FULL DAY SEMINAR #1 - (8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

“Hearing loss prevention: The Basics (Noise Measurement)”
Coordinator: Tom Lloyd, Associates in Acoustics, Inc., USA
This segment will provide an overview of the measurement and control of noise, including an introduction to that dear friend/arch-enemy of hearing loss prevention (the decibel), the equipment we use to measure noise (sound level meters, dosimeters, octave band analyzers, oh my!), how we can reduce noise exposures, and how all this relates to protecting people’s hearing.

“Hearing loss prevention: The basics (The Audiogram)”
Coordinator: Lynnette Bardolf, Ph.D. - US Army, USA
The audiometric test is essentially the report card for the hearing loss prevention program. No worker’s hearing has ever been preserved or protected because he or she took a hearing test. How we use that hearing test, how we convey the information, how we track the data becomes critical to the program. This session will go beyond just looking for standard threshold shift. It will provide the technician with information about obtaining a valid result, and will offer the professional supervisor insight into follow-up strategies.

“Hearing loss prevention: The basics (HPDs)”
Coordinator: Theresa Schulz, Ph.D. – Sperian Hearing Protection, USA
As hearing conservationists we can measure, assess, document, and counsel, but when it comes to effective intervention, our primary tool, sometimes our only tool, is a hearing protector. Therefore it behooves us to become knowledgeable about the specification of hearing protection devices and their use in hearing conservation programs. This presentation will focus on hearing protector function, how they are tested and rated (with particular reference to the NRR), the performance gains available from the use of dual hearing.

“Hearing loss prevention: The basics (Education & Motivation)”
Coordinator: Laura Kauth, MA, CCC-A - Independent Consultant, USA
While the ideal solution to a noisy environment is to remove the noise, in many situations, it simply isn’t possible. When this is the case, it’s not enough to rely solely on compliance with regulations to reduce risk. We need to educate employees thoroughly on the benefits of hearing conservation and the crucial steps they should take to safeguard their hearing. Employees must participate actively for hearing conservation to be successful; we need to engage and interest them in their own protection. Effective hearing conservation cannot be achieved without the combined efforts of employers, supervisors, and the employees themselves. By focusing on the reasons behind hearing conservation, and providing some different approaches, we can better reach these individuals to make them a part of the solution to preventable hearing loss.

“Hearing loss prevention: The basics (Record Keeping)”
Coordinator: Cindy Bloyer, MS, CCC-A - Examinetics, Inc., USA
Identification of work-related hearing loss has long been one of the most complicated and controversial areas of government-mandated injury/illness recordkeeping. Effective in 2000, MSHA provided a new definition of “reportable” hearing loss in its revised noise standard, Part 62. OSHA also defined new criteria for recording occupational hearing loss with its recent revision to 29 CFR 1904 (effective in 2003, with a separate Form 300 column in effect January 1, 2004). This workshop presentation will focus on the basic requirements of MSHA and OSHA recordkeeping regulations, as well as implications for professional review of audiograms and determination of work-relatedness. Although compliance with recordkeeping rules is important to the ultimate goal of tracking incidence of work-related hearing loss, emphasis will also be placed on best practices for an effective hearing loss prevention program.

“Hearing loss prevention: The basics (Regulations & HIPAA)”
Coordinator: Nancy Gallighugh, Kalamazoo RESA, USA
This portion of the workshop will provide attendees with an overview of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) as it relates to the hearing conservation provider, including recordkeeping, maintaining compliance, and available resources. Also discussed will be a summary of Hearing Conservation Regulations including recordability differences between MSHA
FULL DAY WORKSHOP #2 - (8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
“Hearing Protector Fit-Testing: No two ears are the same”
Coordinator: William J. Murphy, Ph.D. - CDC/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, USA
Amanda Azman - CDC/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, USA
Elliott Berger, MS - 3M Occupational Health and Environment, Safety Division, USA
Samir N.Y. Gerges - Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil
Mihaela Grigorie, Phonak, USA
Kevin Michael, Ph.D. - Michael & Associates, USA
A. Greg Moore, CCC-A - WorkPlace Integra, USA
Brad Witt - Sperian Hearing Protection, USA
Jeremie Voix - P. Eng., Ph.D. - Universite de Quebec (ETS), Canada

