

January 2016



Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore of Long Island Chapter

Meeting Location

Long Island Jewish Hearing & Speech Center is located on the grounds of the Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Enter the grounds from LAKEVILLE ROAD and it is the first building on your left. Free parking is available behind the hearing and speech building; first entrance to parking lot after building. DO NOT go into the main parking building. Go to the Conference room on the Lower Level 270-05 76th Avenue New Hyde Park, NY 11040.

If you are in doubt as to whether there is a meeting, or if you'd like further information, please call Sal: 516-331-0231.

Meeting News

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

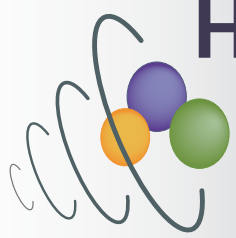
Refreshments and Social Time begins 6:30pm. Meeting begins 7:00pm.

Topic: Future of Hearing Loss Treatment

There are many effective treatments for hearing loss in 2016. These include cosmetically appealing digital hearing aids, and ever-improving cochlear implants. However, even more exciting treatments that are currently in research stages may become available in the future.

This talk will discuss the future of hearing loss treatment, from advances around the corner to more ambitious solutions on the horizon. A focus will be on inner ear hair cell regeneration, which harnesses the body's own biologic ability for repair to reverse hearing loss. Details will be given of the first hair cell regeneration clinical trial, which is being offered at three sites worldwide, including Columbia University Medical Center.

Speaker Bio: Justin S. Golub, MD is an assistant professor of otology, neurotology, and skull base surgery in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Columbia University. He completed a fellowship in neurotology at the University of Cincinnati and a residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle. He obtained his medical degree from Emory School of Medicine in Atlanta. During his training, he completed research fellowships at the University of Washington, Georgia Institute of Technology, and MIT. He is the author of more than thirty peer-reviewed publications in otolaryngology and has co-edited three books. Dr. Golub's professional interests include hearing loss, cochlear implants, and regenerative techniques such as gene therapy to treat hearing loss.



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North Shore of Long Island Chapter

Chapter Planning Committee

*HLAA North Shore
Chapter of L.I.*

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*HLAA of North Shore Long
Island does not necessarily
endorse the opinions of our
speakers, goods & services.*

Our Chapter

Well, here we are again—another year gone by. We've had many wonderful monthly meetings this past year at LIJ with lots of interesting topics, stimulating speakers and thought-provoking discussions.

2016 is shaping up to be even better than last year. We are lining up speakers and topics that should be of interest to the majority of you... We always welcome feedback from the membership in choosing topics. So, if you have a subject you would like to see on the program, tell any member on the planning committee at a meeting, or call or email with your suggestions. We will see if we can find an appropriate speaker and arrange it for one of the meetings.

This is a good time to make your commitment to HLAA and the chapter. As many of you already know that in joining National HLAA, you also will be joining our chapter. We need your help in supporting our chapter and National. We would also appreciate it, and you would benefit, if you would try to attend meetings in 2016. You can read our newsletter, visit our website, read the National magazine, visit National website, but there isn't anything like attending meetings. This is where everything comes together and where you will benefit the most.

Remember, by doing all the things I just mentioned, it is the cement that keeps all of this working. Without each of you and your support and attendance, it just doesn't work.

Happy New Year.

Hope to see you at our meetings.

Sal Sturiale

Teen Inventors Create Live Closed Captioning Glasses for the Deaf

Seventeen-year-old Daniil Frants and his buddies hope to help the hard-of-hearing engage in naturally flowing conversations

By Emily Matchar | smithsonian.com | December 16, 2015



It's a common misconception that most hearing-impaired people can easily read lips. But while many are indeed practiced lip readers, only 30 to 40 percent of English can be understood through watching the mouth. Much of spoken English occurs without lip movement, while many sounds, such as 'b' and 'p,' look identical.

This leaves many hearing-impaired people at a loss when communicating with the hearing. A number of recent technological innovations attempt to

address the issue, from devices that turn spoken language into text on a smartphone to speculative systems to allow deaf people to "hear" through their tongues. That's right—researchers from Colorado State University are developing an earpiece that translates sounds into electrical patterns that it then sends to a retainer.

