



Heard in Fort Worth

Hearing Loss Association of America – Fort Worth Chapter
June 2024

June 8 Program:

Advanced Bionics Cochlear Implant Basics and Unique Features

Presented by

Katie Revolinski, Advanced Bionics Clinical Specialist

Katie Revolinski, Au.D. joined Advanced Bionics as a Clinical Specialist in 2013, providing on-site clinical support, product training, and assistance with clinical management of difficult cases as part of the Southern regional team. Prior to joining Advanced Bionics, Katie was a professional trainer for InSound Medical and Phonak, training hearing healthcare providers on insertion techniques and clinical management of the Lyric hearing aid.

Our chapter has had numerous requests for updated information on cochlear implants. This program is a step in response to those requests.

HLAA - Fort Worth meets on the second Saturday of each month

in the fellowship hall of Central Christian Church, 3205 Hamilton Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107.

Snacks and mingle at 9:30 a.m. and meeting at 10:00. Please join us and bring a friend!

We offer realtime captioning and assistive listening systems for communication accessibility.

Captioning is provided courtesy of Cauthen & Associates Court Reporting and CART Services.

July 13 Program:



**2024 Convention Report presented by
Chapter President Joyce Parlin and Vice President Kevin Medlin**

Photo Credit: *The photograph of The Fort Worth Herd on our Heard In Fort Worth banner is used by permission of The Fort Worth Herd and its sponsor, the City of Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department.*

Joyce's Jargon

Greetings,

This information came from HLAA, and I thought it would be of interest.

“HLAA worked with other advocates to include captions and other critical accessible communications in a new bipartisan bill that makes it easier for people with hearing loss and other disabilities to travel. The sweeping FAA Reauthorization Act was passed by the U.S. Senate on May 9 and the House of Representatives on May 15 and was signed into law by President Biden. Provisions include accessibility requirements for announcements, in-flight entertainment, websites and kiosks for people with disabilities.” [EDITOR’S NOTE: See more on page 4.]

With this information, I have contacted DFW Airport Customer Programs Coordinator to see if she would be able to do a program for the chapter about how the airport will meet the requirements and if we, as a hearing loss group, would be able to help the airport in any way with suggestions, etc. Hopefully, the changes made will make traveling much more pleasant for those of us with hearing loss.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday, June 8th to hear our guest speaker clinical specialist Katie Revolinski from Advanced Bionics.

Invite others with our shared interest in hearing loss.
Joyfully,

Joyce Parlin
Chapter President

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979 by Howard E. “Rocky” Stone, is the nation’s leading organization representing consumers with hearing loss. The mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support, and advocacy.

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Heard In Fort Worth

This newsletter is published by the
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Membership has its benefits. Please join or renew. Go to www.hearingloss.org and click on “Membership” to join.

May 11 Meeting Summary: *Harmful or Helpful?* Medications, Supplements, and Your Ears

Presented by Marylyn Koble, M.S.

Summarized by Darlene Liesner from the meeting transcript by
Carrie Gibson, CSR, of Cauthen & Associates, Court Reporting & CART Service



Marylyn Koble, M.S., CCC-A owns Audiology Associates of DFW with two offices: one in Arlington and one in Cedar Hill. At the May 11 meeting, Marylyn discussed ototoxicity and prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, supplements, essential oils, and CBD (cannabidiol).

Ototoxicity literally means ear poisoning. It can result from drugs or chemicals that damage the ear and/or hearing nerve. Symptoms include hearing loss, tinnitus, and balance issues. Ototoxicity impacts the hair cells in the cochlea and possibly the vestibular apparatus in the inner ear. People with preexisting hearing loss are at higher risk of ototoxicity. People with impaired kidneys and those taking diuretics are also at higher risk. Other important ototoxicity factors are dosage, duration (how long taken), and how the drug is administered - orally, topically, or intravenously.

Strong antibiotics are likely to be ototoxic. The category called “aminoglycosides” are particularly ototoxic. These include antibiotics with names ending in “mycin.” Erythromycin and Azithromycin are very effective and cheap. While no longer used much in the U.S., Erythromycin and Azithromycin cause seventy-five percent of the ototoxicity in the world. They stay in the body a long time and stay in the cochlea even after a person quits taking them. The hearing of people must be monitored for several months after taking these meds.

