social, spiritual and cultural wellbeing. Aboriginal communities understand the importance of ear health and the need for a holistic health response that addresses prevention, early detection and timely intervention. Despite thousands of years of Aboriginal knowledge about wellbeing, tools and programs designed to address ear health have not been co-created with Aboriginal populations. These three talks discuss three projects that collaborate with Aboriginal communities to co-create a more culturally sensitive approach to ear health care.

## 2. 9<sup>th</sup> Sept: 10- 11 am (AEST): 'Hearing Healthcare in Rural Northwest Alaska: Provider and Consumer Perspectives'

### Bios:

**Samantha Kleindienst Robler, AuD, PhD**, is the former director of Audiology and currently a population health/clinical informatics provider for Norton Sound Health Corporation. She is wife to Preston, a Software Engineering Project Manager, and mother to two children, Atticus 4 and Alaina 2. She is a graduate from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC and has been serving the Norton Sound region in some capacity for 10+ years. Her clinical and research interests include innovating and improving tools that address accessibility to hearing healthcare, including telemedicine and health technology development and application in the clinical setting, as well as addressing global hearing health, and public health policy in the hearing healthcare delivery system.

**Paul “Bebucks” Ivanoff III** lives in Unalakleet, Alaska and is the husband of 20 years to his amazing wife Anne. They have two children, Alexandria 19 and Alukka 16. He currently is the Community Benefits Director of Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation which serves the Norton Sound region. He is a tribal member of the Native Village of Unalakleet and serves as a board member for the Unalakleet Native Corporation. As an avid hunter and outdoorsman, he experienced moderate hearing loss and became an advocate for hearing loss prevention and for addressing hearing loss through the use of technology for the Alaskan Native people of his region.

**Abstract:** In this webinar we will review the scope and landscape of hearing healthcare in beautiful Norton Sound, Alaska. This region is home to 16 communities and 3 cultural groups only accessible by small aircraft or boat. We will talk about what healthcare looks like, ongoing hearing-related research, and cultural considerations. We will highlight a recent cluster randomized controlled trial, called Hearing Norton Sound, that was designed to address childhood hearing loss through a preventive telemedicine specialty referral for referred school hearing screening. We will share perspectives from the provider, community member, and consumer perspective.

### 3. 15<sup>th</sup> Sept: 11 am-12 noon (AEST): 'Researching with Māori and Pacific communities in Aotearoa and the Pacific Region'

#### **Bios**

Professor Suzanne Purdy – Suzanne (Te Rarawa, NgaiTakoto) has a clinical background in audiology and is currently Head of School of Psychology at the University of Auckland. Suzanne's work with colleagues in the Pacific Islands Families study, the 'Welcome to School' study and Counties Manukau District Health Board has examined ear health, hearing and auditory processing in Pacific and Māori children in Aotearoa New Zealand. This work is currently examining risk factors and inequities in ear and hearing service provision for Māori and Pacific communities.

Dr. Elizabeth Holt - Elizabeth is a public health researcher and physiotherapist. She has just completed her PhD in Population Health where she conducted a mixed-methods study to investigate the ear and hearing health status of Niuean children in Niue. As a Tongan-New Zealander, Elizabeth's work is informed by Pacific methodologies and contributes to eliminating inequities in ear and hearing health outcomes for Pasifika peoples.

Alehandrea Manuel - Alehandrea Manuel of Ngāti Porou is Māori-Ilocano and has worked in Aotearoa and Ahiereiria as an audiologist and researcher. She is currently involved in kaupapa Māori research doing a PhD in Audiology and Māori Health, working as the Eisdell Moore Centre's Māori Research Coordinator and tutoring Foundations of Māori Health (MAORIHTH701) at the University of Auckland. Alehandrea is an advocate for the rights of hard-of-hearing and d/Deaf Indigenous peoples. She aims to build relationships and work alongside Indigenous hard-of-hearing and d/Deaf communities to reduce inequities in ear and hearing health.

**Abstract:** The Eisdell Moore Centre (EMC) for Hearing and Balance Research based at the University of Auckland in New Zealand is seeking to reduce the impact of hearing and balance disability in New Zealand and the Pacific region through responsive and culturally safe research and the promotion of quality and equitable healthcare. In this webinar EMC researchers Alehandrea Manuel, Dr Elizabeth Holt and Professor Suzanne Purdy will discuss research that they and others in Aotearoa New Zealand are undertaking in an effort to reduce inequities in ear and hearing healthcare with Māori and Pacific communities across the life course. Alehandrea is Māori Research Co-ordinator, Elizabeth is Pacific Research Advisor and Suzanne Purdy is the Deputy Co-director of the Eisdell Moore Centre.

#### 4. 17<sup>th</sup> Sept: 9-10am (AEST): 'Hearing loss prevalence and hearing health among school aged children in the Canadian Arctic'

Bio:

**Lynne McCurdy** is a Doctor of Audiology with 30 years' experience working in Canada in both clinical and educational audiology roles as well as in the hearing aid manufacturing sector in management and leadership roles. Lynne also provided audiology services for the Ontario Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program, including newborn infant hearing diagnostics, for her local region. She is the team leader for Better Hearing in Education for Northern Youth (Bheny), serving the indigenous population of school aged children in Nunavut, Canada. She is an active member of her local Rotary club and participates in serving the Canadian indigenous community. She is actively involved in social and climate justice.

**Abstract:** Better Hearing in Education for Northern Youth (BHENV) is a Rotary driven volunteer organization developed in 2015 to address the hearing needs of indigenous youth in elementary schools in Nunavut, Canada's largest northern territory. The project goals included the implementation of soundfield amplification systems along with the training and support for teachers in all elementary schools across Nunavut with a clear focus on sustainability. Upon project completion in 2019, with the support of the Nunavut Department of Education, all classrooms across Nunavut have soundfield systems with training and support embedded in policy to ensure ongoing training and use of the systems.

Prevalence rates, including both type and degree of hearing loss in 644 school aged children from across Canada's northern region of Nunavut was obtained in 2018. Data was also obtained on the use of hearing aids for school age children requiring amplification. Findings indicate high incidence rates of hearing loss. Research also suggested that a majority of children requiring amplification were not consistently using amplification.

Both the BHENV soundfield project and the hearing data collection in Nunavut will be presented in the Webinar.