

In The Loop

Keeping Members Informed

SEPTEMBER 2022 EDITION

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WELCOME

As summer comes to a close and the new school year begins, our Board hopes that you and your families and the clients you serve are well. We wish everyone a healthy and happy rest of 2022.

The mission of the ABFFD is three-fold:

*To promote among speech-language pathologists the highest standards for training and service delivery to impact positively the communication skills and thereby the lives of those who demonstrate fluency disorders.

*To verify knowledge of fluency disorders and mastery of skills of professionals who seek and maintain the credential of Board-Certified Specialist-Fluency.

*To publicize the benefits of working with specialists in fluency disorders and to provide an up-to-date listing of individuals who maintain the status of Board-Certified Specialist-Fluency.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in assisting the ABFFD with any of our current projects, please contact us via our website.

2022 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The ABFFD needs nominations from our membership for positions coming available on the Board. If you would like to nominate a BCS-F to serve a 3-year term on the ABFFD, please submit their name to info@stutteringspecialists.org. Thank you!

NEW BOARD-CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

We are extremely pleased to announce Jaime Michise, M.S., CCC-SLP and Samantha Wasilus, M.A., CCC-SLP are new Board-Certified Specialists! Congratulations!!

Jaime Michise, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F

Jaime has worked as a speech-language pathologist in Ohio, Japan, and currently has a private practice in Frisco, Texas focusing on working with clients of all ages who stutter or have other fluency disorders. She is an adjunct instructor at Stephen F. Austin State University and Bowling Green State University where she teaches Fluency Disorders and Counseling. Jaime is also a facilitator at Camp Shout Out and a co-chapter leader of the Dallas TWST Chapter. Her research interests include the clinical implications of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and mindfulness with individuals who stutter. When she is not in SLP-mode, Jaime enjoys running, visiting new coffee shops, traveling, and spending time with her husband and two young daughters, Emma and Mia.



Samantha Wasilus, M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-F

Samantha is a speech language pathologist at the Sisskin Stuttering Center in Mclean, Virginia and Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland. Previously, she spent eight years working with children with hearing loss at The River School in Washington, D.C. Samantha has taught the Fluency Disorders course at The George Washington University and has led trainings on Avoidance Reduction Therapy for Stuttering (ARTS®). She earned her master's degree in Speech Pathology at the University of Maryland-College Park, as well as her bachelors in Psychology and Hearing and Speech Sciences. Her clinical research projects include investigation and treatment of atypical disfluencies, more specifically final part-word repetitions. Samantha lives in



Washington, D.C., with her husband Alex, who is a stutterer, 10-month old daughter Lia, and dog Ethan.

BOARD NEWS

Since May of 2020, the ABFFD has sponsored a **Round Table Discussion** most months, to cover topics relevant to the board certification process. These meetings are designed for applicants for BCS-F, individuals who are considering applying for BCS-F, current or potential mentors, and people with fluency disorders from the community with an interest in the process. These meetings have been well-attended and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. A wide variety of topics have been presented and discussed including the most recent topics described below.

On May 21, 2022, there was a Round Table discussion facilitated by Brooke Edwards. The topic was **Differing perspectives on the semantics of using “Fluency and Fluency Disorders” in our designation**. The meeting was well-attended and a lively but respectful discussion took place with many perspectives shared. This was an important first step as we continue the discussion with our members regarding a possible change in name for the Board.

In lieu of a June Round Table Discussion, the Board sponsored its second annual on-line ABFFD summer conference, **Stuttering Across the Lifespan**, on June 12 -13, 2022. It was attended by 84 individuals. Presenters and topics included:

- Helpful Approaches for Stuttering Therapy Across the Lifespan – Elyse Lambeth
- Rationale-Based Stuttering Therapy – Carl Herder
- Panel of Adults who Stutter – Reuben Schuff
- Supported and Supportive Speaking Engagements – Collaborating with college and university educators to produce benefits for students who stutter and graduate students in speech language pathology – Megann McGill and Glenn Weybright
- Panel of Children who Stutter – Glenn Weybright
- The Role of the SLP in Working with Clients Who Stutter: What Does it Take? – Kristin Chmela
- Helping Our Clients Become Savvy Consumers – Brooke Edwards
- Ethics Panel - Risa Battino, Shelley Brundage, Farzan Irani, Lisa LaSalle, Rita Thurman
- Evaluation and Treatment of Preschool Children Who Stutter – Understanding Temperament and Integrating Self-Regulation – Rita Thurman
- Preschool Parent Panel – Kim Sabourin