For over 30 years, hearing conservation professionals have known that the Noise Reduction Rating is not necessarily representative of the protection afforded to the average user of hearing protection. NIOSH developed one of the earliest fit-test systems, however, the system was far from portable. In the mid 1990’s Michaels and Associates developed FitCheck for use on a laptop computer. In recent years, other companies have developed systems: VeriPro by Sperian, Sonopass by Sonomax, SafetyMeter by Phonak, MultiFit by NIOSH, IntegraFit by Workplace Integra, HPD WellFit by NIOSH, and EARFit by 3M. This workshop will present an overview of the technologies available to the hearing conservation professional. During the morning session, attendees will learn about different methods to effect fit-testing and companies will present the features of their particular systems. During the afternoon session, attendees will experience hands-on demonstrations of the various products. Different demonstration areas will be provided for systems that require quiet and for those that do not.

HALF DAY WORKSHOP #3(A) - A.M. ONLY (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)
“Mobile Unit Infectious Controls and Four Audiometric Software Comparisons for PSP’s (Benson, EARS, OMI, Workplace Integra)”
Coordinator: Richard Stepkin, MS, CCC-A - Enviromed Corp, USA
A.U. Bankaitis, Ph.D., FAAAH - Oaktree Products, Inc. | USA

Dr. Bankaitis will present the issues and solutions of infectious contamination, cross-contamination for both the technician and the employee in a multi-station mobile test environment. In addition, four presentations of popular audiometric software’s used in mobile testing environments. Each software representative will discuss transfer of data between Server and Mobile operations; data analysis on the mobile unit and at the server; Audiologist interactive abilities in the review process; baseline revisions of work vs. non-work related issues; STS handling of recordable and non-recordable shifts; flexibility of reporting to accommodate unique needs of the PSP and server storage for single and corporate customers.

HALF DAY WORKSHOP #3(B) - P.M. ONLY (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
“Hearing Conservation: Innovative Teaching Strategies”
Coordinator: Kenneth Gerhardt - Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of Florida, USA
Donald Henderson, Ph.D. - USA
Christopher Spankovich, Au.D., Ph.D., M.P.H. - Vanderbilt University, USA

What educator hasn’t struggled with the challenges of developing successful techniques for teaching and assessing learning outcomes? This workshop will provide tips for teaching and current information on topics typically covered in hearing conservation courses. Participants in this interactive session will be invited to discuss topics including integrating science in hearing conservation, the regulatory process, and medical-legal considerations of noise-induced hearing loss. Bring your thinking caps and leave your inhibitions at the door, this session will require participation and challenge you to get involved with your “classmates” as these topics are reviewed and discussed.

HALF DAY WORKSHOP #4(A) - A.M. ONLY (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)
“Preservation of Hearing in the U.S. Army – Meeting the Specific Challenges of the War Fighter Using Education and Technological Innovations”
John A. Merkley, M.S., CCC-A - United States Army Public Health Command Region - Europe
Kara M. Cave, Ph.D., CCC-A - United States Army Medical Activity, Fort Campbell, USA
CPT Leanne Cleveland, Au.D., CCC-A, - Fort Carson Hearing Program Mgr, US Army, USA