Cancer medications are next, especially the platinum-based compounds. These are used for head/neck, lung, and brain cancer. Cisplatin is the most toxic; Carboplatin is less ototoxic. While it takes more Carboplatin to be effective, Cisplatin causes kidney damage. These drugs may save your life but cause significant hearing loss. It’s a tough decision.

Loop diuretics, such as furosemide, bumetanide, and torsemide, are used to treat hypertension, edema, swelling from congestive heart failure, kidney impairment, and cirrhosis of the liver, and can affect hearing.

Anti-malarial drugs such as chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are also used to treat lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and other diseases and are ototoxic.

NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) like Motrin and Aleve, taken in high doses, may damage hearing. Aspirin can cause tinnitus, hearing loss, and vertigo when used in high doses. Fortunately, the ototoxicity from aspirin is typically reversible. When someone quits taking a lot of aspirin, their tinnitus generally dissipates in 24 - 72 hours.

Dietary supplements are classified as food, so they are not regulated by the FDA. No testing is required to show that dietary supplements are effective or safe, so long as a manufacturer includes a disclaimer on the label. FDA registered simply means registered as a product. Currently over fifty products claim to relieve or cure tinnitus. The average supplement contains three to 25 ingredients. Several tinnitus supplements contain quinine which is ototoxic. Before starting a supplement, talk to your doctor.

Essential oils and CBD: No scientific evidence shows that essential oils effectively treat ringing in the ears or hearing loss. No scientific evidence shows that CBD products are effective in decreasing tinnitus or helping hearing loss. Neither essential oils nor CBD products are regulated by the FDA.

“Polypharmacy” means the concurrent use of many drugs. The more drugs one takes the higher the possibility (probability) of an adverse drug reaction. Seventy percent of people ages 65 or older use over-the-counter medications regularly. Thirty-two percent of people 65 or older use more than eight medications (both OTC and prescribed) per day. A person taking five or more drugs has a fifty percent chance of a negative drug interaction. Someone taking eight or more has a 100 percent chance of an adverse drug reaction. Adverse drug reactions vary from very slight to life-threatening. Some supplements may interact negatively with medications.

Even if your prescription medication is on the list of ototoxic drugs, don’t stop taking it before talking to your doctor. Know the side effects of all your medications. If your prescription drug requires monitoring because of its negative side effects, follow your doctor’s orders. For example, if your medication may affect your hearing and your doctor recommends seeing an audiologist, follow through.

Marylyn answered audience questions. Contact Marylyn at Marylyn@audiologyassociates.com.

Flying with Hearing Loss Could Soon Get Easier

New Air Travel Bill Includes Key Accessibility Improvements

As described in Joyce’s column (page 2), on May 16, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024 was signed into law by President Biden with bipartisan support. This vital bill extends the FAA’s activities related to airport planning and development, facilities, equipment and operations through September 30, 2028.

HAAA has worked for years with other consumer disability organizations, including the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), to get important accessibility provisions included in the bill.

Here are some of the improvements to come:

- **Accessible announcements**
Those muffled, hard-to-understand gate and safety announcements could get more accessible. Under the new law, all airport gates, counters, ticketing areas and customer service desks must be disability accessible, including captions for people with hearing loss.
- **New wheelchair safety standards**
Harrowing scenarios of wheelchair damage and injuries to passengers who are taken in and out of them could diminish as the bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to improve standards for wheelchair transport and stowage.
- **In-flight entertainment captioning**
DOT is required to issue new regulations requiring in-flight entertainment accessibility, including closed captioning and video descriptions.
- **Digital accessibility**
Minimum standards to ensure that individuals with disabilities can access websites, software applications and kiosks are also included.

Source: <https://www.hearingloss.org/flying-with-hearing-loss-could-soon-get-easier/>

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All contributions are tax-deductible.

Hearing Loss Association of America - Fort Worth Chapter

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Cauthen & Associates, Inc. is a woman-owned business, founded by Lisa Cauthen in 1998, and incorporated in 1999. Cauthen & Associates has provided the DFW Metroplex with **captioning, communication access real-time translation (CART), and court reporting services** for over 20 years. It provides CART services for our meetings

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Southern Star Technology provides the assistive listening systems for our HLAA chapter meetings.



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