



American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders

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Congratulations and welcome to the newest BCS-S Affiliates!

Justine Allen
University of Florida Health System
Mentor: Jennifer Pace

Bethany Berry
Ephraim McDowell Health

Ashley Brown
Children's Health Medical Center Dallas

Cristin Checchia
Rome City School District
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Mentor: Barbara Messing

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Mentors: Georgia Malandraki and Jamie Pulliza

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Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Mentor: Maureen Lefton-Greif

Andrea Vaughan
Saint Louis University
Mentor: Jean Foster

Message from the ABSSD Chair

Welcome BCS-S colleagues to a new year and a new decade. The beginning of each New Year is electric with possibility. The ABSSD is already at work planning not only for a productive 2020, but to advance our mission and influence throughout the coming decade. In fact, the ABSSD updated our mission statement in 2019 to accurately reflect our common purpose and goals. We believe that the AB-SSD exists to safeguard and advance the care of individuals with feeding and swallowing disorders, across the lifespan, by professional certification of SLPs that demonstrate excellence through continuing education, integrated clinical practice, mentorship, research, teaching, and leadership. As we look ahead to objectives that support our mission, you will notice initiatives to continue recruiting qualified SLPs to apply for BCS-S, encourage those with BCS-S to mentor those SLPs that are interested in pursuing this qualification, and ongoing efforts to understand how best for

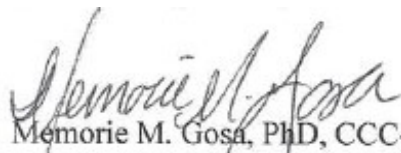
the ABSSD to provide support for BCS-S affiliates through a satisfaction survey and updated practice analysis.

At the beginning of this new decade, there are 356 speech-language pathologists that have earned the board certified specialist in swallowing and swallowing disorders (BCS-S) credential. Twenty-five new speech-language pathologists earned this credential in 2019. We have experienced steady growth in the number of BCS-S credentialed speech-language pathologists over the last five years and will continue efforts to identify and recruit qualified SLPs to apply for the BCS-S credential by hosting informational meetings at the annual meeting of the DRS and the ASHA annual convention. We hope you will join the ABSSD board at these events to share your knowledge and experience with potential applicants. Look for announcements about these recruiting events in the quarterly E2Ds.

Our mentorship program began at the request of applicants that felt overwhelmed by the rigors of the application process. The ABSSD responded by developing and coordinating the mentorship program that paired potential applicants with BCS-S affiliates to help guide the potential applicants through the process. We currently have 312 mentors (88% of our current BCS-S affiliates) actively mentoring 1,506 interested SLPs in various stages of the application process. That means that each BCS-S mentor is actively assisting five potential applicants on average. As we consider how to recruit and maintain qualified SLPs through the application process, we acknowledge and thank all of the BCS-S affiliates that are active in the mentoring committee. Additionally, we request those BCS-S affiliates that are eligible and have time to take on a protégé to consider signing up for mentor training during 2020. Information about the mentorship committee and training opportunities will be available in the E2D each quarter.

Finally, the ABSSD will undertake a satisfaction survey for all BCS-S affiliates during 2020. The satisfaction survey results will help guide our goals and activities for the next five years. The survey will be conducted online and will be announced through the E2D, email notification, and on our website. Please look for this announcement and complete the survey. In our last satisfaction survey, we received 63 responses for a high return rate of 31% at the time of the survey. My personal goal is to have a return rate of at least 50% (178 BCS-S affiliates responding) for the upcoming satisfaction survey. I hope all of you will complete the survey so that we exceed that goal!

I am looking forward to working with all of you to accomplish the many objectives that the ABSSD has set forth for 2020. May it be a productive year of challenge and growth for all of us that seek to safeguard and advance the care of individuals with feeding and swallowing disorders across the lifespan.



Memorie M. Gosa, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Farewell to Our Outgoing Board Members

Please join us in extending gratitude to our outgoing board members. Your service to the ABSSD has been generous and greatly appreciated!



Cesar Ruiz has served the board 2014-2019 as board member and 2015-2019 as treasurer.

Kate Hutcheson has served the board 2014-2019 as board member.



Joanne Petro has served the board 2014-2019 as Consumer Board Member.

Welcome New ABSSD Board Members

We would also like to welcome our incoming board members:

Gina L. Palma has been a speech-Language pathologist since 2006 and has been a Board Certified Swallowing Specialist since 2012. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Iowa and received her Master's degree at Syracuse University. She started her career in Brooklyn, NY with Riquelme and Associates and then worked at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital. Gina currently works at Montefiore Medical Center as a senior clinician and mentor, in both the Departments of Otorhinolaryngology and Rehabilitation Medicine. In addition to her work in acute care and outpatient settings at Montefiore Medical Center, she also works as a private contractor in sub-acute and long-term care settings.

Heather Starmer is an Associate Professor in the Department of

Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at Stanford University and the Director of the Head and Neck Speech and Swallowing Rehabilitation Center at the Stanford Cancer Center. She has over 20 years experience providing clinical care to patients with dysphagia with an emphasis in head and neck cancer rehabilitation. Her research focuses on optimizing clinical outcomes in patients with head and neck cancer.

Dysphagia Research Society Meeting

The annual meeting of the Dysphagia Research Society will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico on March 17-20 at the Caribe Hilton Hotel. The meeting is a great venue for clinicians, researchers, physicians, and students to hear about cutting edge research on diagnosis and treatment of dysphagia. It is also a wonderful place to network with other professionals and BCS-S colleagues.

The brochure is available here:

[Click here to view 2020 Dysphagia Research Society Brochure](#)

Registration is open now and can be accessed with the web page link below:

[Click here to view Dysphagia Research Society Registration](#)

The AB-SSD Distinguished Research Award in Dysphagia is awarded each year at the Dysphagia Research Society Meeting to a speech-language pathologist who presents a meritorious scientific paper on a topic related to swallowing function and disorders. The criteria for the award can be found here:

[Click here to view AB-SSD Distinguished Research Award in Dysphagia](#)

BCS-S Renewal Corner

Renewal sneaks up on all of us, so this corner of the E2D is devoted to those gentle reminders we need to be mindful of our renewal responsibilities!

Beginning on January 1, 2023, at least 5 CEU's of the 12.5 total CEU's required for BCS-S renewal must be acquired through live in-person events. All CEU's will continue to be accrued over the course of the 5 year renewal period. Acceptable CEU's must be from CEU events solely and directly related to the topic of dysphagia.

Please refer to the FAQ Information Sheet on the ABSSD website for specific information regarding renewal submission requirements.