Now, a company is hoping to help the hearing-impaired in a more seamless way. The Live-Time Closed Captioning System (LTCCS) instantly turns speech into scrolling text displaying on a tiny screen clipped to a pair of glasses. Currently in the proof of concept phase, LTCCS's founders say it "restores the user's ability to engage in a naturally flowing conversation."

LTCCS creator Daniil Frants was inspired to design the device when his guitar teacher asked him if he thought Google Glass might be able to somehow help him communicate with his hearing-impaired father.

"I started messing around with Google Glass, seeing if it could do some closed captioning function," he says. "But after six months it became obvious that there was no way to do that effectively using Glass."

So Frants decided to do it himself. He created a system built from existing or modified parts—a Raspberry Pi microcomputer, a voice recognition system and a display adapted from one he spotted on an online technology forum. The user wears a microphone, which is connected to the microcomputer. The microcomputer picks up sounds and translates them to text using the voice recognition software, then sends them up to the display in a pair of glasses.

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Ground-Breaking Broadway For All

By Jenn Sturiale

I recently attended a performance of the Broadway show “Spring Awakenings” with my parents, and to say that this is a ground-breaking performance is an understatement.

Based on a German play, this current Broadway incarnation by Deaf West is unlike anything seen before in the theatre. The story itself revolves around German teenagers in the 1890s, and how the issues they face are identical to those faced by young adults today. The storyline is timeless and relateable—if somewhat graphic—and makes for good entertainment and time well spent. The true genius of this show, however, is not in the writing itself, but how this current adaptation was made truly accessible for the deaf community.

The entire performance was re-engineered to not only include deaf and hard of hearing actors, but to build the entire show around them. Unlike other “accessible” shows which accommodate deaf theatre-goers by placing a sign language interpreter on a corner of the stage, this performance fully integrated hearing actors with deaf and hard of hearing actors, along with sign language and written words and lyrics projected onto various elements of the set.

Whereas most “inclusive” performances add in an interpreter as an afterthought, here the entire audience was enthralled and engaged in the multiple sensory experiences provided. And while in a typical “accessible” performance deaf patrons are the only ones making use of the accommodation of a sign language interpreter, every patron of this performance—those with hearing impairments and those without—were fully immersed in the spoken, signed and projected elements of Spring Awakenings. The accessibility was not an afterthought for a small portion of the audience, but an integral element for all of us.

Inclusive, indeed! By connecting every single audience member to every element of the “accessible accommodations” it removed the barriers between us. We all watched the signing, read the projected text, delighted in the dancing and inventive set design which made it all possible. This performance truly breaks new ground, and sets a new—and high-bar for future theatre to strive for. Highly recommended!

This performance runs through January 24th. <http://www.springawakeningthemusical.com>



Scenes in Spring Awakening. Photos by Kevin Parry.

Fixing a Problem with the Hearing Aid Compatibility Mandate

Michael O’Rielly | Commissioner

Today’s wireless handsets are immensely powerful. By combining advanced communications functionalities with mobility, consumers are able to expand their connectedness and improve productivity, which eases everyday burdens. These benefits, however, can be limited for those consumers who face hearing loss or impairment and use hearing aids with their wireless handsets. FCC rules attempt to rectify this. Known as the hearing aid compatibility mandate, the Commission’s rules require that digital wireless telephones function with consumer hearing aids and are available in the marketplace. Although these rules were adopted with the best of intentions, implementation has raised a number of challenges for wireless service providers.

The Commission’s rules require that each retail wireless provider must offer handsets that meet certain standards based on the underlying hearing aid technology. Currently, for hearing aids that incorporate acoustic coupling (a technology that amplifies all sounds), either 50 percent of the total wireless handsets or ten particular handsets offered by a wireless provider must exceed a benchmark measurement of M3 or better. For inductive coupling hearing aids (a technology that turns off the microphone and receives only signals from magnetic fields using telecoils), the requirement is that either one-third of total handsets or ten particular models offered by a provider must exceed a measurement of T3 or better.¹ And recently, the Commission proposed to increase the hearing aid compatibility requirements for both acoustic and inductive coupling to 66 percent within two years and 85 percent within five years.²

To continue reading please go to: <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/blog/2015/11/30/fixing-problem-hearing-aid-compatibility-mandate>

Hearing Aid
Recycling



Donation
Information

HAAA Lakeland Chapter in Florida is sponsoring a Hearing Aid Recycling Program. The purpose of this program is to collect new/used hearing aids, clean/repair them, and offer them (at no cost) to those who are financially challenged in our community.

