

Hears the News

Tinnitus Debate 2018

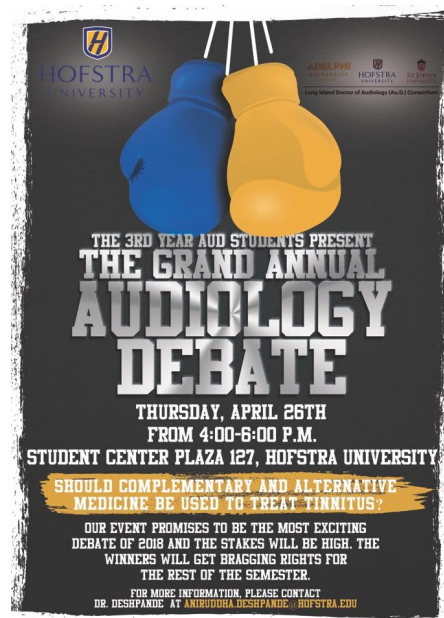
On Thursday, April 26, 2017 third year AuD students of the LI AuD Consortium went head to head in the 2nd Grand Annual Audiology Debate. This year's topic was "Alternative Medicine for the Treatment of Tinnitus". Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) refers to the use of non-allopathic methods to treat illness. These include means such as acupuncture, acupressure, Chinese medicine, homeopathy, non-prescription drugs, herbs, or supplements. With the rise in the use of CAM to treat 'incurable' conditions like tinnitus, audiologists face the question, "Should complementary and alternative medicine be used to treat tinnitus?"

This student-led debate explored both sides of this important and timely question. Both teams put forth strong arguments citing multiple research studies in order to persuade the panel, which consisted of Dr. Aniruddha Deshpande, Dr. Jason Thomas, Prof. Wendy Silverman, and Dr. Maja Svrakic, to believe each team's perspective. The "For" team argued that with minimal side effects it could be worth trying less conventional therapies that could possibly help alleviate a patient's tinnitus. The "Against" team argued that it would be best to mitigate tinnitus in more traditional ways such as hearing aids and tinnitus retraining therapy in order to avoid any unknown harmful side effects. Both arguments were hard fought and in the end the team arguing for the use of alternative medicine came out victorious and won the debate by a narrow margin.

Cash prizes were awarded to both team members courtesy of a grant received from the School of Health Professions and Human Services. Additional prizes were awarded to the following students for exemplary performance during the debate - Amanda Brady, Courtney Roth, and Mariya Tuchinskaya.

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Congrats Class of 2018



Faculty Spotlight: Suzanne Miller

If we haven't already met, I am Dr. Miller. I recently received tenure at St. John's University and am now an Associate Professor of Audiology in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department. I am also a graduate of St. John's University's former MA program in Audiology (2006), which has since been replaced by the Long Island AuD Consortium and of which I am Program Director for St. John's.

Prior to becoming an audiologist, I was an elementary school teacher and speech-language pathology student. I changed my mind and studied audiology, because I liked the science behind it. I found audiology more "cut and dry" than speech-language pathology.

I earned my PhD in Hearing Science from the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center and worked from 2008-2013 in the Speech Communication Studies Department at Iona College in New Rochelle, NY.

I am happy to be back at SJU and working with many of the faculty that I had as a student. I am currently working with audiology graduate students in order to study the efficacy of hearing screening programs in NYC schools. I am also interested in studying the effects of middle ear impairments on hearing.

In my free time, I enjoy taking my son, JW, to the playground. We are both looking forward to the warmer weather.

Please feel free to stop by my office and say hello or email me if you have any questions.



First Year Spotlight: Judy Taub

Judy Taub is a first year Au.D. student. Her home school is Adelphi University. She graduated with her BS in Speech and Communication Science from Touro College. She always wanted to pursue a career in healthcare, and from the onset of her undergraduate studies she was drawn to the field of audiology. Ever since she started at the Long Island Au.D. Consortium, her passion for audiology continues to grow with each academic and clinical experience. Her interactions with patients in the clinic as well as participation in community outreach has given her the invaluable opportunity to expand her knowledge in the field and hone her skills. She's eternally grateful for the inspiration and support she receives from faculty and classmates. She looks forward in continuing to assist individuals achieving their maximum hearing potential.



2nd Year Student Spotlight: Rachel Cohen



Rachel Cohen is second year doctoral student at the Long Island Au.D. Consortium. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology with a minor in Deaf Studies from Ithaca College. Rachel is very passionate about the prevention, education, and aural rehabilitative aspects of hearing loss. She feels very grateful and appreciative to the Long Island Consortium for providing her with the most supportive faculty, outstanding supervisors, incredible opportunities, and wonderful friendships.

She is currently at her external rotation at Mill Neck Center for Hearing Health where she has been learning a great deal and gaining a great experience. Her favorite part of her placement is assisting in aural rehabilitative support groups to help individuals who struggle with the psychosocial impacts of hearing loss. With Mill Neck, she has been traveling throughout Long Island providing hearing screenings in their mobile screening van at a variety of places such as community centers, schools, and other public locations.

