

Industry News

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The Canadian Academy of Audiology

Editor's Note: Lorin MacDonald, CM, OOnt, LSM, JD, is a disability rights lawyer, accessibility advocate, and Adjunct Professor of Disability Law at Western University Faculty of Law. Born with congenital bilateral sensorineural profound hearing loss, she has worn hearing aids since age three and has spent more than thirty years advancing communication access and disability inclusion across Canada. A Member of the Order of Canada, the Order of Ontario, and the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame, she is the founder of HearVue Inc. and a regular contributor to Canadian Lawyer Magazine, the Toronto Star, the Globe and Mail, The Hill Times, and is a featured regular contributor to CanadianAudiologist.ca. Lorin can be reached at lorin@hearvue.com.



OTTAWA, Ontario—Her Excellency the Right Honourable Louise Arbour, Governor General of Canada, presides over a presentation of Canadian honours during a ceremony at Rideau Hall on June 25, 2026.

During this ceremony, 7 Officers (O.C.) and 21 Members (C.M.) are invested into the Order of Canada, and the following honours are presented:

1 Meritorious Service Cross (M.S.C.) and 8 Meritorious Service Medals (M.S.M.), as part of the Meritorious Service Decorations (Civil Division);

4 Polar Medals; and

5 Sovereign's Medals for Volunteers.

OTTAWA (Ontario) — Son Excellence la très honorable Louise Arbour, gouverneure générale du Canada, préside une cérémonie de remise de distinctions honorifiques canadiennes qui se tient à Rideau Hall le 25 juin 2026.

Au cours de cette cérémonie, 7 officiers (O.C.) et 21 membres (C.M.) sont admis dans l'Ordre du Canada, et les distinctions suivantes sont remises :

1 Croix du service méritoire (C.S.M.) et 8 Médailles du service méritoire (M.S.M.), dans le cadre des décorations pour service méritoire (division civile);

4 Médailles polaires;

5 Médailles du souverain pour les bénévoles.

Credit/Mention de source : MS/La matc Anne-Marie Brisson, Rideau Hall, OSGG-BSGG

On June 25th, at Rideau Hall, Governor General Louise Arbour invested Lorin MacDonald as a Member of the Order of Canada.

Arriving at Rideau Hall

The day carried so much. June 25th was my late Uncle Murray's birthday (my mother's only sibling - they were very close). He believed in me long before there was any medal to justify the faith, and to be honoured on his day felt less like coincidence and more like company. And forty years after a chance encounter watching Rick Hansen wheel down a cold highway in Simcoe on his Man in Motion World Tour—an event that quietly redirected my life—there I was, being recognized for a career spent insisting that access is not a favour and inclusion is not charity.

The part that undid me most: the ceremony was fully captioned, in English and French, rendered in real time by human captioners, so that I, with my profound hearing loss, could actually follow the ceremony conferring my country's highest civilian honour. And then my citation itself named that I had brought captioning to Rideau Hall for the first time. The very access I have fought for in exactly those rooms, for decades, was read aloud as a contribution to my country. I will never forget it. The photo shows only English during the test, but the screen was split to show French as well once the ceremony was underway.

Then came the moment itself. Governor General Arbour pinned the insignia to my chest (I had SO many thoughts!) and afterward held me in an embrace I will carry for the rest of my life.

It felt, more than anything, like being seen. Not for one act, but for a whole life's work, so much of which was done quietly, without pay, simply because it mattered.

The ceremony was recorded, and I appear at around the 34-minute mark. I've included the link here. [*Click to watch the Order of Canada Investiture Ceremony*](#)

From the moment I left Toronto on June 23 until my return on June 26, kindness was everywhere. The Château Laurier, home for 4 days, rolled out the red carpet. Air Canada did the same.

Celebrations followed with the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and my dear friend, Ruth Ann Onley, the widow of David Onley, who provided a letter of support for my nomination.



