



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Antony Joseph, AuD, PhD, Chair

Gail M. Whitelaw, PhD,

First Vice Chair

Mindy Brudereck, AuD

John A. Coverstone, AuD

Kerry Ormson, AuD, EdD

Angela S. Pond, AuD

Yvonne S. Sininger, PhD

Past Chair

Ex Officio Member

James "Jay" W. Hall III, PhD, Chair

Public Representative

Patty A. Keffer, MBA

American Academy of Audiology Board of Directors Liaison

David Zapala, PhD

Managing Director Ex Officio Member

Torryn P. Brazell, CMP, CAE

For ABA information, contact:

American Board of Audiology

11730 Plaza America Drive

Suite 300

Reston, VA 20190

800-881-5410

aba@audiology.org

Update on Pediatric Audiology Specialty Certification

By John Coverstone

For nearly 12 years, the American Board of Audiology (ABA) has provided certification for audiologists who wish to demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning and adherence to a higher standard than state licensure. At the close of 2010, approximately 1,600 audiologists chose to voluntarily achieve a greater level and amount of continuing education and maintain the highest level credential possible for the profession.

In 2005, the ABA responded to the requests of industry and practicing audiologists to create a special certification for those working with cochlear implants. Following the requests of many audiologists and outside entities, the ABA has created its second specialty certification—for pediatric audiology. The first audiologists will sit for the certification examination in April 2011, immediately following AudiologyNOW!® in Chicago, IL.

ABA Board Profile



Angela S. Pond, AuD

LtCol, USAF, Ret.

Hails from: Raised in Tulsa, OK. I've now retired from the U.S. Air Force and I'm building a house in Vancouver, WA.

Year Certified: 2002

Degree: AuD, Central Michigan University; MA, The University of Texas at Austin; BS, Oklahoma State University

What I Do for the ABA: I'm the incoming chair of the Certification Committee, and I look forward to becoming more involved with other projects as they arise.

In My Free Time: I enjoy travel, photography, reading, hiking, and pseudo-gourmet cooking!

Quote to Live by: "Always do your best"—Your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick. Under any circumstance, simply do your best and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse, and regret. Anon.


Pediatric audiology specialty certification denotes an important step forward for the profession of audiology. It formally recognizes pediatric audiology as the specialty area that audiologists know it to be. Universal newborn hearing screening and follow-up diagnostic and intervention services have increased demand for pediatric audiologists. Specialty certification provides a credential to recognize those who have acquired the skills and knowledge to fully specialize in this area and maintain their specialty through the ongoing pursuit of education in this subject area.

Any qualifying audiologist who holds state licensure or international board certification from the ABA may apply for this certification and sit for the examination. Applicants must have completed one year of full-time (2,000 hours) post-degree, paid professional experience as an audiologist with 550 direct contact hours in pediatrics, and 50 hours of case management of pediatric cases, each over two consecutive years out of the previous five years. For more information, visit the ABA Web site at www.american-boardofaudiology.org, and click on "Specialty Certifications." The area for pediatric certification contains application materials, resources for exam preparation, and more information about this important specialty certification.

The exam was developed by a group of carefully selected subject matter experts. Over the past two years, these individuals have studied the area of pediatrics in order to define it, develop areas of expertise within this specialty area, and, finally, develop questions to use for the examination. The first exam will be a field test and consist of 150 questions, 100 of which are pre-selected for scoring. Future exams will be operational and consist of 100 questions across defined subject areas to include:

- Screening and assessment procedures
- General knowledge about hearing and hearing loss
- Communication enhancement technology
- Habilitation/rehabilitation strategies and educational supports
- Laws and regulations

- Counseling
- Child development

As audiology continues to grow and expand as a profession, it will become increasingly important to provide credentials that allow individual practitioners to demonstrate knowledge, training, and commitment within specialty areas. Specialty certification provides clearer pathways for referring colleagues, physicians, and other providers. It also identifies those practitioners whom the public should seek out for specialty services. In addition, it may actually improve the quality of services provided when demand is high and individual audiologists feel a need to obtain and keep specialty certification. These offer tremendous benefits to the audiologist, to the practice facility, and to the profession of audiology. 

John Coverstone, AuD, is a member of the ABA Board of Governors and is the chair of the ABA Marketing Committee.





**STUDENTS AND
ABA CERTIFIED
MENTORS FOR
THE 2011 ABA
MEET & GREET.**

AudiologyNOW!® 2011
Thursday, April 7
Noon–2pm
Chicago, IL



For more information, visit
www.americanboardofaudiology.org.