Climbing noise exposure rates have resulted in the continued ranking of permanent hearing loss and tinnitus among the top four injuries for combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The challenges of preventing hearing loss in the War Fighter, while simultaneously preserving their communication capabilities, have required a combination of innovative technology, pre-deployment training, and comprehensive education. The Operational Hearing Services component of the Army Hearing Program has evolved into an effective effort to work “within” the Soldier’s occupationally-specific limitations and exposures to enhance his mission capabilities. Attendees will learn how to reach target audiences with effective education, the importance of training with new technology, how to complete noise abatement strategy surveys, and be introduced to several technological innovations the Army has to offer for tactical communication and preventive systems. Using the military as an example, participants will learn how to translate presented material to meet their needs for challenging, noise-exposed personnel.
HALF DAY WORKSHOP #4(B) - P.M. ONLY (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
“Tips and Tricks for Making Reliable OAE Measurements”
Coordinator: Dawn Konrad-Martin, Ph.D., CCC-A - Ntl Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research Portland VA Med. Center, USA
Colleen Le Prell, Ph.D. - The Hearing Research Center at the University of Florida, USA
Brenda Lonsbury-Martin - Brenda Lonsbury-Martin, Ph.D. - Loma Linda University Medical Center, USA

Not long after their discovery in 1978, it was soon realized that otoacoustic emissions (OAEs) provide a noninvasive measure of the healthiness of outer hair cell activity. This realization quickly led to the expectation that OAEs would provide a unique and sensitive indicator of the damaging effects of excessive sounds on the cochlea, i.e., of the consequences of noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) on hearing. However, this simple anticipation has not proven to be easily demonstrated, likely because of the complex factors that can influence both the measurement and interpretation of OAEs. The overall purpose of this presentation is to review the history of using OAEs to detect and diagnose NIHL based on both experimental analyses and practical investigations in the workplace. For certain, uncovering more specific particulars about the basic processes underlying the generation of OAEs promises to make them more useful for the early detection of NIHL.

HALF DAY WORKSHOP #5(A) - A.M. ONLY (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)
“The HearTomorrow Audio Workshop - Audio System Theory for Hearing Professionals”
Coordinator: Benjamin Kanters, MM - Columbia College Chicago , USA

The HearTomorrow Audio Workshop will teach audio and audio system theory to professionals in the hearing science industries in much the same way as the Hearing Conservation Workshop teaches hearing physiology and conservation to audio and music professionals. The workshop will cover the following topics: Acoustics and Sound (from the perspective of audio and music), microphones & speakers, analog and digital signals, and signal processing, including amplifiers, mixers, equalizers, compressors & gates, delay and reverb. Wherever possible, audio principles will be explained using the language and theories of hearing physiology, psychoacoustics and cognition.

HALF DAY WORKSHOP #5(B) - P.M. ONLY (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
“Emotional Intelligence Predicts Career Success”
Coordinator: Barry Blesser, Blesser Associates, USA

With decades of formal education and professional experience, we have worked hard to acquire a unique set of specialized knowledge: hard skills. Like all professionals, we expect a career that has strong momentum, high stature, and adequate financial compensation. Why are these hard skills insufficient to achieve our goals? Recent cognitive science research shows that all human decisions have a major component of irrational psychology, hidden emotions, and private agendas. Whether we like it or not, evolution made us that way. Managing emotional intelligence with a collection of soft-skills complements hard-skills. Soft-skills are like oil in an engine, keeping precision parts (hard-skills) from seizing into a useless block of metal. In this workshop, I will describe soft-skills and demonstrate how they can be productively applied in clinical practice, academic settings, or other real-world settings. Attendees are urged to contribute personal examples, which will serve as case studies. Even though universities do not teach soft-skills, they are not difficult to learn, and they are absolutely critical to professional success. Soft-Skills never become obsolete.
Thursday, February 24, 2011
Workshop Presenter Biographies

Amanda Azman, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Amanda S. Azman is a research audiologist with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Dr. Azman earned her Au.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 2006. She joined the Hearing Loss Prevention branch of NIOSH Office of Mine Safety and Health Research in 2007, where she serves as the technical manager for the NVLAP accredited hearing protector testing facility. Dr. Azman has spent time assessing hearing protector technology for maintaining audibility in mining noise. Her current research focus is on the effectiveness of various noise controls and other hearing loss intervention tools developed by NIOSH to reduce the incidence of noise induced hearing loss in mining.

Elliott H. Berger, MS - 3M Occupational Health and Environment, Safety Division, USA
Elliott H. Berger, MS, is a Division Scientist for 3M. For over 30 years he has studied hearing protection, hearing conservation, and related topics, and has presented his research in numerous lectures and publications. He chairs the ANSI working group on hearing protector attenuation, served as a National Academy of Science committee evaluating hearing loss in the military, is Past-President of the National Hearing Conservation Association, a Fellow of both the Acoustical Society of America and the American Industrial Hygiene Association, and a recipient of the National Hearing Conservation Association’s Outstanding Hearing Conservationist Award. Among his favorite sounds is his terrier, Sophie, munching on a sesame brittle treat.

A.U. Bankaitis, Ph.D., FAAA - Oaktree Products, Inc., USA
My educational background is in the area of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. I earned a masters degree in audiology from Cleveland State University in 1990 and immediately moved to Cincinnati to pursue my doctorate at the University of Cincinnati while simultaneously completing my CFY at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. My coursework mainly focused on neuroscience as well as statistics and research design. My involvement in infection control was somewhat of an accident; I happened to be in the right place at the right time. Within the first year of my doctoral studies, a relationship was established with the Infectious Disease Center at the University of Cincinnati to study the effects of varying degrees of HIV on the auditory system. Given my research focus, colleagues and co-workers started inquiring about infection control. In the absence of readily accessible information, I educated myself in the area of infection control with specific application to audiology and speech-language pathology and started sharing that knowledge with my colleagues.

LTC Lynnette Bardolf, Ph.D. - US Army (USAARL), USA
Lynnette Bosse Bardolf earned her B.S. in Communication Disorders and her M.S. in Audiology from the Florida State University (FSU) in 1989 and 1990, respectively. She received a commission as an Army Officer in the Army’s Medical Service Corps in 1989, and has served as a military clinical audiologist and hearing conservationist for the past 20 years in various locations around the world serving active duty military, military retirees, and military family members in all branches of the U.S. military. Lynnette’s career has afforded her many opportunities including a military mission to Nairobi, Kenya, in January 1999, to provide audiology services to victims of the August 1998 Embassy bombings there; as well as the opportunity to pursue her Ph.D. in Audiology at the University of Florida, where she graduated with her Ph.D. in August 2006. Currently, Lynnette is assigned to the United States Army Aeromedical Center/Lyster Army Health Clinic at Ft. Rucker, Alabama as Chief of Specialty Services, along with serving as a clinical and research audiologist. She is also the current Director of Membership for NHCA.

Elliott H. Berger, MS - 3M Occupational Health and Environment, Safety Division, USA
Elliott H. Berger, MS, is a Division Scientist for 3M. For over 30 years he has studied hearing protection, hearing conservation, and related topics, and has presented his research in numerous lectures and publications. He chairs the ANSI working group on hearing protector attenuation, served as a National Academy of Science committee evaluating hearing loss in the military, is Past-President of the National Hearing Conservation Association, a Fellow of both the Acoustical Society of America and the American Industrial Hygiene Association, and a recipient of the National Hearing Conservation Association’s Outstanding Hearing Conservationist Award. Among his favorite sounds is his terrier, Sophie, munching on a sesame brittle treat.
Barry Blesser - Blesser Associates, USA
Barry Blesser has been a technical and management consultant for the last 40 years in a wide variety of industries that includes spatial acoustics, sound recording, and auditory perception. In addition, he is an independent researcher focusing on the phenomenology of sound. MIT Press published his book, Spaces Speak, Are You Listening? Experiencing Aural Architecture in 2006. Recently, he has given numerous keynote lectures and seminars on his two passions: the experience of sound in space and using soft-skills to advance careers. Dr. Blesser received his Ph.D. from MIT in 1969 where he specialized in communications and perception. For the following 9 years, he was an Assoc. Professor at MIT and a senior scientist in their Cognitive Information Processing Group. He had been president of the Audio Engineering Society, received many of their awards, and continues as their consulting technical editor.