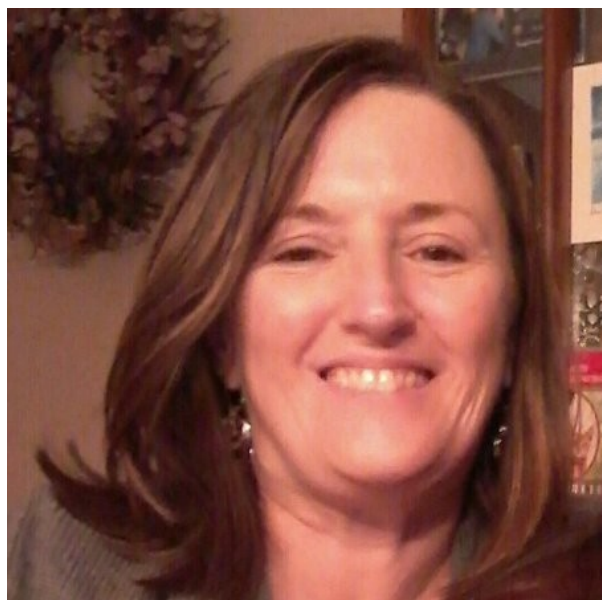
Rachel is a current member of the Hear-Ring Lab at Hofstra University where she is conducting research with Dr. Deshpande. She is also a member of SAA and has been involved in advocacy events such as attending West Islip High School to discuss the profession of Audiology. Most recently, she gave a presentation to W.T. Clarke High School music students and really enjoyed discussing noise induced hearing loss with them. This fall, she joined the Walk 4 Hearing to help raise awareness about hearing loss.

This past summer, she attended Phonak and Starkey Universities where she had a great time learning about each of the manufacturer's hearing aids. She plans to attend Oticon's workshop in Colorado this summer as well. Rachel is also looking very forward to attending the American Academy of Audiology's annual conference in Nashville this year!



Offsite Clinical Supervisor Spotlight: Barbara Popecki AuD

Barbra Popecki was very excited to be joining the offsite clinical supervising team for the Long Island AuD Consortium this past semester. She has been practicing audiology for the past 24 years, and is currently serving as the practice manager at Northwell Health Physician Partners.



Dr. Popecki received her Bachelor's degree from Emerson College with a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders. At Emerson she developed her interest in Audiology, due to working in the college's pre-school that was specifically designed for hearing impaired children. She then went on to pursue her Master's degree in Audiology at Hofstra University, and her Doctor of Audiology (AuD) degree from Arizona School of Health Science. Dr. Popecki began her career working at North Shore Hospital as a cochlear implant audiologist. She then moved to a private practice setting, working at Earworks Audiology for 4 years. In 2016 she joined the Northwell health system, and currently manages one of the hearing aid dispensaries.

Dr. Popecki is extremely involved in her professional organizations. She is a member of ASHA, AAA, NYSSLHA, and LISHA. She is currently serving on the board of NYSSLHA as the treasurer, having previously sat on several committees including fiancé, education, by-laws, and membership.

Widex Factory Trip

Widex, Inc hosted the second years at their US headquarters in Hauppauge, NY. Here, our students took a tour of the facility where they got a first-hand look at how repairs and new orders are processed. The detail-oriented setup stressed the importance of organization and a speedy process. Two lecturers greeted us and gave information about the company. One described what set Widex apart from the other "big 6" hearing companies and explained new technological features of their products. The other described the future of the industry, focusing on how the "hearing aids without batteries". The Widex mission is to provide the absolute best hearing aids and customer services. "Helping people hear is our business."



Lindsay Beckler Runs for Starkey

"Alone we can't do much. Together we can change the world."

This is the simple premise that the Starkey Hearing Foundation was founded on. This year, Lindsay Beckler participated in the Long Island Marathon Weekend in support of a great cause! She raised \$90 for the Guatemala mission trip Long Island Consortium will be attending! Go Lindsay!



Hearing Screenings

As part of the Long Island Au.D. Consortium continued efforts of community outreach (local and global), several first and second year audiology students provided free hearing screenings to over 250 students from the Hempstead school district. A special thank you to The Center for Hearing Health and the Mobile Audiology Van for helping us bring better hearing services to the students at Franklin Elementary School in Hempstead, New York.



3rd Year Spotlight: Nechama Maness

My name is Nechama Maness and I am currently in my third year. I graduated from Brooklyn College, CUNY with my BA in Speech Language Pathology/Audiology in May 2015. My interest in audiology stems from my personal experience with hearing loss. Growing up with hearing loss has its challenges. This was the beginning of my inspiration to pursue a career in audiology. I know firsthand the struggle of having a childhood hearing loss and wish to assist others in navigating some of these challenges.

