



American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders

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Kate Hutcheson

Message from the Chair

Happy 2017 to all the wonderful, hard-working and life-changing affiliates of the AB-SSD!

I am very excited by our accomplishments this past year, and the many more to come. They are only possible because of the many volunteers that help us maintain our vision, including our fabulous Board of Directors.

It is with great pride that I announce our AB-SSD Application will be completely online very soon. This has taken many volunteer hours to complete. I most enthusiastically thank our Application Committee, chaired by Karen Ball (members: Fae Boczko, Donna Edwards, Kate Hutcheson, Jo Puntill Sheltman, Justine Joan Sheppard, Barbara Sonies, and Debra Suiter), César Ruiz (who originally plotted the first draft), and the Ad Hoc Online Application committee, chaired by Barbara Messing (members: Karen Ball, Denise Barringer, Jennifer Kizner, Emily Mayfield, and Akila Rajappa). Thank you to all involved in reviewing drafts, making changes and reaching consensus. I appreciate the input from our Board of Directors in reviewing and approving changes along the way. Watch for the announcement coming soon!

Please read-on to see how much fun was had in 2016. The plans for 2017 are even more encompassing and will continue to focus on protecting the consumers of our services.

In appreciation for the work we all do,

Luis

Welcome to the newest BCS-S affiliates

Mirabai R. Bekowies

Kaiser Permanente Medical Center

Michelle Fritz

Cleveland Clinic

2016 Year in Review

PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Lisa Kelchner

PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Donna Scarborough
PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Laurie Sterling

MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Debra Suiter
PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Consumer Board
Member

Joanne Petro

Historian

Joe Murray
PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

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AB-SSD Website:

www.swallowingdisorders.org

**Easy to Digest
Editor:**

Memorie M. Gosa

Application Committee: The Application Committee assisted in the development of the on line application during 2016. They also revised Appendix C of the application to reflect the current requirement for CEUs. Applications must demonstrate that the applicant earned at least 40% of their CEUs (3.0 of the required 7.5 hours for the initial application, and 4.8 of the required 12 for the renewal application) from in-person (not on-line) events. During 2017, the application committee is looking forward to reviewing applications on-line!

Continuing Education Committee: 2016 was also productive for the Continuing Education Committee. They added three new advanced-level continuing education programs to the course offerings on the ABSSD website <http://www.swallowingdisorders.org/?page=courses>.

The new courses are *Pleural Confusion: Understanding Lung Function in the Assessment and Management of Dysphagia* presented by Towino Paramby, CScD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S and Lisa Evangelista, CScD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, and *Radiological Procedures: Evaluating the Upper and Lower Digestive System*, and *Swallowing Neurophysiology: An Advanced Clinician's Guide* presented by Cheri Canon, M.D., FACR and Claire Kane Miller, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-S. More courses are in development for 2017, including some with specific pediatric focus.

Exam Committee: During 2016, the Exam Committee reviewed the range of scores and performance of applicants on the current pediatric and adult examinations. The purpose of the review was to identify the content balance and adequacy of test items based on feedback gathered during the Board's practice analyses sponsored by ASHA. The committee was able to identify which questions are most problematic and determine whether revisions are in order. In 2017, the Exam Committee will refresh each of the exams with regard to performance patterns, updates in the literature, and known best practices.

Mentorship Committee: The Mentorship Committee had a very busy 2016! We trained many new mentors, and we are currently assisting almost 900 protégés! Thank you to all of our dedicated mentor volunteers. We appreciate your time and energy in assisting protégés along their way to board certification. In 2017, our plans include expanded content for mentors and protégés on the website, with mentor training accessible via an online module. Thanks again for all that you do to support BCS-S!

From the Mentorship Committee

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all affiliates who volunteer their time and energy to the mentoring program. Over 900 protégés are participating in the program, with more requests received every day! We are working on some changes to the mentor pairing process in order to best serve our volunteer mentors and our protégés. Our new process will involve mentors receiving an

email from Badger Bay (our management company) to ensure that they are able to accept a new protégé at that time. Please respond as promptly as possible to that email to facilitate a timely mentor pairing for the interested protégé. In addition, we are working hard to develop a "For Mentors" section on our website. This section will have content designed to support mentors, including an expanded Frequently Asked Questions section as well as future online tracking options. Thanks again for all that you do to support BCS-S! (Chair: Emily Mayfield)

Dysphagia Research Society Meeting

The annual meeting of the Dysphagia Research Society will be held in Portland Oregon, March 2-4, 2017. 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:

http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.dysphagiaresearch.org/resource/resmgr/Meeting_Files/DRS_2017_Brochure.pdf

Registration is open now and can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.internationalmeetingmanagers.com/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x320835e39c>

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:

<https://dysphagiaresearch.site-ym.com/?ABSSDAwards>

If you can't make it to Portland, consider this opportunity that is new for 2017!

[The National Foundation of Swallowing Disorders is hosting an Online Dysphagia Conference](#) that will be streamed live from Portland on Tuesday, February 28, 2017. This day long, live streaming dysphagia course is supported by the DRS. The course is designed for CLINICIANS treating patients in skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, and outpatient clinics. This event is also appropriate for patients, caregivers, and students. There are many question and answer sessions built into the program to allow for audience participation. For pricing and registration information, please follow this link:

<http://swallowingdisorderfoundation.com/2017-nfosd-online-dysphagia-conference/>

We hope to see all of you there!

BCS-S Promotion

Did you know there are BCS-S promotional materials for you to use at local

meetings? You can find all of the promotional materials on our website:

<http://www.swallowingdisorders.org/page/promote>

If you are speaking at local, state, or national events, please consider requesting an opportunity to hold an informational meeting about becoming a board certified specialist in swallowing and swallowing disorders. There are premade documents and power point slides available on our website for you to use. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please email info@swallowingdisorders.org. Thank you for your willingness to help promote and raise awareness of the benefits of BCS-S!

Got CEU's?

Make it a New Year's Resolution to explore the advanced level CE courses offered by The American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders. The new programs, *Pleural Confusion: Understanding Lung Function in the Assessment and Management of Dysphagia* presented by Towino Paramby, CScD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S and Lisa Evangelista, CScD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, and *Radiological Procedures: Evaluating the Upper and Lower Digestive System*, and *Swallowing Neurophysiology: An Advanced Clinician's Guide* presented by Cheri Canon, M.D., FACR and Claire Kane Miller, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BCS-S are available now on the website. All of the continuing education programs have been prepared and reviewed by Board Certified Specialists in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders and are designed to provide evidence based information on important issues encountered by speech-language pathologists providing dysphagia services. Stay tuned for new courses in 2017. Visit the website (<http://swallowingdisorders.site-ym.com/?page=courses>) for a complete listing of continuing education offerings.

(Chair: Laurie Sterling)

Call for Nominations for AB-SSD Board Members

We are seeking nominations for Board Members of the American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders. This Board consists of 12 members who are current AB-SSD affiliates and 1 consumer member. At present, we have three positions open for a term beginning March 15, 2017 through December 2019; two for affiliates and one for a consumer member. We request that you submit names of individuals who you recommend. Nominations may be self-initiated or initiated by another affiliate who has confirmed that the nominee is willing to serve.

Nomination forms: Nomination forms will be posted on the specialty certification website (www.swallowingdisorders.org) and must be returned by e-mail to the AB-SSD website by the deadline posted, which is 30 days after this announcement: February 16, 2017. A copy of the nomination form is provided [here](#).

Thank for your consideration to serve. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Luis F. Riquelme, Chair

luisslp@aol.com

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