Cindy Bloyer, MS, CCC-A - Examinetics, Inc., USA
An audiologist since 1980, Cindy has worked solely in the area of hearing conservation since 1991. She heads the Audiology department of Examinetics where she and her staff work with over 5000 facilities nationwide ensuring regulatory compliance and program excellence. A member of NHCA since 1991, a CAOHC CD since 1992 and a certified member of ASHA since 1981, Cindy holds an MS in Audiology from the UW-Stevens Point.

Kara M. Cave, Ph.D., CCC-A - United States Army Medical Activity, Fort Campbell, USA
CPT Kara Cave is currently the Chief of the Hearing Program at Fort Campbell, KY. Her previous assignments include: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; Army Research Laboratory, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; 10th Combat Support Hospital, Baghdad, Iraq; and Fort Bliss, Texas. She received her B.A. from Boston College in 1999 and her PhD in Audiology from James Madison University in 2005.

CPT Leanne Cleveland, Au.D., CCC-A - Fort Carson Hearing Program Mgr, US Army, USA
CPT Cleveland was born and raised in Canada. From 1991 to 1997 she worked at the Hospital for Sick Children and at the North York General Hospital in Toronto, Canada as an Audiology Technician. From 1997 to 2000 she lived in Saudi Arabia as an audiology technician for the King Fahad National Guard Hospital. Leanne was commissioned in the US Army in 2003 and completed the Audiology externship program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 2004. She is a graduate of the AuD program at SUNY Buffalo. CPT Cleveland is currently the senior audiologist and Hearing Program Manager at Fort Carson Colorado. She was also stationed at Fort Hood, Texas from 2004 to 2006. CPT Cleveland was sworn in as a US citizen on April 13, 2008 at the Al Faw Palace in Baghdad, Iraq while she was deployed with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

MAJ Jillyen Curry-Mathis, Au.D., CCC-A - USA MEDDAC, Fort Jackson, SC, U.S. Army, USA
MAJ Curry-Mathis completed her Au.D. at the University of Florida and went active duty in the US Army in 2003 with an assignment to Fort Stewart, GA. She has presented on the development of an effective Army Hearing Program at multiple leadership levels and professional conferences, to include the MEDCOM Chief of Staff. MAJ Mathis had the opportunity to deploy with 3rd Infantry Division in 2008 for an “insider’s perspective” on the challenges faced by soldiers in a combat environment. She has gained a reputation as an expert in the tactical fielding of hearing protection systems and recently authored TRADOC doctrine to establish several training standards. MAJ Mathis is currently spearheading an Army-wide program to educate basic training soldiers and their cadre for combat arms earplug use and the preservation of “operational” hearing.

Mihaela Grigorie, Phonak, USA
Mihaela Grigorie is Product Manager for hearing protection products at Phonak Communications in Switzerland. She holds a PhD in microelectronics from the Swiss Institute of Technology (EPFL) and an MBA from the University of Lausanne (HEC). Her experience covers integrated circuit design, project leading, marketing and communication management, as well as quality systems implementation. Her current position within Phonak spans all tasks related to the management of the company’s Serenity hearing protection devices and the definition, development and launch of innovative products such as the SafetyMeter fit-testing system.
Laura Kauth, MA, CCC-A - Independent Consultant, USA
Laura Kauth earned her bachelor’s degrees in English, psychology, and biology at the University of Iowa in 1994. She went on to complete her M.A. in audiology in 2000. Although initially inclined toward research, an outplacement with Dr. Myrna Stephens and a student membership in NHCA redirected her into hearing conservation. After ten years of dividing her time between clinical and occupational audiology, Laura opted to leave her clinical practice to better pursue her professional interests in hearing conservation. Laura is currently licensed to practice audiology in Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin, and maintains the Certificate of Clinical Competence through the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). She is a certified course director for the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation (CAOHC). She has been an active member in NHCA since 2000, and currently serves on the Executive Council as the Director of Communications.

