Welcome to our newest BCS-S Affiliates:

Ramya Kumar
Banner Thunderbird Medical Center
Exam date: 02/04/19
Mentor: Memorie Gosa

Leigh Anne Wallace
Owensboro Health Regional Hospital
Exam date: 03/26/19
Mentor: Annette May

Kathryn Anderson
MassTex Imaging
Exam date: 04/04/19
Mentor: Joan Arsenault

Caryn Grabowski
Seton Hall University School of Health and Medical Sciences
Exam date: 05/08/2019
Mentor: Dipti Dani

Laura Vygantas
Northwestern University
Exam date 05/14/2019
Mentor: NA

Dysphagia Research Society Meeting

The annual meeting of the Dysphagia Research Society was held in San Diego, CA, at the Wyndham San Diego Bayside Hotel on March 7-9, 2019. Congratulations to the BCS-S members who planned, moderated, and presented at this year’s DRS meeting.

Special congratulations to James Curtis, M.S., CCC-SLP, BCS-S who earned the AB-SSD Distinguished Research Award in Dysphagia.
Next year’s conference will be held March 17-20, 2020, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, at the Caribe Hilton hotel. Check the website [http://www.dysphagiaresearch.org/](http://www.dysphagiaresearch.org/) for the call for papers to submit your new research for presentation at the next DRS meeting.

**New Tool! The DCVT**

As specialists in swallowing and swallowing disorders, we are responsible for training, ensuring the competency of new clinicians, and for providing evidence of competency maintenance for practicing clinicians. Yet, the methods used to achieve, measure, and confirm competency vary greatly as evidenced by the results of the 2016 Dysphagia Competency Survey, sponsored by the ASHA Special Interest Group 13 (Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders). In response to the survey results, a joint taskforce of SIG 13 and ABSSD members was formed to explore the development of a standard tool for verification of clinical competency in dysphagia. Committee members included: Julie Blair (co-chair), Claire Miller (co-chair), Lynne Brady Wagner, Memorie Gosa, Luis Riquelme, Megan Urban, Gennith Johnson (ASHA staff liaison), Sandi Gillam (Board Liaison), and Robert Fifer (Board Liaison).

The outcome of the taskforce was the development of the Dysphagia Competency Verification Tool (DVCT), available on the ASHA Practice Portal: [www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Templates/](http://www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Templates/). The DCVT user guide ([www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/ASHA/Practice_Portal/Dysphagia-Competency-Verification-Tool-Guide.pdf](http://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/ASHA/Practice_Portal/Dysphagia-Competency-Verification-Tool-Guide.pdf)) provides an overview of the tool in addition to rating and implementation guidelines. Competency sections to confirm knowledge and skills for dysphagia clinical evaluation and management competency, videofluoroscopic swallowing studies (VFSS), fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing (FEES), and high resolution manometry (HRM) are included. As outlined in the guide, the DVCT can be used by clinical managers and supervisors to evaluate and document clinical competence in dysphagia, or as a resource for new clinicians for self-assessment and identification of growth opportunities. The DVCT is free and customizable – it can be adapted for graduate students, clinical fellows, newly hired SLPs, and for verification of competency maintenance for experienced staff SLPs. The DVCT may also be used to document activities that may be applicable for application for Board Certification Specialty in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders. The DVCT is available now via the links provided.