Professor Sylvie Hébert, wins the 2026 AFREPA Career Achievement Award

Francophone Association of Multidisciplinary Teams in Tinnitus Research

"In recognition of an exceptional career and remarkable contributions to the advancement of knowledge, clinical practice, and research in the fields of audiology, rehabilitation, tinnitus, and hyperacusis. Through sustained commitment, exemplary leadership, and a lasting impact on patients, students, and the scientific community, Sylvie Hébert has made significant contributions to the advancement of these fields. AFREPA highlights an inspiring career that will continue to influence future generations."

Figure caption: On the picture, from left to right: Dr Marie-José Fraysse, ENT, France, vice-president and co-founder of AFREPA, Philippe Fournier, associate professor, Université Laval, Professor Sylvie Hébert, Dr Vincent Loche, ENT, France, and new president of AFREPA.





Submitted by Philippe Fournier, PhD

AFREPA: Association Francophone des Équipes Pluridisciplinaires en Acouphénologie (Francophone Association of Multidisciplinary Teams in Tinnitus Care)

<https://afrepa.org>

I recently had the pleasure of organizing the AFREPA conference held last week in Montreal. This edition marked an important milestone, as it was a historic first: for the very first time, this fully French-language conference dedicated to tinnitus and hyperacusis crossed the Atlantic. This ambitious initiative proved to be a great success.

The conference was fully booked and brought together more than 330 participants for nearly 60 presentations, including plenary sessions and practical workshops, over two particularly rich and intensive days. This strong turnout highlights the growing interest in tinnitus and hyperacusis management, as well as the importance of a truly multidisciplinary approach. Participants included 112 hearing aid specialists, 109 audiologists, 23 ENT physicians, 11 psychologists, 29 researchers, and 33 students, along with many other professionals such as social workers, psychoeducators, and clinicians from diverse backgrounds.

Funding from the Fonds de recherche du Québec supported two research students in audiology for their poster presentation.

One prize was awarded to Hadayat Bouzekouk, a master's student in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at the Université de Montréal, under the supervision of Dr. Adriana Lacerda, for her presentation entitled "*Hearing Health and Inclusive Communication.*" An attached photograph shows Dr. Lacerda receiving the award on behalf of the student, along with Philippe Fournier (organizing committee) and Vincent Loche (President of AFREPA).

One prize was awarded to Anne-Sophie Côté, a master's student in Rehabilitation Sciences at Université Laval, under the supervision of Philippe Fournier, Associate Professor, for her presentation entitled "*Prevention of Hearing Problems Among Canadian Military Personnel: Validation of an In-Ear Device to Measure Noise Exposure and Its Effects on Hearing.*" An attached photograph shows Anne-Sophie Côté receiving her award, together with Philippe Fournier and Sylvie Hébert (organizing committee).

Finally, Professor Sylvie Hébert received the **AFREPA 2026 Career Recognition Award**. This prestigious distinction recognizes an exceptional career marked by major contributions to the advancement of audiology, research, and clinical practice, as well as remarkable dedication to the scientific community, students, and patients.



Growing Our Team to Better Support You

At Starkey Canada, our growth is guided by one priority: continuing to provide our customers with the partnership, expertise and support they need to succeed. With that commitment in mind, we are pleased to share several updates to our Canadian sales team.

Congratulations to Diana Facey!



Please join us in congratulating Diana Facey on her promotion to Manager, National Sales English Canada.

In her expanded role, Diana will lead our sales strategy across English Canada, strengthen customer partnerships and support the continued growth and development of our sales team.

Diana has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication and a strong commitment to customer success. We are excited to see the impact she will continue to make in this new role.

After his time as National Sales Manager, Marco Coletta will be departing Starkey Canada. We sincerely thank Marco for his contributions, leadership and dedication to our customers, and we wish him continued success in his next chapter.

We are excited about this next stage of growth and remain committed to delivering the partnership and support you expect from Starkey.

Warm Regards,
Starkey Canada



SENTAC
SOCIETY FOR EAR, NOSE, & THROAT
ADVANCES IN CHILDREN

PEDIATRIC AUDIOLOGY SUMMIT:

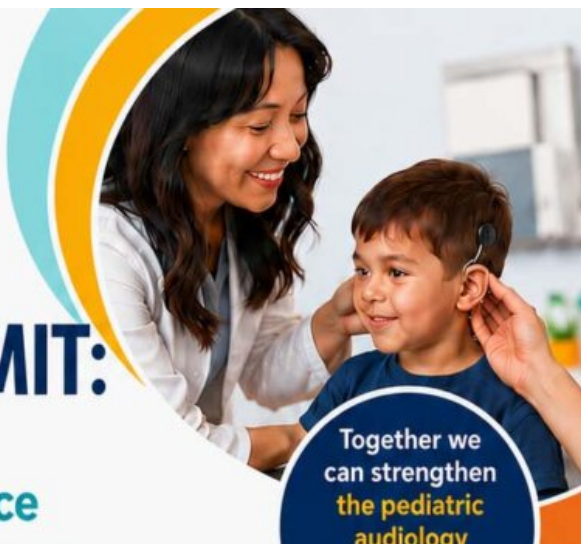
Shaping the Future of the
Pediatric Audiology Workforce



SAVE THE DATE!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM | NASHVILLE, TN



Together we
can strengthen
the pediatric
audiology
workforce.



A collaborative summit bringing together key stakeholders to
address pediatric audiology workforce challenges and create actionable solutions.



WORKFORCE
STRENGTH



TRAINING &
MENTORSHIP



COLLABORATION &
SOLUTIONS



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Pediatric audiologists
- Au.D. program faculty
- Clinical educators and preceptors
- Current Au.D. students
- Professional organizations
- Related professionals invested in the future of pediatric audiology



WHAT WE WILL ACHIEVE TOGETHER

- Identify emerging workforce trends and shortages in pediatric audiology
- Explore factors contributing to declining student interest in pediatric practice
- Evaluate current recruitment, mentorship, training, and retention initiatives
- Identify gaps in workforce development efforts
- Generate a report with actionable solutions to strengthen the pediatric audiology pipeline
- Establish ongoing partnerships and dialogue among organizations and stakeholders



BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

Summit is **FREE** for all to attend. Non-member attendees will receive a free one-year SENTAC membership, which will allow for discounted registration for the 2026 SENTAC Annual Meeting (12/4-12/5).

**Registration
and more info
coming soon!**

CBT-Hear Norway is a hybrid training programme for audiologists, audiopedagogists,

psychologists, counsellors, and other relevant qualified health and social care professionals involved in treating people with tinnitus, hyperacusis, and misophonia.

October 1-2, 2026

CBT-Hear Norway 2026 event page:

<https://cbthear.com/cbt-hear-norway-2026-advanced-clinical-training-and-professional-development-programme/>

Programme prospectus PDF:

<https://cbthear.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/CBT-Hear-Norway-2026-Programme-Prospectus.pdf>



CBT-Hear Norway is a hybrid training programme for audiologists, audiopedagogists, psychologists, counsellors, and other relevant qualified health and social care professionals involved in treating people with tinnitus, hyperacusis, and misophonia.

The programme combines a 2-day face-to-face masterclass with 12 months of online learning and professional development. Throughout the year, participants will engage in online lectures and teaching, clinical supervision, reflective practice, case discussion, longitudinal mentorship, and access to the CBT-Hear learning platform and educational resources.

The programme is designed to help clinicians develop their knowledge and skills in the assessment and management of tinnitus, hyperacusis, and misophonia-related distress.

Graduates who successfully complete the programme will achieve **CBT-Hear Certified**

Practitioner status. Certified Practitioners are trained to deliver specialised rehabilitation programmes based on cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) for patients experiencing distress associated with tinnitus, hyperacusis, and misophonia, while working within their professional scope of practice.

Following certification, participants may progress to **CBT-Hear Certified Advanced Clinician**, which focuses on the management of more complex presentations involving multidisciplinary collaboration. Further progression to **CBT-Hear Fellowship** is available for clinicians who demonstrate ongoing professional development, clinical achievement, and contributions to the field.