Benj Kanters, MM - Columbia College Chicago, USA
He earned his BS in Speech and his MM in Music Technology, both from Northwestern University. He has been on the faculty of Columbia College since 1993, after 20 years in the audio and music industries, including 14 years as adjunct professor of audio at Northwestern University’s Schools of Speech and Music. In 1970, he was partner and sound engineer with the Chicago area concert club, Amazingrace. In 2000 he developed the course Studies in Hearing to teach hearing physiology to students majoring in audio and acoustics, the only such course offered in any college program of its kind. In 2007, he founded The Hearing Conservation Workshop, visiting colleges and universities to teach hearing physiology and conservation to future audio and music industry professionals.

Donald Henderson, Ph.D., - USA
Dr. Donald Henderson is a graduate of Western Washington State College and he received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 1966. For the last 40 years, he has studied hearing and causes of hearing loss. He has published over 150 articles, edited ten books and has been continuously funded by federal granting agencies since 1968. His current research focus is on the role of free radicals as a factor in hearing loss from noise, drugs and aging. As a corollary, he is also developing pharmacological techniques for preventing hearing loss by using antioxidants or inhibitors of apoptosis (active hair cell death). Dr. Henderson came to UB in 1987 as the Chair of the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences. In 1994, he and Dr. Richard Salvi formed the Center for Hearing and Deafness. The Center has fostered important interdisciplinary research into hearing and disorders associated with hearing. The Center also serves as a unique training resource for graduate students and medical residents.

Kenneth Gerhardt - Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of Florida, USA
Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt received his Ph.D. in Audiology and Hearing Science from The Ohio State University. For the past 32 years he has been a professor in the Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences program at the University of Florida. He is currently the Senior Associate Dean of the UF Graduate School. Dr. Gerhardt has published over 90 articles that focus on noise-induced hearing loss and fetal hearing. Prior to his appointment in the Graduate School, he studied fetal noise exposure and auditory development. His research has been funded by the NIH, U.S. Army and private foundations. Dr. Gerhardt helped develop the Doctor of Audiology program with a distance learning component that has graduated over 1000 students since 2000. He has received numerous awards for his teaching, service and research, and was selected Faculty of the Year by the Florida Blue Key for his commitment to students.

Samir N.Y. Gerges - Federal University of Santa Catarina - Brazil
Born in Egypt in 1941, obtained his Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical/Aeronautical Engineering from Cairo University in 1964 and his Masters in 1970. Obtained his Ph.D. from ISVR, Southampton University, UK, in 1974. Professor of noise and vibration since 1978 at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), Mechanical Engineering Department, Laboratory of Acoustics and Vibration, Brazil, where he teaches the fundamentals of acoustics, noise control, signal processing, environmental noise and instrumentation for noise and vibration measurements and analysis, to undergraduate and postgraduate students. His current interests include industrial and construction noise, hearing protectors, environmental noise, experimental and numerical vibro-acoustics analysis for industrial and vehicle applications and general room acoustics.

Nancy Gallihugh, MS, CCC-A - Kalamazoo RESA, USA
Nancy Gallihugh received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University and her Master of Science degree from Western Illinois University. As a member of the staff of Constance Brown Hearing Centers for thirteen years, she supervised the industrial audiology program, provided clinical audiology services, and managed the educational audiology program. She currently administers educational audiology services to hearing impaired students through Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency.
Dawn Konrad-Martin, Ph.D., CCC-A - Ntl Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research Portland VA Med. Center, USA
Dawn Konrad-Martin is a certified Audiologist and Research Investigator at the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) at the Portland VA Medical Center. She is also an Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology at the Oregon Health and Science University. She obtained a Ph.D. in Audiology from the University of Washington, where her studies involved developmental auditory neurobiology. Prior to joining the NCRAR, Dr. Konrad-Martin completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Boys Town National Research Hospital, and was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences at Rush University.

