Allison Mackey is a postdoctoral researcher at Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm, Sweden). Her research interests include equity in pediatric hearing health care, strategies for detecting childhood hearing loss, auditory evoked potentials, and congenital Cytomegalovirus..

Barbara Kellett graduated as a Speech-language therapist and Audiologist from Stellenbosch University (South Africa). She is employed by the Tygerberg Hospital, University of Stellenbosch Cochlear Implant Program (South Africa) where she works with families from the earliest stage possible. She is one of the first therapists in South Africa to qualify as a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist, Auditory Verbal Therapist.

Chéri van Zyl is the Chief Audiologist and Head of the Audiology Department at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital (Cape Town, South Africa), the largest dedicated academic paediatric hospital in sub-Saharan Africa. She is a joint staff member at the University of Cape Town (South Africa). Her research interests include amplification management, electrophysiology, and context-specific research into childhood hearing loss. In her free time she likes to read fiction and take walks along the beach.

Cherilee Rutherford, AuD is based in Cape Town (South Africa) and is currently appointed as a certification Manager at Planetree, a global non-profit advancing person- and family-centred care through healthcare certification, education, and advocacy. Previously in her role at the Ida Institute (Denmark), she designed and delivered international training and presentations on person-centred care, created widely used professional development resources, and fostered collaborations with universities, professional associations, and patient organisations worldwide. Her career spans private practice, academia, public health, commercial, and non-profit sectors, including serving as Course Director for the MSc in Advanced Audiology (University College London). She also continues to supervise research at the University of Cape Town and sees a small caseload of adult cochlear implant patients for aural rehabilitation. Her passion is equipping healthcare providers to deliver compassionate, inclusive care.

Christine Yoshinago-Itano is a Professor Emerita of the Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences and is currently a Research Professor, in the Institute of Cognitive Science, faculty in the Center for Neurosciences, University of Colorado (Boulder, USA). Her research has focused on the predictors of language (semantics, syntax, pragmatics and phonology), social-emotional, cognitive and auditory skill outcomes of infants and children who are deaf or hard of hearing, including those with both bilateral and unilateral hearing losses, those with

and without additional disabilities, children with autism and other developmental disabilities and children from both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking homes. She developed the Marion Downs Center in 1996 and has assisted state departments of public health and education, schools for the deaf, and early intervention programs throughout the United States and its territories. In addition, she has served as a consultant for many countries who have developed early hearing detection and intervention programs.

Dani Schlesinger is a Chief Speech Therapist and Audiologist at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH, South Africa) where she has worked for the past 19 years. She coordinates the CHBAH cochlear implant programme and works as an aural rehabilitation therapist. Ms Schlesinger is a certified AVT therapist who has conducted training for Speech therapists and Audiologists in the province.

Hanneke Meyer is an audiologist at the Ear Institute (Queenswood, South Africa) and a dedicated member of the ABR and VNG department. She is passionate about diagnostic audiology, particularly the field of electrophysiology. She is registered with the South African Association of Audiology (SAAA) and devoted to the promotion and protection of the profession. Outside of her professional life, she is a wife and mother, an outdoor lover, and a cat enthusiast.

Heidi Allan is an audiologist with over 35 years of experience specializing in Auditory Processing Disorder (APD), educational audiology, and aural rehabilitation. She holds a masters in Audiology from the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and is currently pursuing her PhD. Heidi has worked across South Africa and the Netherlands in both clinical and private practice and is the owner of a hearing and auditory processing practice. She is an active member of multiple national and international audiology associations, has presented at global conferences, and has published research on APD assessment in South African children.

James William Loock MB ChB, FCS(SA)ORL, FRCS(London) ad eundem, is an ENT surgeon, who graduated and trained at UCT / Groote Schuur Hospital. He served as Professor (Associate) and Head of ENT Division at University of Stellenbosch / Tygerberg Hospital from 2001 – 2023. He has a special interest in Otology including Cochlear Implantation and teaching. James is currently in private ENT practice.

Jenni Bester is a speech and language therapist who qualified at the University of Stellenbosch (South Africa) in 2006. She has been working at the Carel du Toit centre in Cape Town (South Africa) since 2009 and heads up their speech therapy department. She qualified as one of the first Listening and Spoken Language Specialists and certified Auditory Verbal therapists (LSLS, cert. AVT) in South Africa in April 2021.

Jenny Perold is the coordinator of and an Audiologist in the Tygerberg Hospital-Stellenbosch University Cochlear Implant Programme (Cape Town, South Africa). She is the course coordinator for the short course "Additional Training in Cochlear Implant Mapping and Rehabilitation" which is required by the Health Professions Council of South Africa to practice as an audiologist in the field of cochlear implantation.

Faheema Mahomed-Asmail is a Professor at the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, University of Pretoria (South Africa). Her research focuses on improving access to and the quality of hearing healthcare through transdisciplinary approaches. She is also dedicated to promoting interprofessional education and collaboration, recognizing their importance in both teaching and research to achieve better healthcare outcomes. She currently serves as a council member for the South African Speech-Language-Hearing Association (SASLHA) and as an associate editor for both the South African Journal of Communication Disorders and the International Journal of Audiology.

Felipe Retamal Walter is a speech pathologist, audiologist, and lecturer in the Centre for Hearing Research, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland (Australia). His research focuses on person- and family-centred services for people of all ages with communication, hearing and/or swallowing difficulties. He explores the use of information and communication technology to improve access to specialised services, and the professional education of students and health professionals in audiology, speech pathology, and related disciplines.