The **CBT-Hear Public Register** lists clinicians who are registered within the CBT-Hear Certification Programme and authorised to use CBT-Hear professional titles at their recorded certification level. Inclusion on the register confirms that a clinician has met the requirements for registration at that level and agrees to practise in accordance with the CBT-Hear Code of Ethics, Scope of Practice, and governance standards. The register serves as the authoritative source of current registration status.

Dates:

1–2 October 2026 – Face-to-face masterclass

October 2026 – September 2027 – 12 months of online learning, supervision, mentorship, and professional development

Venue: Quality Airport Hotel Gardermoen, Norway

Programme Fee: £2,800

Does the Apple AirPods Pro 2 hearing aid feature meet prescribed targets for standardized audiograms?

Huang, H., Dalzell, T., & Picou, E.M. (Published online: 27 June 2026. *International Journal of Audiology*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14992027.2026.2685112>)

Full article: Does the Apple airpods pro 2 hearing aid feature meet prescribed targets for standardized audiograms?

Objective

We aimed to record deviation of Apple AirPods Pro 2 Hearing Aid Feature (HAF) output from prescriptive targets (i.e., NAL-NL2) using two manually entered, standardized audiograms. We also aimed to record the acoustic effects of the HAF tuning controls and their utility for fine tuning HAF outputs.

Design and study sample

HAF output was quantified by real-ear aided responses measured bilaterally in an acoustic manikin using 55, 65, and 75 dB SPL recorded speech inputs. Repeated measurements were made for left and right earbuds, from two sets of AirPods Pro 2 devices. Two manually entered, standardized audiograms (mild- and moderate-sloping hearing losses) were used to generate prescriptive targets. Fine tuning by a researcher towards validated prescriptive targets was explored using “Amplification” and “Tone” sliders on an iPhone.

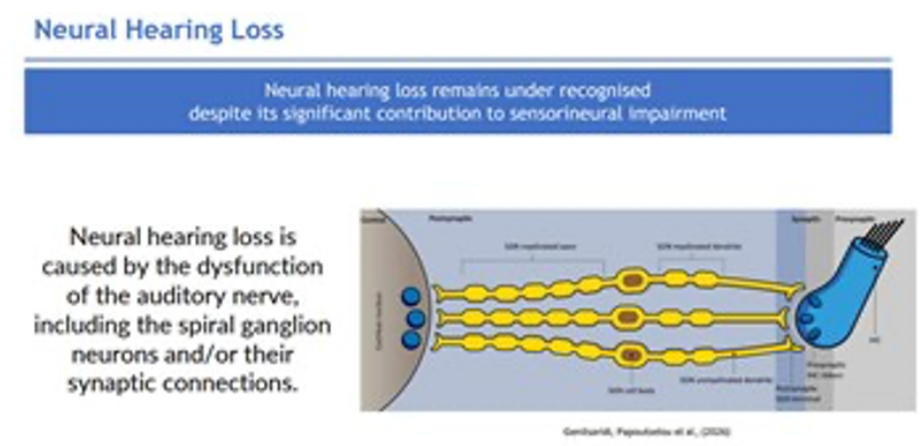
Results

For both manually-entered audiograms, under-amplification relative to targets was observed at HAF’s default setting; however, match to targets could be achieved after fine tuning. The “amplification” slider gives ± 10 dB of broadband level changes, while “Tone” slider gives ± 5 – 10 dB of spectral tilt.