Hearing aids can be shipped in a small box. Carefully wrap the hearing aid in cotton, bubble wrap or other soft material, or put in a pill container.

First, fill out the form here: <http://www.hla-lakeland.org/donate/hearing-aid-donation> and print out the receipt you will get. Then mail the hearing aid(s) and the printed receipt to:

Hearing Loss Association – Lakeland Chapter
Hearing Aid Recycling Program
3020 Lakeland Highlands Rd.
Lakeland, Florida 33803

Trudie Katz Walker

Attorney at Law

225 Old Country Rd.
Melville, N.Y. 11747

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Tel. (631) 361-8737
Fax (631) 361-8792

HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support, and advocacy. HLAA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I'd like to: ☐ Become a member of HLAA ☐ Renew my membership ☐ Give a gift membership

My Membership/Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

Chapter I belong to: _____

How did you learn about HLAA? _____

Gift Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

	Annual USA Membership Fees	Annual Non-USA Membership Fees
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 (1 year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 (3 years) <input type="checkbox"/> \$140 (5 years)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)
Couple/Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55 (1 year)
Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)
Library/Nonprofit	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (1 year)	N/A
Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325 (1 year)

My membership fee is \$ _____

Plus I'm adding a tax
deductible donation of \$ _____

My total is \$ _____

3 Ways to Join, Renew or Give a Gift Membership

1. Return this form to your chapter with your check made payable to HLAA.
2. Mail or fax this form to the HLAA office at the address above with your credit card information.
3. Visit www.hearingloss.org/content/join and use your credit card online. (this is a secure website)

Credit Card Payment Information: ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Name: _____ (as it appears on card)

Signature: _____ (Include your billing address if different than membership address above.)



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*Certification of hearing loss by a hearing-care or healthcare professional is required to participate.

Teen Inventors Create Live Closed-Captioning Glasses for the Deaf, Continued from Page 3

By the way, Frants is 17. His VP of Frants Innovators, Inc., Ilan Pesselev, is 14. The rest of his team is 18 and under. Most of them attend the same Manhattan high school. I asked Frants where he learned the skills to create the LTCCS, given he's yet to go to college or graduate school. He explains that his father taught him some basic programming skills and he taught himself the rest.

"If I needed to learn something new, I'd Google a bunch of stuff," he says.

While "Googling stuff" might not help the average person figure out such a complex system, Frants is not average. At 14, he was the youngest person to ever intern at the ultra-prestigious MIT Media Lab, which focuses on human-machine research (think "smart" prosthetics and intelligent machines). He's also worked on cyber art projects that have been displayed all over the world.

Frants and his team hope to have a proper prototype by summer 2016. Ultimately, the device will retail for \$750.

In the short term, Frants, who recently appeared on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," hopes to study computer science at MIT. In the longer term, he'd like to see his company, Frants Innovators, become a hub for new ideas.

"Like a Darwinism for ideas, where eventually some die off and what's left is the best idea," he says. "I hope the LTCCS is the first idea for that."



North Shore of Long Island Chapter
<http://hearingloss-longisland.org>

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June 23–26

Washington Hilton

1919 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009 US

Early-bird Registration is Open!

Discounted registration rates are good through January 31, 2016. Register by the deadline to be entered in a drawing for an iLuv Smartshaker, a wireless alarm controlled by your smartphone (iOS and Android). Smartshakers will be awarded to 15 lucky early-birds! In addition, early-bird registrants of the Full-activity package will be eligible to select their table at the Capital banquet starting in February (the next opportunity will be in April).

Host Hotel – Washington Hilton

The Washington Hilton is just a short walk to restaurants, shopping and nightlife. Enjoy all the nation's capital has to offer as the hotel is only four blocks to the Dupont Circle Metro (Red Line), providing easy access to the National Zoo, Smithsonian museums, the National Mall, and more.

Convention Updates

Be sure to check this page frequently for Convention news as well as on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HearingLossAssociation>) and Twitter (@HLAA, @nmacklin #HLAA2016).

For more information, visit: <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention>