



American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders

IN THE LOOP

April 2020

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

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

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Brooke Leiman Edwards
M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-F

Marketing & Public Relations

Tricia Krauss-Lehrman
M.A., CCC-SLP, BCS-F

Social Media Director

Risa Battino
M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-F

Consumer Representative

Reuben Schuff

Welcome

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well during this time of national crisis. The ABFFD creates this newsletter quarterly to connect our members and provide updated information about Board activities. As a Board, our hope is to unite and support Speech Language Pathologists and the children/adults who stutter that they serve.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to assist the ABFFD with one of our current projects, please contact us on our [website](#).

New ABFFD Board Members



Risa Battino is the new **Social Media Director** on the ABFFD Board.

Risa began her career at the Rose F. Kennedy Center Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (RFK-CERC) at Montefiore Medical Center (formerly Albert Einstein College of Medicine) in 2005. Now a senior speech language pathologist at RFK-CERC,

Risa provides a broad spectrum of clinical services for infants, children, and adolescents with developmental disabilities. As part of a multidisciplinary team, she has worked within a vast age range representing many disabilities including language learning, fluency, autism, social cognitive, childhood apraxia of speech, attention deficit, and other complex speech and psychiatric disorders. She specializes in the evaluation and treatment of preschool, school-aged, and adolescent children with speech and language impairments, fluency disorders, Autism, and learning disorders. She has also obtained research reliability in administration of the ADOS-2.

Risa is the head of the educational training program in speech language pathology at CERC, coordinating the training of graduate students from the NY metropolitan area. She also participates in the

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training of faculty and staff, as well as medical residents/fellows and social work and psychology interns in the areas of speech and language, communication, and autism.

Risa has served as an Adjunct Lecturer at CUNY Hunter College since 2007, teaching courses in language development and disorders and fluency disorders. She also provides training in other outpatient hospital facilities and educational settings. She has worked in private practice providing speech and language evaluations and treatment to children with a variety of speech and language disorders.

Tricia Krauss-Lehrman is in charge of **Public Relations and Marketing** for the ABFFD Board.



Tricia worked at the Callier Center for Communication Disorders, part of the University of Texas at Dallas, for 28 years providing evaluations and therapy to individuals of all ages, with a special emphasis on fluency disorders for the last 15 years there. Her responsibilities also included occasional teaching and regular supervision of graduate students working on their masters degree in Speech Pathology at UTD. In 2010, Tricia retired from UTD to open a private practice devoted to working with individuals of all ages who are impacted by fluency disorders.

Tricia has always believed in trying to address all aspects of a client when working with them. As a result, she has been very active in the world of stuttering self-help for the past 38 years. She has actively participated in the Dallas chapter of the National Stuttering Association since it began in 1982 and that involvement inspired her to begin a support group for elementary-aged students who stutter and their parents. This group (originally called YESS - Youth Experience Stuttering Support and now called NSAKids Richardson) began in the year 2000 and is the longest running local stuttering support group of its kind in the country. And if Tricia didn't already feel old, NSAKids is now run by a professional she mentored while she was in graduate school and one of the early YESS participants is now a speech pathologist!

In 2011, Tricia partnered with an adult who stutters who she had worked with a decade before and together they resurrected the Dallas teen support (TWST) group. She continues that work with several additional co-leaders trying to keep their chapter strong. Tricia was truly astounded and very honored in 2017 when she was named the Speech Pathologist of the Year by the NSA. She insists she wouldn't be the clinician she is today if not for the many hours spent, early in her career, sitting in on the meetings of the adult Dallas NSA chapter.

Tricia is looking forward to the opportunity to positively impact young professionals who wish to specialize in the area of fluency disorders by serving on the ABFFD Board. Since being in private practice, she has missed the regular mentoring and supervision that was so much a part of her job in the university setting. She believes serving on the Board will permit her to take on that role again and give back to the profession that has provided her 40 years of great satisfaction and purpose.



Carl Herder is the new **CE Coordinator** on the ABFFD Board.

Carl Herder is the Atlanta Clinic Director for the American Institute for Stuttering (AIS), also known as the Arthur M. Blank Center for Stuttering Therapy. He joined AIS in New York in 2006 and he moved to the southeast in 2016 to open an AIS office in Atlanta. His growth as a clinician has been heavily influenced by Dr. Heather Grossman, Chamonix Sikora, and the late Catherine Montgomery. Carl discovered his passion for helping people who stutter in college while working on research projects with Dr. Martine Vanryckeghem and Dr. Chad Nye at the University of Central Florida. He is an active researcher, presenter and teacher, and has participated in numerous National Stuttering Association conferences and events.

Board News

The ABFFD Board sponsored two workshops at the ASHA convention in November 2019 in Orlando. A short course on counseling "Critical Counseling Skills" was presented by Chris Constantino, Sam Simpson and Laura Plexico. A seminar on lived experiences --"My Story, My Outcomes: The Lived Experience of People Who Stutter" was presented by Vivian Sisskin and three of the adults in her ARTS group: Kyle Griffin, Chris Anderson and Tracy Wallace.

Board Members in the News

Rita Thurman, Chair, sponsored a 5K for the NSA on October 26, 2019 to celebrate International Stuttering Awareness Day. The race raised awareness and funds for NSA, drawing over 100 participants.

Rita Thurman, Chair, Reuben Schuff, Consumer Representative, and Heather Grossman, Certification Coordinator, all planned a Friends One-Day workshop in North Carolina on March 7, 2020. Heather was the key note speaker. Reuben and Rita facilitated parent and child workshops.

Elyse Lambeth, Vice Chair, coordinated a 2 ½ day Palin Parent-Child Interaction training workshop sponsored by Seattle Children's Hospital's Rehabilitation Department in September 2019.

Elyse Lambeth, Vice Chair, and Tiffani Kittilstved co-facilitated a FRIENDS One-Day Conference In Seattle in October 2019.

Elyse Lambeth, Vice Chair, coordinated a screening of My Beautiful Stutter, hosted by Seattle Children's Hospital Rehabilitation Department. This December 2019 event included a panel discussion after the film with adults and children who stutter describing their experiences with stuttering.

Joe Donaher, Treasurer, coordinated a Friends One-Day conference hosted by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in February, 2020.

Glenn Weybright, CE Coordinator, led a group of children who performed a one act play called The Adventures of StutterGrrl, The Origin Story, for parents and other attendees at the Seattle One-Day FRIENDS conference, October 12, 2019.

Glenn Weybright, CE Coordinator, appeared on a panel with an attorney who stutters and two others with disabilities. They presented to judges and court personnel of Multnomah county Oregon, discussing how the audience could best relate to people with disabilities, including those who stutter on November 6 and 7,

2019.

Glenn Weybright, CE Coordinator, traveled to Bend, Oregon for an appearance with Michael Turner, the director of The Way We Talk, at a screening of the 2015 documentary on the lived experience of stuttering on November 16, 2019.

Glenn Weybright, CE Coordinator, appeared on a panel with the co leader of the NSA Portland chapter discussing the lived experience of stuttering for students in Dr. Kerry Mandulak's graduate class in stuttering at Pacific University on November 25, 2019.

Glenn Weybright, CE Coordinator, appeared on a panel with members of the Portland NSA chapter discussing the lived experience of stuttering for students in Dr. Megan McGill's graduate class in stuttering at Portland State University on January 29, 2020.

Glenn Weybright, CE Coordinator, assisted in fund raising for Camp More, a non-profit sleep away summer camp for kids and teens who stutter to be held in August on the Oregon coast.

Brooke Leiman Edwards, Certification Coordinator, organized an event at the National Theatre in Washington DC in February, 2020. The National Theatre provided 20 complimentary tickets to the 3 locations of the National Therapy Center to see the play The King's Speech, based on the award winning movie. The tickets were shared with clients and their families who enjoyed the production and engaged in a discussion about how the perception of stuttering and speech therapy for stuttering have changed since the king's time.

Tricia Krauss-Lehrman, Public Relations and Marketing director, organized an outing for 8 of the teens in the Dallas TWST group to participate in an Escape Room adventure in February 2020.

Reuben Shuff, Consumer Representative, was a volunteer with the children at a Camp SAY two-day weekend event in Los Angeles, California in October 2019, and a panelist for a discussion and Q&A with the parents.

Reuben Shuff, Consumer Representative, was a workshop leader at the Friends One-Day conference in Orange County, California in November 2019.

Carl Herder, CE Coordinator led a 2-hour Online Training for Public School SLPs in Montville, CT on Effective Therapy for Children Who Stutter - Going Beyond "Speech Tools" on November 5, 2019.

Carl Herder, CE Coordinator gave a 1.5-hour presentation on effective therapy for children who stutter at a cluster meeting of public school SLPs in Gwinnett County, GA on December 13, 2019.

Carl Herder, CE Coordinator led a 2-hour Training for Public School SLPs in Gwinnett County, GA on Effective Therapy for Children Who Stutter - Going Beyond "Speech Tools" on February 7, 2020.

Carl Herder attended a One-Day FRIENDS Conference in Raleigh, NC on March 7, 2020.

New Board-Certified Specialists

We are pleased to announce Megan Sullivan, MA, CCC-SLP, Tricia Hedinger, MS, CCC-SLP, Risa Battino, M.S., CCC-SLP, and Carl Herder, MA, CCC-SLP are new Board-Certified Specialists!! Congratulations!



Megan Sullivan has worked at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago since 2004 where she has led the hospital's fluency practice. She evaluates and treats clients aged two to 18 years for stuttering and speech - language disorders in an outpatient setting with a family - focused approach. Megan has presented on stuttering to parents and speech-language pathologists. She also regularly supervises graduate students performing fluency evaluations and therapy. She was a consultant at Northwestern

University (2014-2015) where she provided in-services and consultative services for staff regarding fluency patients. Megan also serves on the board of Tuesday's Child, a non- profit organization which helps families address behavioral issues through individualized training for both children and parents. Megan holds a master's degree from the University of Florida in speech pathology.

Tricia Hedinger is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Knoxville, TN. She graduated from Penn State University and has been a speech-language pathologist for 20 years. Ms. Hedinger is an instructor for clinical education courses, including Fluency Disorders, Intro to Clinic and Counseling for SLPs. She provides supervision to graduate student clinicians in the UTHSC on-campus clinic. Ms. Hedinger is also a National Stuttering Association (NSA) Regional



Chapter Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Region. She has presented and published nationally on topics related to stuttering and clinical education, as well as served as a consultant on the "Ask an Expert" panel of the International Stuttering Awareness Day online conference. During the summer, Ms. Hedinger directs an overnight camp for children with speech, language and hearing challenges in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. She has also collaborated with local school districts to develop anti-bully programs and served as a consultant for SLPs in the southeast region.

Risa Battino is a new board certified specialist and her bio was included above under new ABFFD board members.

Carl Herder is a new board certified specialist and his bio was also included above under new ABFFD board members.

Other Happenings

[The National Stuttering Association \(NSA\)](#) 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 6 months.

- Oct 12, 2019 - the New Orleans Kids and Family Chapter had their meeting at the Audubon Zoo.
- OCT 22, 2019 - the Detroit/Royal Oak NSA Chapter celebrated its 25th Anniversary!
- OCT 26, 2019 - there was a Don't Tell Me to 'Slow Down' 5k & Kids Dash in Raleigh, NC.
- DEC 8, 2019 - the Rockville NSA Adult Chapter held a Holiday Party.

- JAN 10-12, 2020 - the NSA Board of Directors held their 2020 Winter Meeting & Strategic Planning Session.
- JAN 18, 2020 - Houston hosted an NSA Stuttering Fun Day.
- JAN 23, 2020 - Orlando hosted a movie screening of the film WHEN I STUTTER.
- JAN 31, 2020 - The NSA partnered with the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) to host an event in NY to provide mock interviews for people who stutter.
- FEB. 2, 2020 - The Dallas TWST group had an Escape Room adventure.
- FEB 8, 2020 - San Diego hosted an NSA Stuttering Fun Day.
- FEB 21, 2020 - The Boston NSA chapter held a Family Bowling Night.
- FEB 29, 2020 - The San Diego chapters held a Hiking event.
- MAR 7, 2020 - Boston held a 1-Day Conference & CEU Event.

In addition to these support and social events, the NSA has created a series of webinars designed to help people who stutter in the work force. Past webinars are archived on their website. Their most recent webinars are listed below with 2 more webinars scheduled for April and May 2020.

- OCT 22, 2019 - Webinar: Stuttering & Employment Law
- NOV 12, 2019 - Webinar: Including Stuttering in Diversity & Inclusion
- MAR 31, 2020 - Webinar: You Got the Job! Now What?

FRIENDS 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. 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. Here are some of the FRIENDS events that have taken place over the past 6 months.

- October 12, 2019 - Seattle held a one-day conference.
- November 2, 2019 - Orange County held a one-day conference.
- February 15, 2020 - Philadelphia held a one-day conference.
- February 23, 2020 - There was a Meet and Greet in Ohio.
- March 7, 2020 - Raleigh held a one-day conference.
- March 7, 2020 - Chicago held a one-day conference.

As is the case for other organizations, FRIENDS has had to cancel many one-day conferences which have been scheduled this spring.

In addition to these events, FRIENDS has their *Stepping up Program* which involves ongoing mentoring for young people who stutter. Additionally, in light of the cancellations of many one-day conferences, FRIENDS has several *Virtual Parent Groups* scheduled for April to help support parents of children and teens who stutter.

The [Stuttering Foundation of America \(SFA\)](#) 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 SFA has launched, "Virtual Learning by Stuttering Foundation", a free online series of monthly interactive workshops with a variety of offerings for speech-language pathologists, parents, and individuals who stutter. During the 2019 Fall and Winter months, the virtual learning webinars presented have included:

*Back to School Strategies for Kids who Stutter and Their Parents by Heather Grossman

*Using Voluntary Stuttering to Empower Children Who Stutter by Joseph Donaher

*Helping School-Age Children Who Stutter Evolve Communicative Competence by Kristin Chmela

*Understanding and Influencing the Stigma of Stuttering by Michael Boyle

*Reducing the Impact of Stuttering on your Daily Life: Slaying the Iceberg Beast by Rick Arenas

*Cluttering: Shared Experiences from the Child, Adult and Family Member Perspective by Kathy Scaler Scott

*REBT 101 by Heather Grossman

*Palin PCI - a taster! By Elaine Kelman

*Solution Focused Brief Therapy by Ali Berquez

*Insurance Reimbursement for Stuttering Therapy: the Dos, Don'ts, and Give It A Shot by Katie Gore

Continuing their aim to make clinical learning as accessible as possible, *Stuttering Foundation Podcast* features a variety of episodes focused on providing relevant and practical clinical knowledge, research updates, support, and special segments. Over recent months, podcasts have included: two ASHA convention recaps; Research Update: Genetics and Stuttering with Dr. Dennis Drayna; Taking Therapy Outside the Therapy Room; The Importance of Community; Our Journeys: The Power of Support & Advice to Therapists; Navigating the Uncertainties of Stuttering in Preschoolers; Stuttering in the Schools: It's More Than Tools; Research Update: Palin Parent-Child Interaction Therapy; Thawing The Stuttering Iceberg; and Supporting and Partnering with Parents of Children who Stutter.

BCS-F CEU Requirements - Adjustments Due to COVID-19

BCS-F Maintenance CEU Requirement

Current standards for BCS-F maintenance require specialists' CEUs to include "no more than 5 CEUs (50 hours) derived from published DVDs/online workshops and journals." Due to the circumstances around the Covid-19 crisis, many in-person CEU workshops, trainings, and conferences are being cancelled or postponed. We recognize that specialists who are due to submit their 5-year renewals this year may not be able to meet the in-person CEU requirement. As a result, we will demonstrate flexibility in reviewing maintenance forms in regards to the proportion of in-person trainings vs published DVDs/online workshops and Journals. Please contact us with further questions or concerns.

New BCS-F Applicants

For new BCS-F applicants, the CEU proportion requirement will remain the same. No more than 5 out of the 10 CEUs can be derived from DVDs and journals. Applicants who are facing challenges meeting the requirements to submit their initial applications are encouraged to contact the American Board of Fluency and Fluency Disorders.

New Mentor Requirements for BCS-F Applicants

Beginning January 1, 2020, accepted applicants will be required to secure a mentor to assist in their successful completion of the portfolio. Upon acceptance of the application, the candidate will be instructed to find a Board Certified Specialist in Fluency and Fluency Disorders, or if unable, to contact us

at info@stutteringspecialists.org in order to receive an assigned mentor. The Specialty Board will provide mentors with guidelines and an on-line training session to outline the role and procedures.

Since the mentor process is considered integral to improving candidates' ability to develop and demonstrate the skills necessary to achieve the BCS-F, the Board would appreciate volunteers to serve as mentors at this time. Please reach out to us at info@stutteringspecialists.org if you are interested in serving as a mentor. We thank you in advance.

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!

May is Better Speech and Hearing Month!

We'd love to hear about all the wonderful ideas our members come up with to celebrate BSHM next month. Please share them on our Facebook page!