



2013 Board Members

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PhD, CCC-SLP, BRS-S

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Carol Shoaff

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Linda Mackay
MA, CCC-SLP, BRS-S

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Easy to Digest

May 2013

Welcome to our newest affiliates!

Since the last issue of Easy to Digest (E2D) in December, the following individuals have submitted a successful application and passed the exam. Congratulations to our newly recognized BRS affiliates and a thank you to their mentors:

Leslie Aedo (Mentor: Jan Pryor)
Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

LaShonda Allen (Mentor: Carol Manly)
Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center

Candace Friedman (Mentor: Kate Hutcheson)
Wake Forest Baptist Health

Michelle Graham (Mentor: Barbara Sonies)
Lenox Hill Hospital

Sarah Leyba (Mentor: Jan Pryor)
Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

Angela Menlove McKinney (Mentor: Kathleen Castillo)
Intermountain Medical Center

Cassandra Quinn (Mentor: Bridget Guenther)
HCR ManorCare

Luana Rhodes (Mentor: Jo Puntill)
Saint Francis Medical Center

Nilsa Rubin Perez (Mentor: Luis Riquelme)
White Plains Hospital

Reminder: Call for Nominations for Board Members and Consumer Board Member

PH: 920-560-5625
FAX: 920-882-3655
Karen@badgerbay.co

BRS-S Websites:
www.swallowingdisorders.org
www.swallowingdisordersceu.org

We are seeking nominations for Board Members of the Specialty Board for Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders. This Board consists of 12 members who are current BRS-S affiliates and 1 consumer member. At present, we have a total of 4 positions (3 board and 1 consumer) open. 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. Submit names to: Karen@badgerbay.co. A copy of the nomination form can be found on the BRSS website (www.swallowingdisorders.org) under the Affiliate tab. You can also request a copy of the form by emailing karen@badgerbay.co. Nominations forms must be received by **May 31, 2013**.

BRS-S presence at the Dysphagia Research Society (DRS) Meeting

The DRS meeting held in March in Seattle showcased BRS-S in several ways. This was the second year the BRS Board sponsored an award for an oral presentation given by a speech-language pathologist on a topic related to adults with swallowing disorders. The award was made possible by a generous donation of Board member Fae Boczko, in memory of her mother Sophie Ebert.

The winner of the award was Emily K. Plowman, PhD, CCC-SLP for her presentation entitled, The Impact of Exercise on Bulbar Function in Individuals with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

We were happy to see that 46 BRS affiliates attended this year's meeting of the DRS, which constitutes 17% of the speech-language pathologists present.

In addition, the following BRS-S affiliates presented or moderated a session, authored a paper or poster or gave an oral presentation at the meeting:

Liza Blumenfeld
James Coyle
Stephanie Daniels
Joy Gaziano
Jacqueline Hind
Katherine Hutcheson
Susan Langmore
Cathy Lazarus
Maureen Lefton-Greif
Bonnie Martin-Harris
Luis Riquelme
JoAnne Robbins
Catriona Steele

If we have omitted your name, please let us know so we can recognize you in the next issue.

Cathy Lazarus, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, BRS-S, one of our Board members, is the incoming President of the Dysphagia Research Society. Cathy will preside at the 2014 meeting of the Society to be held in Nashville, Tennessee. We wish Dr. Lazarus the best of luck, and appreciate her leadership, as she assumes this new volunteer role. For more information on the Society, visit <http://www.dysphagiaresearch.org/>

New consumer advocacy group for individuals with dysphagia

For the first time at a Dysphagia Research Society Meeting, three individuals spoke about their experiences with dysphagia. All three are members of the National Foundation for Swallowing Disorders (NFSOD), a patient-run organization that was developed to impart information, provide patient support, education, research and the advancement and treatment of dysphagia. This organization has been advocating on the hill to NIH for development of a Trans-NIH Coordinating committee to examine the research support and attention given to dysphagia. During this DRS panel, two of the speakers spoke of their own dysphagia experience and one spoke about her child born with

dysphagia. All three individuals spoke eloquently about the impact of not being able to eat or drink and the positive benefits of dysphagia intervention by speech pathologists and physicians specializing in dysphagia. It was a moving set of talks and an inspiration for the entire audience. These patients clearly will advocate for greater visibility and funding for dysphagia research.

The NFSOD has a petition for professionals, consumers and their loved ones to sign to demonstrate support of increased awareness of dysphagia and to increase research funding for swallowing disorders. The NFSOD has a meeting scheduled with policy makers at NIH on May 13, 2013 to discuss the petition results. The petition has been signed electronically by over 2,000 people and is far short of the goal of 10,000 signatures. The petition has been supported by the Feeding Tube Awareness, Oral Cancer, and Oley Foundations, the Dysphagia Research Society, the National Foundation of Swallowing Disorders, and parts of the Parkinson's Diseases Association among others.

The petition is free to sign. It takes less than a minute to read, sign, and share the petition with others. (dysphagia clinic and research professionals, patients, and caregivers). Please take a few minutes out of your busy day to help the NFSOD help you make an impact! Share this with your network of co-workers and patients. For more information on the petition, go to: <http://www.swallowingdisorderfoundation.com/support-this-petition-to-nih-increase-swallowing-disorder-dysphagia-research/>.

To sign the petition, go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q3GPXVN>

Check out new CE offerings on our web site

2012 Meet the Masters: Sensory Aspects of Swallowing (.25 CEUs)

The sensory aspects of swallowing are important to initiate a swallow or to get a patient to try a new food or drink. This program will review the neurophysiology of the sensory swallow, the sensory world of children, how genetics and pathology can affect taste, how we can affect taste perception, and what we know about how taste can influence impaired swallowing in adults.

The presenters are:

Cathy A. Pelletier, PhD, MS, CCC-SLP

Linda Bartoshuk, Ph.D.

Julie Mennella, Ph.D.

Catriona Steele Ph.D., CCC-SLP, SLP(C), CASLPO, BRS-S

Hospice, Palliative Care and the SLP's Role in Management of Dysphagia (.2 CEUs)

The management of dysphagia in patients who have experienced an acute event with recovery expected is distinctly different than managing dysphagia in a patient receiving palliative or hospice care. The course reviews ethical principles used to guide the SLP's treatment as well as case law regarding the use of alternative nutrition and hydration. The history and economics of PEG use will be described. An alternative to PEG use, careful hand feeding, will be explained.

The presenters are:

Ashley Wright, M.S., CCC-SLP

Amber Valentine, M.S., CCC-SLP, CLC, BRS-S

Nancy B. Swigert, M.A., CCC-SLP, BRS-S

Clarification on renewal requirements

The Board recently clarified the CEU and clinical contact hours requirements for renewal. The requirements had been specified for the three years immediately prior to renewal but did not indicate

what the requirements were for the first two years of affiliate status. The requirements have been adjusted to mirror that which is required for initial recognition. For example, as in the initial requirements for Board Recognition which require 7.5 CEU over the 3 years preceding Recognition, the renewal requirements continue to require an average of 2.5 CEU's per year (12.5 CEU total) over the five years preceding renewal. The policy does not stipulate how many have to be acquired in each year, but states that some CE must be obtained in each of the five years. The policy also makes it clear that the number of clinical hours (350/year for clinical track; 100/year for academic/administrative track) need to be accrued in each of the five years.

In order to be fair to affiliates who are already part way through their five-year affiliation, the Board adopted a phase-in plan. For full details, see the plan at:
http://www.swallowingdisorders.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19&Itemid=291.

Transition to Clinical Specialty Certification

ASHA's Board of Directors has announced that beginning January 1, 2014, Clinical Specialty Recognition will become Clinical Specialty Certification (CSC). The purposes of the CSC program remain consistent with those articulated in the original resolution establishing the clinical specialization program in 1994. The CSC will provide a mechanism by which, (a) the public can identify those practitioners with specialized clinical education and experience and (b) practitioners can specify the nature of the clinical practice they provide. Plans for grandfathering are under consideration by the transition team at this time. Affiliates should watch the ASHA web page for details on the transition as they become available: www.asha.org/Certification/specialty/Clinical-Specialty-Certification/

BRS-S on Facebook!

BRS-S is now on Facebook! Two separate pages have been created and are now accessible on Facebook. The first page is visible to the public. This was developed as way to promote our services and encourage other SLPs in their pursuit of BRS-S. You will not need to have a Facebook account to view this page but you will need an account to post comments. The link for this page is www.facebook.com/brsswallowing. BRS-S members are encouraged to visit this site and "like" the page.

The second page is for BRS-S affiliates only. This was developed as a way for BRS-S affiliates to communicate and network with fellow affiliates. You will need to have a Facebook account for this page. To join either, search for "Specialty Board on Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders" on Facebook or simply follow the link, facebook.com/groups/brsswallowing. Once you are confirmed as a member, you will have full access to post comments, questions, and pictures to other BRS-S affiliates on Facebook. For privacy, only fellow BRS-S members will have access to this page and only BRS-S affiliates will see posted comments. The PR committee will monitor usage of both pages to prevent inappropriate posts. For the public page, posts will only become visible once preapproved by the administrators. For any questions, email the PR committee chair, Luis F. Riquelme, at luisrlp@aol.com. Many thanks to Stefanie Moynahan and Emily Mayfield, PR committee members, for all their work on making this happen! BRS-S now enters a new era... on Facebook.

How many affiliates does it take to be a corporate partner? Just One!!

Maybe you're the only BRS-S at your facility. That's enough of a start to pursue a corporate partnership between your facility/organization and the Specialty Board. An official relationship with BRS-S will provide you with:

- Increased visibility - Through the link on our web-site, potential employees and consumers will link to your site

- Enhanced stature in the rehabilitation community through association with an independent board with a rigorous process for recognizing advanced practice by speech-language pathologists who practice in the area of dysphagia.

The partnership can help your organization with:

- Recruitment - Encourage SLPs who hold BRS-S to come to work for your organization. For potential employees who do not hold BRS-S, describe the kinds of support you provide to your employees who want to pursue BRS-S.
- Retention - By developing a career path that incorporates specialty recognition, experienced clinicians will be more likely to remain with your organization.
- Consumers - Let consumers know you support specialty recognition and in facilities/sites where you have an employed specialist, can let consumers know that.
- Referral Sources - Let physicians know you support specialty recognition/advanced practice.
- New contracts - If you are seeking new contractual arrangements (or even to keep your current contract relationships healthy, let the facilities know you support advanced practice.

The Specialty Board Will Provide Corporate Partner With:

- Marketing materials the organization can use to promote the BRS-S credential to its speech-language pathologists
- Camera-ready copy of Corporate Sponsor BRS-S logo which the health care organization can use:
 - On internal communication documents
 - On external communication documents
 - On their website
 - On marketing materials
- A link on the BRS-S website to the corporation's website.
- A group discount on BRS-S web-based CE for 6 or more SLPs who take the same course at the same time.
- A mentor(s) to SLPs working for the organization who wish to pursue the credential.
- A list of the BRS-S Speaker's Bureau. The organization is free to contact the speakers and make arrangements with a speaker they may want to hire

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