Hope for neural hearing loss

18 May 2026 from ENT & Audiology News, UK

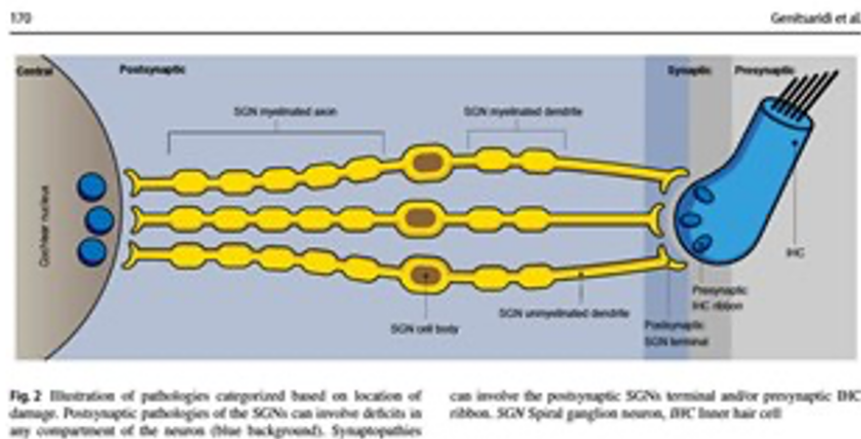
A new review shows significant promise of improved clinical outcomes for patients from the treatments in development for neural hearing loss (NHL), alongside better diagnosis.



NHL is responsible for a range of hearing disorders including auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder (ANS) and playing a significant role in the development of presbycusis or age-related hearing loss. Symptoms include difficulties with real world hearing function, speech recognition and particularly distinguishing 'speech in noise', for example in a crowded place. Standard devices

such as hearing aids and cochlear implants are unsatisfactory where there is NHL as they are designed to counter hair cell loss, not nerve cell loss. There is no approved drug treatment for neural hearing loss, leaving patients with poor outcomes.

The review, authored by Rinri Therapeutics, assesses the contribution of neural hearing loss (NHL), driven by dysfunction of the auditory nerve in the ear, to hearing impairments, and shows that groundbreaking approaches such as cell therapies are on the horizon. The review concludes that elevating the importance of neural health via better diagnosis and treatment is crucial for restoration of natural hearing.



The authors highlight the range of interventions in development to address this unmet medical need. Emerging strategies for neural protection include small molecules, neurotrophins, direct reprogramming, drug delivery systems and gene-based therapies. However, it is only cell therapies which offer the potential for true repair and regeneration. Recent approval of a UK clinical trial application for a first-in-human trial of Rinri Therapeutics' Rincell-1 is a significant step in the development of a regenerative cell therapy approach to NHL. Rincell-1 consists of otic neural progenitor cells designed to regenerate auditory neurons and is expected to enter the clinic shortly.

Recognising the likely underdiagnosis of NHL, despite its high prevalence, due to factors such as a lack of sensitive and specific tests, the inaccessibility of the cochlea and lack of specific treatments, the authors call for more research in this area. This could include development of biomarkers and increased 'speech in noise' testing as routine.

“Consolidating the extensive neural hearing loss research into this review highlights the central role it plays in hearing loss conditions. With today’s increased understanding of NHL, a paradigm shift is underway to improve outcomes for people with this widespread but underdiagnosed condition”, said lead authors Drs Eleni Genitsaridi and Efstratia Papoutselou of Rinri Therapeutics.

The paper, '[Neural Hearing Loss: Mechanisms, Diagnosis and Treatment Horizons](#)' was published in *Journal of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology* (2026)

William “Bill” Ahroon Obituary

Used with permission from the National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA)

It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of **William “Bill” Ahroon**, who we recently learned passed away on February 16, 2026, at the age of 77.

Bill made significant contributions to the fields of acoustics and hearing conservation during his career with the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory at Fort Rucker, Alabama. His work focused on identifying and understanding hazards to hearing and developing approaches to better protect hearing, particularly among military personnel.

Bill was also an important member of the research community at the University at Buffalo, where he worked with colleagues whose research made lasting contributions to our understanding of noise-induced and sensorineural hearing loss. Among his many publications was the highly influential *Neural Correlates of Sensorineural Hearing Loss*, co-authored with Richard Salvi, Don Henderson, and Roger Hamernik.

For those who knew Bill personally, his impact extended well beyond his research. He was a generous colleague, mentor, and teacher who shared his knowledge freely and helped shape the work of those around him. His dedication to hearing conservation and his contributions to the field will continue to be remembered by the many people whose work and lives he touched.