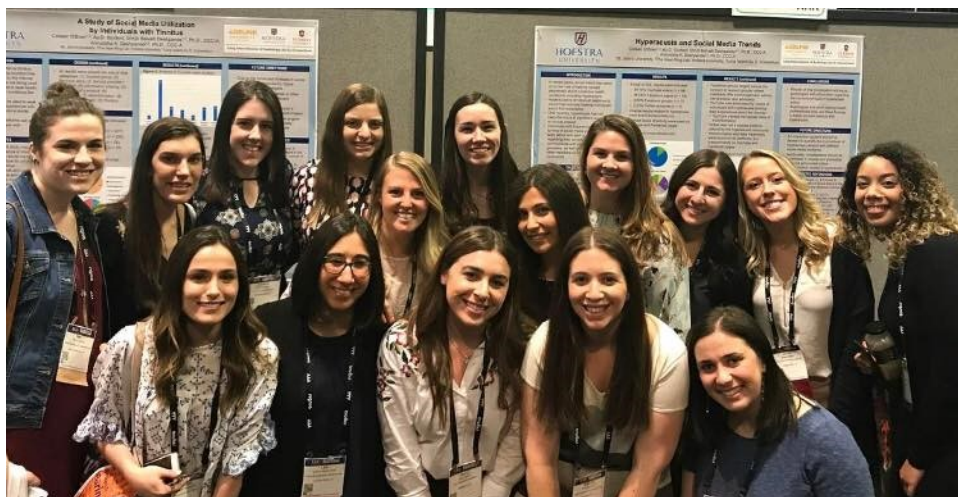
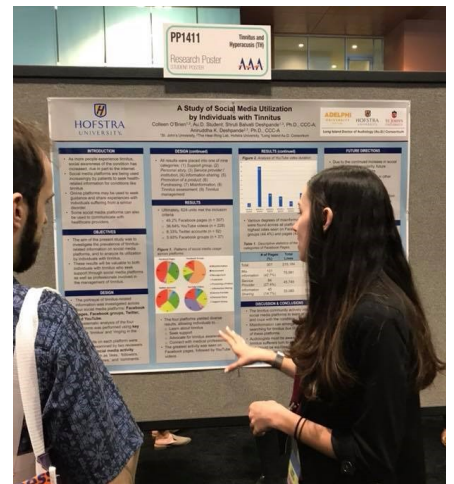
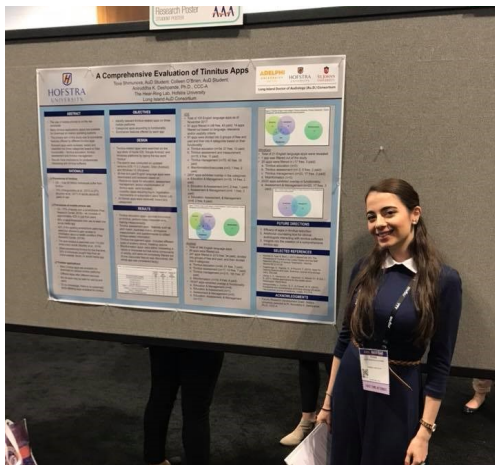
My experience in the Long Island Consortium Au.D. program has been wonderful! The education and support from the professors and faculty has been incredible. My fellow classmates have made the past three years fly by, we will be lifelong friends. I completed my first outside placement at Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf and my second placement at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. I am currently completing my third placement with the Brooklyn Audiology Associates, a private practice. I look forward to beginning my fourth-year placement in June at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Manhattan.

In 2017, I took advantage of a wonderful opportunity to attend the AAA conference in Indianapolis, which was a tremendous learning experience. In the summer of 2017, I attended the Starkey and Phonak summer programs, which were great educational opportunities.



AAA Photos





SAA Chapter Raises Over \$600 at March of Dimes

On April 29th, our SAA chapter participated in the March of Dimes walk at Jones Beach. The chapter's goal was to raise awareness for infants born prematurely and the effects that prematurity can have on their hearing.

Due to the hard work of our chapter members our team was able to raise \$644 for the organization. Many Thanks to our top fundraiser Kristina Martinez who raised \$283.



Alumni Check In: Lisa Mener

Dr. Lisa Mener is an alumni of the Long Island Doctor of Audiology Consortium. She completed her fourth-year externship at the Long Island Jewish Hearing and Speech Center, and has been a full time audiologist at the Center for the past three years. Dr. Mener's current case load includes amplification, cochlear implant mapping at the Center and monitoring in the operating room, auditory brainstem response (ABR) testing, auditory processing, and diagnostic audiological evaluations for adult and pediatric populations. Recently she has taken on the role of adjunct professor to teach Amplification I at Hofstra University. Dr. Mener truly enjoys both worlds of teaching and providing patient care. She is both honored and excited to have been given the opportunity to share her knowledge of amplification and experiences within the field of audiology with her students.



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