Louis Murray Hofmeyr is a qualified medical doctor (MBChB) and practices as an Otolaryngologist in Western Cape (South Africa). He has managed more than 800 patients with vestibular schwannomas (acoustic neuromas), one of Africa's most extensive case series and has performed over 400 cochlear implants. He has also described and managed the first patient in South Africa with superior canal dehiscence syndrome (SCDS) in 2006 and has since treated and operated on more than 200 patients with SCDS. Dr Hofmeyr currently

(2024-2026) also serves as the Chairman of the South African Cochlear Implant Group (SACIG).

Lynette Diederichs holds a B.A and HDE, and has been profoundly deaf since the age of 9 years. She is the co-founder of Cued Speech SA (CSSA) in 2007. CSSA is a member of AISAC, which oversees the adaptations of Cued Speech to the world's languages. Her passion and goal is to raise Deaf Literacy standards and has been involved in Deaf Ed for the past 21 years. She was the Lead Teacher at Quest (2017-2019) a pilot project of Wits Centre for Deaf Studies researching the impact of bilingualism (SASL and Cued English) with a cohort of 5 learners. She is currently teaching English at Fulton School for the Deaf.

Monique Waite is a speech pathologist and Senior lecturer in the Centre for Hearing Research within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at The University of Queensland (Australia). Her research is dedicated to promoting equitable access to high-quality, person- and family-centred care in both audiology and speech pathology. Her work explores innovative service delivery approaches, including telehealth, to better support individuals in rural, remote, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Sadna Balton is the Assistant Director for Speech Therapy & Audiology at Chris Hani BaragwanathAcademic Hospital (CHBAH, South Africa). She is also a part-time lecturer at the Centre for Alternate and Augmentative Communication at the University of Pretoria (South Africa) where she has also been appointed as a Research Associate. Dr Balton is the Chair of the Gauteng Early Childhood Intervention Workgroup and serves on various other provincial committees.

Sarah Lange is an audiologist and speech language therapist based at the Carel du Toit and CHAT Centre in Cape Town (South Africa). She graduated with a dual degree from the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) in 2006. After a rural community service year she worked in Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital and Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital (United Kingdom), specialising in paediatric audiology. Sarah returned to South African soil and has practiced in both the private and state healthcare sectors. She is also cochlear implant trained and a member of the Tygerberg Hospital Stellenbosch University Cochlear Implant Unit (South Africa).

Silva Kuschke is a clinical audiologist and researcher based in the Cayman Islands, and also holds an adjunct Assistant Professor of Audiology appointment at Vanderbilt University (Tennessee, USA) and an honorary Senior Lecturer position at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Before her relocation to North-America and the Caribbean, she was Senior Research Audiologist at the hearX Group (South Africa), the Chief Audiologist and Head of the Audiology Department between April 2016 – February 2023 at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town (South Africa); the largest dedicated academic paediatric hospital in sub-Saharan Africa. She enjoys working with children, providing support to families with hearing-impaired children, clinical teaching, and lecturing. Her research interests are conducting context-specific and clinically relevant research into childhood hearing loss, with a particular focus on decentralising hearing healthcare to make it more accessible in low- resourced contexts.

Susan Strauss is an audiologist and the owner of Stellenbosch Audiology, a well-established private practice in Stellenbosch, South Africa. She has been in the profession since 1995, with clinical and academic experience across a broad range of audiological services. Her areas of special interest include paediatric audiology, hearing aid fitting, and evidence-based hearing technology. She holds a PhD in Audiology, with her research focused on noise-induced hearing loss. Passionate about quality care and professional standards, she remains actively involved in leadership and ongoing development within the field.

Tamara van Zyl is a clinical audiologist based in the Western Cape, Paarl. (South Africa). She has worked in various settings, including at Southern ENT as a cochlear implant clinical specialist and the University of Pretoria's Cochlear Implant unit as a mapping audiologist working with children and adults. She is a member of the Tygerberg Hospital, University of Stellenbosch's Cochlear Implant team, and president-elect of the South African Association of Audiologists. She currently owns a private practice in Paarl (Cape Town, South Africa). She provides newborn hearing screening, diagnostic hearing tests, and hearing aid fittings with a special interest in pediatric audiology and hearing implants (cochlear implant, bone-anchored implants).

Tarryn Marisca Reddy (PhD) is a Clinical Audiologist and was the head of the Vestibular Clinic and Neuro-Otologic Test Centre at the University of Pretoria, where she was actively involved in research and vestibular and balance assessment and rehabilitation. Tarryn has also worked as a clinical Audiologist in private practice for almost 15 years. She has corporate

experience as a Sales Representative for Interacoustics SA and as the Corporate Trainer for Oticon SA.

Vera-Genevey Hlayisi is a Clinical Audiologist, Healthcare Researcher and Social Entrepreneur based in South Africa. She is currently a Co-Founder and Head of Audiology at Asizwe Hearing Solutions, a audiology device and technology provider championing affordability and accessibility of hearing care in Southern Africa. With more than a decade in hearing healthcare, she has experience across multiple sectors of audiology including the clinical (public and private), academic, biotechnology, business and community based aspects of the profession. She is an award winning and accomplished clinician and an internationally published researcher with special interests in person centred care, healthcare professional unemployment and healthcare access.