



A Speech and Hearing Month Celebration 2021
Sponsored by the Department of Audiology

Pediatric Hearing Health Care in Ontario

With Invited Guest Speakers:

Marlene Bagatto, Au.D., Ph.D.
and

David Pfingstgraef, M.Cl.Sc., AUD(C)

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

12:00 to 13:00

Via ZOOM

During this presentation, Ontario's Infant Hearing Program will be described, including information about the new risk factor blood spot screening in collaboration with Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO). Information about how health care professionals can access the program for the infants they work with will be provided.

Pediatric Hearing Health Care in Ontario



Marlene Bagatto & David Pfingstgraef

Biographies

Marlene Bagatto, Au.D., Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the National Centre for Audiology at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada. The research in her Pediatric Audiology Strategies and Systems Laboratory focusses on policy and practice integration for infant and child hearing. Dr. Bagatto is Past President of the Canadian Academy of Audiology and Chair of the Canadian Infant Hearing Task Force. She is a consultant for the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services' Infant Hearing Program where protocol development, implementation, and monitoring for various components of the program are her main activities. Dr. Bagatto also provides clinical services to infants involved in the Ontario Infant Hearing Program at the H.A. Leeper Speech and Hearing Clinic at Western.

David Pfingstgraef, M.Cl.Sc., AUD(C) is an Audiologist and co-owner of Elgin Audiology Consultants. He is currently the Regional Audiology Consultant for the Ontario Ministry's Infant Hearing Program-Southwest Region. He has provided audiological services in Elgin County and the area for close to 30 years. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, Bachelor of Science degree in Communicative Disorders (Speech Language Pathology and Audiology) and Master of Clinical Science degree in Audiology from The University of Western Ontario. He is a registered audiologist with the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) and served as President and council member of this regulatory college for a number of years. He served on the Clinical Certification Examination Committee for Audiology for Speech-Language & Audiology Canada. His past work included both a Lecturer as well as a Clinical Instructor at Western University. He is a certified member of the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

Abstract

Early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) programs are available in many jurisdictions to proactively address hearing health in infants and children to support language and literacy development. Evidence is clear that the earlier an infant with permanent hearing loss is provided with optimal and consistent access to speech, the best chance there is for appropriate language development (Tomblin, et al, 2015). A comprehensive EHDI program includes universal newborn hearing screening (UNHS), audiology assessment, family support, intervention (e.g., technology and language services), and monitoring. Since 2001, Ontario has been supported by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to offer a comprehensive EHDI program. During this presentation, Ontario's Infant Hearing Program will be described, including information about the new risk factor blood spot screening in collaboration with Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO). Information about how health care professionals can access the program for the infants they work with will be provided.