Colleen Le Prell, Ph.D. - The Hearing Research Center at the University of Florida, USA
Colleen Le Prell, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Director of The Hearing Research Center at the University of Florida. Dr. Le Prell has served as the Principal Investigator on Research grants as well as University-sponsored awards; she has also supervised industry contracts. Dr. Le Prell is the Principal Investigator on trials conducted at the University of Florida, and she is coordinating research activities at three foreign study sites. Her research includes collaborations with investigators at the University of Michigan, Harvard University, Washington University in St. Louis, and the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine; international research partners include the Karolinska Institute, the Swedish Armed Forces, the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, NATO commanders at Los Llanos airbase in Albacete, Spain, and Solemat, a Spanish health care company.

Brenda Lonsbury-Martin, Ph.D. - Loma Linda University Medical Center, USA
Brenda L. Lonsbury-Martin Ph.D is a professor in the Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at Loma Linda University Medical Center, and senior research scientist in the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System. Dr. Lonsbury-Martin has been developing special-purpose protocols using oto-acoustic emissions to evaluate, screen, and monitor the functional status of the hearing portion of the inner ear over the past 25 years. Dr Lonsbury-Martin is an Associate Editor for the Journal of the ASA and on the editorial board of Hearing Research. Dr Lonsbury-Martin received her PhD in medical psychology from Oregon Health & Science University, and completed postdoctoral-fellowship training in psychobiology and auditory physiology and biophysics at the University of California/Irvine and the University of Washington, respectively.

Tom Lloyd - Associates in Acoustics, Inc., USA
Mr. Lloyd has been a senior consultant of Associates in Acoustics, Inc. since 1998. His primary responsibilities include conducting engineering noise control surveys, data analysis, research, and design of recommendations for noise control. In addition, he conducts environmental and community noise surveys, as well as employee noise exposure assessments for both hearing conservation and regulatory compliance. He also teaches noise control and hearing conservation training seminars, which are customized to the particular needs of the client or attendees.

John A. Merkley, M.S., CCC-A - United States Army Public Health Command Region - Europe
MAJ Merkley has served over ten years with the active duty Army as a 72C Audiologist, where he specializes in hearing conservation. From August 2006 to December 2007 he deployed with the 28th Combat Support Hospital in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where his primary responsibilities included providing clinical audiology services to coalition forces, expanding hearing testing services in theater, promoting hearing readiness, teaching good hearing health, and providing consultation to the 3rd Medical Command for all Audiology related issues in theater. He is currently assigned to the Army’s Public Health Command Region – Europe (USAPHCR-Europe) in Landstuhl, Germany. Prior to this assignment he served as the Chief, Hearing Conservation in Wuerzburg, Germany, and Chief, Audiology and Hearing Conservation at Ft. Drum, NY. He received his Master of Communication Disorders with an emphasis in Audiology from Utah State University in June 1998 and is working on the Doctor of Audiology from Central Michigan University.

Kevin Michael Ph.D., Michael & Associates, USA
Dr. Michael is President of Michael & Associates, Inc., an independent NVLAP accredited acoustics laboratory in State College, PA, USA. The Michael & Associates laboratory evaluates hearing protectors and communication systems to US, Australian and other national test standards. In addition to testing services, Kevin has developed the FitCheck systems for measuring insert- and muff-type hearing protector performance on end-users. As a research facility, Michael & Associates developed a speech processing system for the US Army under a multi-year small-business innovation and research contract. Kevin partnered with Dr. Alton Burks in the design and development of a new system for the continuous monitoring personal noise exposure. In 2002, this technology was awarded US Patent, number 6456199. The QuietDose system is now a Howard Leight product and Kevin is supporting further development and sales of the product line.
Richard Stepkin, MS, CCC-A - Enviromed Corp, USA
Richard L. Stepkin is a Graduate of Florida State University in 1972. He has been a full time Occupational Audiologist ever since. He was a Military Audiologist for three years. In 1977, he started Enviromed Corp and has been growing ever since. Enviromed provides services in mobile audiometry, noise surveys and education training in hearing conservation nationwide. Richard is one of the original members of NHCA and was Program Chair in 1981. He served on the CAOHC Executive Board 2001-2004. He has been a long-time member of the PSO and participated on various PSO topics.