On Sunday, July 31, 2022, the Board sponsored a Round Table on **Solution Focused Brief Therapy** which was facilitated by Rita Thurman. Dr. Ellen Kelly and Sara MacIntyre were invited guests and used a role play format to demonstrate many examples of ways in which SFBT can be used. Participants learned a great deal of clinically useful information.

The August 25, 2022 Round Table was on **The Social Model of Treatment and the Disability Rights Movement**. Ryan Pollard facilitated the meeting, which was well-attended. Participants

shared how their practice has or has not been impacted by the Social Model of Treatment as well as the Disability Rights movement. An interesting discussion took place.

The September Round Table will focus on **Bilingualism and Stuttering**, and will be facilitated by Carl Herder on September 20, 2022 at 8 PM ET. To register, use the following link [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

If you have been unable to attend a Round Table discussion live, a recording of most of these sessions is available on the ABFFD website. Feedback suggests the Board is in fact making the board certification process more transparent and accessible. We want everyone to have this resource available, even if they can't join the discussion "live".

BACK TO SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP SPECIAL FROM THE ABFFD

This may be the year to apply to become the board-certified fluency specialist for your school district! If you are working full or part-time in a school setting, we would like to help you start the certification process. If you apply anytime from September 2022 to September 2023, we will provide you with:

- A scholarship for the \$250 application fee to become a board specialist
- Assistance providing you with a mentor to guide you through the certification process.



SURVEY RESULTS REGARDING A NAME CHANGE

We appreciate all members who responded to the most recent survey regarding a name change for the American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders! The executive board of the ABFFD seeks to be a reflection of our membership and the consumers that we serve. This survey was not a vote to finalize a name for the ABFFD. The intent of the latest survey was twofold:

- To determine the level of interest in a name change; and
- To gauge support for name options that had previously been suggested.

A list of alternative names was created through memberships comments and suggestions via the earlier survey, as well as through the May 2022 roundtable discussion (e.g., American Board of Stuttering, Cluttering, and Fluency Disorders). The *American Board of Stuttering and Cluttering* was the only name suggested by the members of the executive board. All other possible names came from comments on our membership survey and suggestions put forth by members during the round table.

We had 74 respondents to the survey. Of those 74, 75.68% of respondents support a name change from the American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders to something else. We utilized the consensus building approach of having respondents state their disagreement, agreement, or ability to accept the names that had been suggested. The *American Board of Fluency Disorders* (56.76%) and the *American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders* (51.35%) had the highest **disapproval** ratings. The *American Board of Stuttering and Related Disorders*

had the highest overall consensus with 32.43% approving of the name and 31.08% of respondents saying they could accept the name. The *American Board of Stuttering, Cluttering, and Fluency Disorders* had the highest approval rating with 39.19% of respondents saying they approved of the name and 20.27% of respondents saying that they could accept the name.

So, while there is a consensus that a name change for the board is desired, there is not yet consensus about what the new name should be. We are still very much in the exploration phase and have no intention of making a change until a greater consensus on a new name is reached by our membership. We plan to continue to discuss the information gathered in surveys, during round table discussions and in the newsletter. We are considering the next steps based on the most recent survey. We have always been and are still very much open to any and all suggestions to ensure the process is transparent and reflects our membership, as well as the consumers we serve. We will reserve 10 minutes for discussion of the name change at the end of the next round table and we also welcome feedback including questions, concerns, and name suggestions at info@stutteringspecialists.org. If you have interest in contributing to the discussion, please join us for our next Round Table at 8 PM ET on Sept. 20, 2022.

BOARD-CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In this newsletter, we will be putting the spotlight on 2 of our many members who have been doing exciting, interesting and impactful work with their clients and for the stuttering community.

Megan Sullivan, M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-F, LSLs, Cert. AVT, presented in the Fall of 2021 at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago (Lurie Children's) where she works full time. The presentation was called "*Telemedicine and Speech Therapy*". She shared research and her clinical experience providing speech therapy for patients who stutter as well as those with speech -language disorders via telemedicine.

Megan also presented at a Chicago Fluency Interest Group meeting in December 2021. The title of her presentation was "*Assessment & Treatment of an Adolescent who Stutters.*" The group is a collaboration between Northwestern University Center for Audiology, Speech, Language and Learning (NUCASLL) and Chmela Fluency Center.

More recently, Megan and a co-worker, Melissa Yanes started a fluency therapy group for adolescents and teens who stutter at Lurie Children's. The first group was 7/1/ 2022 had a great turn out. They are excited for future groups.

When asked to share some of her recent involvement in the stuttering world, **Lee Caggiano, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F** shared that the experience of being inspired is what keeps her involved and hopeful. Here is some of that work that continues to inspire her:

FRIENDS is celebrating our 25th anniversary, which is pretty extraordinary, considering that 25 years ago I had absolutely no idea that Friends would take off and grow to where we presently are.

- After 25 years of having a volunteer Director (me), we are fortunately ready to begin hiring a full-time paid director. We have SO many new ideas and new projects to bring to the world, which having a full-time paid director will allow.
- At this year's convention we had close to 100 new kids and families. Watching the smiles on kids' faces when they get up to the microphone and share that they have never met another person who stutters, and now they are surrounded by a community of PWS, continues to inspire me.
- At this year's convention one parent of an adult who stutters shared with me that being at the convention brought her closer to her son than she had ever felt. As a parent of an adult who stutters, I know the depth of that feeling, and we cannot ask for more than that.
- To reach one of our goals of diversifying Friends, we have begun working with NBASLH (National Black Association for Speech-Language Hearing) and were delighted that we were able to bring Friends to local underserved communities.
- One of the silver linings of the pandemic was the ability Friends had to immediately start providing support through Virtual programming for kids, teens, parents and the stuttering community. Professionals and members of the stuttering community alike all offered to help out during this time, and the virtual programming continues to provide support for all those who can't or aren't comfortable joining in-person events.

I continue to be inspired by the experiences I have while teaching the online graduate stuttering course at New York University. I was able to develop the online stuttering course and I teach 3-4 stuttering classes a semester. Although I hate grading papers, I do love the idea that over 150 students each year get to spend a few months really beginning to understand stuttering. Each semester the students are given the opportunity to interview some of my clients, as well as adults in the stuttering community. I absolutely love hearing about the interviews from students. Oftentimes this is the first time they have ever spoken to someone who stutters, and the typical response is, "I was so surprised. The clients were so cool, they kind of seemed like everyone else." (which is one of the most important takeaways from any stuttering course)

I have also been given the opportunity to teach the online counseling courses at NYU, and honestly think I am learning as much as the students. I do try to channel David Luterman into the classes, but am not always that successful.

I have been able to teach Continuing Education workshops for a few school districts and am always so pleased to hear the comments from the generalist speech therapists. It seems like they often need permission to treat the child who stutters as a whole person, and not a disorder to fix.

For the past several summers I have been given the opportunity to work with Ryan Pollard at the *Colorado Speaks* intensive week-long adolescent camp, helping to organize the program and supervise graduate students. Although I do think my New York accent gets in the way a bit, the experience continues to be so meaningful. Watching the teens start to realize that they can make their own choices about what they want to do, or not do, with their stuttering is such a learning experience for the graduate students, and certainly for the teens. I look forward to the camp every summer.

This fall, I will be lucky enough to be involved in the NYU Intensive Stuttering Weekend, and will be working with Eric Jackson, Tricia Zebrowski and Joe Donaher.

When thinking about what continues to inspire me, the clients I have come to know in my private practice through these many years truly bring joy into my life. I get to share clients' stories with graduate students. From the first inkling of being ok with their stuttering, to telling their school speech therapist that they can advocate for themselves, to starting their new jobs (one client who I have known forever just began working in the NYC Mayor's office), to starting their new lives (another client just got engaged). What we want for our clients is what we want for ourselves, to live the life you want to live.

Lee concluded by saying "Being part of this community has shaped, and continues to shape, my world and I am very grateful for that."

OTHER HAPPENINGS

The [National Stuttering Association](http://www.westutter.org) (NSA) (www.westutter.org) is honored to serve kids, teens, and adults who stutter, as well as their loved ones, and the professionals who serve them. They do so in part by offering a wide variety of local, regional, and national events across the United States. Here are the events which have taken place in the past few months.

NSA Parents & Caregivers Virtual Chapter Meeting - June 16, 2022

Parents are invited to participate in this free virtual support group for parents and other caregivers of people who stutter. If you are the parent/guardian/caregiver of a person (of any age!) who stutters, you may have questions about what to do and how best to help your child; you've come to the right place. Join us monthly for these informal discussions about the challenges and successes of raising children who stutter.

NSA Women Connect - June 16, 2022

NSA Women Connect provides a safe, welcoming space to connect with other women who stutter, share our experiences, strengths, and hopes. We are dedicated to building a community of women who stutter who support and empower one other. We believe that we are stronger together. Our meetings will center around specific topics and our shared experiences, from our triumphs to challenges and everything in between. These meetings are hosted by Dr. Ai Leen Choo and Pamela Mertz, and are open only to women who stutter.

2022 NSA Annual Conference, Newport Beach, CA - June 29-July 3, 2022

The NSA Annual Conference is always a life-changing event for adults, children, families, and friends who share stuttering as a common bond. This year, we were excited to bring the stuttering community together from all corners of the nation for a weekend of celebration and fun under the Southern California sun! During participants' days together, people were inspired and informed on the contemporary issues facing people who stutter today in an environment designed to bring comfort, joy and a deeper perspective on our resilient community. This event is always a blast for those who attend! Simply hearing from and being

around others who stutter – others who really get it – can have a life-changing impact. The NSA Annual Conference captures that magic and truly unique experience of bringing people together during a time when we've needed it the most. Most importantly, attendees leave the event knowing for certain that when you're a part of the NSA, you will Never Stutter Alone.

NSA Parents & Caregivers Virtual Chapter Meeting - July 21, 2022

NSA Women Connect - July 21, 2022

Atlanta Adult & Family Chapters Reboot/Open House - August 7, 2022

The National Stuttering Association, in collaboration with The Arthur M. Blank Center for Stuttering Education and Research hosted the NSA Atlanta Adult & Family Chapter Open House on August 7, 2022. Kids, 'Tweens, Teens, and Adults who stutter, their families and friends, and speech professionals were invited to join together for fun, food, and connection with the local stuttering community and a reboot of the NSA Atlanta Chapter!

NSA Parents & Caregivers Virtual Chapter Meeting - August 18, 2022

Featuring special guest host, Holly Nover!

NSA Women Connect - August 18, 2022

Graduate Student Research Award Application Deadline - September 1, 2022

Previously the NSA Research Fund Award, this \$5000 award is presented annually, and seeks to provide funding for one research project in the area of stuttering treatment, stuttering assessment, or basic research in stuttering, with the intent of being used as start-up or support money for new or continuing research in the field of stuttering.

End of Fall 2022 Research Cycle - September 15, 2022

The NSA is committed to advancing both knowledge and understanding of stuttering through our support of research. As the largest stuttering support organization in North America, with access to large numbers of individuals and families affected by stuttering, the NSA recognizes its unique potential for helping the research community. The NSA Research Committee was established to support scholarly stuttering research, and approved two studies during the Spring 2022 application cycle.

<https://westutter.org/what-is-stuttering/current-approved-nsarc-projects/>

NSA Parents & Caregivers Virtual Chapter Meeting - September 15, 2022

NSA Women Connect - September 15, 2022

FRIENDS (friendswhostutter.org) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support and education to young people who stutter, their families, and professionals, through annual conferences, one-day workshops, and outreach. This year marks the **25th anniversary** of FRIENDS. Their vision is to help build a world in which all young people who stutter feel empowered to communicate whenever, wherever, and however they want to. At FRIENDS, they care deeply about their community and the well-being of individuals and families, especially during times like these (COVID-19). FRIENDS is coming to terms with the fact that

things will not be the same for a while and is working on alternative ways to continue offering education and support for young people who stutter and their families. In an effort to stay connected in this time of social distancing, FRIENDS has been excited to offer many virtual events in recent months. Registration is required for each.

FRIENDS Annual Convention, Thurs. to Sat. July 21 – 23, 2022 in Washington D.C. The 25th annual FRIENDS convention was a huge success! There were 99 first timers (young people who stutter, families, and SLPs) joined by 125 "old timers" to create an atmosphere of acceptance, celebration, and love. We are already excited about seeing you all in Chicago in 2023.

Letter to FRIENDS on July 21, 2022, from President Biden congratulating the organization on 25 years of serving the stuttering community. A copy of the letter can be found at this link. <https://mailchi.mp/friendswhostutter/biden-letter>

In addition, FRIENDS is continuing with virtual programs in August & September. They have virtual groups for kids, teens, adults, and parents.

The **Stuttering Foundation of America (SFA)** (www.stutteringhelp.org) continues its mission to provide the highest quality resources and learning opportunities to help clinicians increase their knowledge base, clinical skills, comfort, and competency, in order to best serve individuals who stutter. The Stuttering Foundation turns 75 in 2022! Quite a milestone!

Virtual Learning by Stuttering Foundation, with Sara MacIntyre, M.A., CCC-SLP is a free online series of monthly interactive workshops with a variety of offerings for speech-language pathologists, parents, and individuals who stutter. Recent offerings include:

July – What Makes You, You? – Developing a Child who Stutters View of Self with their Parents' Support with Ali Berquez, Michael Palin Centre, London, United Kingdom.

August – RESTART-DCM Treatment for Pre-School Children Who Stutter: An Introduction with Marie-Christine Franken, Ph.D., Erasmus University Medical Centre, Sophia Children's Hospital, The Netherlands

September – On September 20, 2022, at 12:00 ET - **Practical Strategies to Support Children Who Stutter: A Review of Individual and Group Approaches with Ryan Millager**, a third-year doctoral student at Vanderbilt University, with many years of prior work with the non-profit organization SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young.

Stuttering Foundation Podcast with Sara MacIntyre, M.A., CCC-SLP has the following planned:

July – Clinical Outcomes and Empowerment as a Function of Therapy, with Dr. Rodney Gabel, CCC-SLP

August – Why Stuttering Occurs: The Role of Cognitive Conflict and Control, with Dr. Evan Usler, CCC-SLP

September – (TBD!)

The SFA still offers its weekly CEU sale! Every Tuesday, a different course is offered for \$5 which includes video/book + CEUs.

New book alert!! English and Spanish in one book. *Two Penguins and a Treasure to be Discovered / Dos pingüinos y un tesoro por descubrir*. *Two Penguins and a Treasure to be Discovered* is an adventure where penguins Jorge and Tito introduce the notions needed to stimulate fluency in young children. The original version is in Spanish and has been translated into English. Here is a link for more information. <https://store.stutteringhelp.org/two-penguins-and-a-treasure-to-be-discovered-dos-pinguinos-y-un-tesoro-por-descubr.html>.

HELP PROMOTE BOARD CERTIFICATION IN FLUENCY DISORDERS

The Board would like to invite all individuals who are creating a Powerpoint Presentation in the area of Fluency Disorders, to include one of the four different slides the Board has created which promote board certification in fluency disorders. In an attempt to increase the number of board-certified specialists in fluency disorders, this is one way for the Board to increase awareness and visibility of the specialty certification, hopefully sparking interest in individuals who might consider looking into the process. These slides can be found here: <https://www.stutteringspecialists.org/ABFFD-Promo-Slides/>. Thank you for helping to promote specialty certification in fluency disorders!

ABOUT THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FLUENCY AND FLUENCY DISORDERS

The American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders was the first clinical specialty program approved by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 1998. The idea of a specialty program was driven by the need to give consumers access to professionals with advanced knowledge and skills, and to educate and recognize expert clinicians. The specialty program, initially known as the Specialty Board on Fluency Disorders, came into being through the efforts of both professionals and consumers. It was championed by ASHA's Special Interest Division 4, Fluency and Fluency Disorders, with support from the National Stuttering Association and the Stuttering Foundation of America.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Please visit the ABFFD Facebook page. Send Risa Battino, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F, Social Media Director (rbattino@gmail.com) information regarding upcoming presentations, publications, events, or accomplishments so that we can keep our members informed!