Christopher Spankovich, Au.D., Ph.D., M.P.H. - Vanderbilt University, USA
Christopher Spankovich is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Florida. He received his masters of public health degree (M.P.H.) from Emory University, doctor of audiology (Au.D.) from Rush University, and his Ph.D. in hearing sciences from Vanderbilt University. His primary research and clinical interests include identifying early signs of auditory pathology, prevention of acquired forms of hearing loss, and epidemiology/public health in audiology.

Theresa Schulz, Ph.D. - Sperian Hearing Protection, USA
Theresa is the Hearing Conservation Manager for Sperian Protection. She received her BS (1981) and MA (1983) degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and her PhD (1994) from Ohio State University. She was recognized as the US Air Force Outstanding Audiologist of the Year in 1989 and 1998, and received the Elizabeth Guild Award for Contributions to Military Hearing Conservation in 1996. She was nominated by the Air Force for the 2003 National Public Service Award and received the military’s Outstanding Volunteer Medal in 2004 and NHCA’s Michael Beall Threadgill award in 2009 for her extensive work to prevent noise-induced hearing loss both in the military and in the public sector. For those who ask – where is Theresa now? She still lives in southwestern PA with her husband, 4 cats, and abundant wildlife. Theresa is a die-hard NHCAer having served the association in many roles, she is currently serving on the NHCA Foundation. Dr Schulz provides consultation in hearing loss prevention issues and hearing conservation programs and is a frequently requested, enthusiastic speaker on hearing conservation.

CAPT. William Murphy, Ph.D. - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, USA
Captain Murphy (USPHS) is co-leader of the NIOSH Hearing Loss Prevention Team in the Division of Applied Research and Technology in Cincinnati, OH. His primary interests are fundamental acoustics, hearing loss, hearing protection devices (HPDs) and noise control engineering. He has researched the impulse response of both nonlinear and linear hearing protectors and has developed software to measure the attenuation of FIPDs and pioneered the analysis of laboratory and field attenuation measurements of HPDs.

A. Greg Moore, CCC-A - WorkPlace Integra, USA
A. Gregg Moore, CCC-A has two decades of experience in the field of Audiology. He was a Captain in the U.S. Army serving as Staff Audiologist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Later, he served as Chief of Audiology at the Jeddah Institute for Speech & Hearing in Saudi Arabia responsible for all aspects of program development, staff training, and service provision. He was formerly President of Moore Consulting, Marietta, GA, a hearing conservation consulting and service company. As President of Workplace INTEGRA, Mr. Moore is responsible for all aspects of the company’s financial, marketing, staffing and service operations. As a Senior Occupational Audiologist, he provides high-level hearing conservation consulting services to clients, conducts CAOHC-approved hearing conservation training courses, and provides legal consulting on hearing conservation-related issues including OSHA/MSHA citations and Workers’ Compensation claims.
Brad Witt - Sperian Hearing Protection, USA
Brad Witt is Director of Hearing Conservation at Sperian Hearing Protection in San Diego. He has a Bachelor degree in Communication Disorders from Brigham Young University, and a Masters degree in Audiology from Northwestern University. He has served as President of the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA), and in his present position, manages the Acoustical Testing Laboratory at Howard Leight, and provides training to professional groups in all aspects of hearing conservation. His hearing conservation seminars in behalf of Sperian Protection the past four years have been presented in fifteen countries on five continents.