



UPDATE

The Newsletter of the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation

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"CHIP"

Chairperson's Message

by Jeffrey C. Morrill, MS ~ Chair



Meet my new audiometer, its name is "Chip." Most audiometric tests conducted in industry today are performed on a microprocessor audiometer. These instruments are programmed to identify inconsistent responses and some may indicate poor test reliability. However, this is only a computer "chip" and the "thinking" must be left to the OHC. These instruments are also capable of recording responses that are not representative of the employee's true hearing level. That is, the responses may be above the true threshold level and represent a "comfortable" listening level that the employee responds to.

If the tester does not provide clear

instructions on how to take the microprocessor test, inaccuracies can easily happen. Because of the simplicity of the microprocessor audiometer, it is tempting to turn it on and walk away. This is quite a contrast to the manual audiometric test where the OHC is constantly working with the employee to get the best possible test results at each frequency. The microprocessor lacks the "motivation" of a good OHC for this goal. The result can be hearing thresholds that are elevated.

It is not uncommon for Standard Threshold Shift to occur when changing from one type of audiometric instrumentation to another. This is particularly true when the baseline tests have been taken on either a self recorder or a manual audiometer and the annual audiogram is taken for the first time with a microprocessor. There does not appear to be a definite explanation for this from any of the manufacturers or the audiology research community, but it does happen often. There are many possible causes for STS and extra effort should be exercised to evaluate if the

STS is real, spurious, or a result of change in audiometry procedures.

Whenever STS or questionable tests occur, the OHC should carefully review the original baseline and subsequent audiograms to see if there are inconsistent responses in those tests. Often a spurious STS will occur because the reference, or baseline, audiogram is not reliable. This is easy to detect with the self recording tests as the tracings represent each response. Although the manual test may only be a list of numeric entries, one can see if these are inconsistent from one test to the next.

The role of the OHC is not to interpret test results; however, comparison of records is clearly allowed by OSHA. When audiometric inconsistencies occur, the OHC should refer these to the professional program supervisor (audiologist or physician) for interpretation and selection of the appropriate baseline or reference test for future comparisons. Many data bases have such invalid data and the status of the hearing conservation

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CAOHC Welcomes New Council Members for 1997!

Linda Dolby, RN COHN-S, Merrie Healy, RN MPH and Peter C. Weber, MD, were recently appointed to the CAOHC Council.

Linda Dolby will represent the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses replacing Nancy Craft, RN COHN-S. Ms. Dolby is a Certified Occupational Health Nurse and Supervisor of Regulatory Compliance for Bethesda Corporate Health Services in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she monitors staff continuing education, compliance with regulatory issues for SHARE Occupational Health Nurses at 32 client company sites, and staff performance development.

Merrie Healy is the new representative for the National Safety Council, filling the expired term of Eva Barnard, RN BA COHN. Ms. Healy has recently been named Manager of Risk Control Services of Sedgwick James of Minnesota, Inc. in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since 1991 she has been responsible for corporate health and safety programs and services. She has developed health education and wellness programs,

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UPDATE

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Articles should be submitted, with a black and white photograph of the author. The *Update* is available to individuals not certified by CAOHC at an annual subscription rate of \$15. Payment must accompany request:

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Look for CAOHC
on the
INTERNET



<http://www.globaldialog.com/~caohc>

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CAOHC Council Holds Fall Meeting

The CAOHC Council held its fall meeting October 8, 1996, in New Orleans, Louisiana, following the Course Director Workshop. While business items for 1996 were reported, the main agenda focused on future plans for enhancing and improving CAOHCs role with Course Directors and OHCs, and stronger promotion of CAOHC nationally. The *UPDATE* newsletter will be reporting developments in future issues.

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Reappoints Megerson

ASHA reappoints Susan Cooper Megerson, MA, CCC-A, to serve on the CAOHC Council through 1998. Megerson has served on the Council since 1991 and has served as Secretary-Treasurer, Chair of CAOHCs Screening Committee, and is currently Council Vice-Chair.

American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc. (AAOHN) Reappoints Panhorst

AAOHN has reappointed Barbara Panhorst, EdD, RN, COHN-S, CAOHCs Immediate Past-Chair, as their representative on the CAOHC Council. Panhorst is currently the Chair of the OHC Committee in addition to the Nominating Committee. Panhorst has been on the Council since 1989.

Chair's Message, *continued from page 1*

program cannot be accurately determined until the data is "cleaned up." It will make the task of program administration much easier in the future and will also reduce the amount of expense associated with STS follow up.

There is no computer substitute for the astute OHC in hearing testing. If the employee receives clear instructions on how to take the test and the earphones are placed on the ears properly, the microprocessor can be an asset to the OHC. There still remains the challenge of motivating the employee to respond to the **least amount of sound** and that requires a "Coach," not a "Chip."

New Council Members, *continued from page 1*

managed **employee** disability and illness cases, and coordinated employee training programs.

Peter C. Weber will represent the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, succeeding Dr. J. David Osguthorpe. Dr. Weber is currently with the Department of Otolaryngology with the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, South Carolina. He is also Assistant Professor, Director, Hearing and Balance Disorders Center; and Director of the Division of Neurotology/Otology.

Dr. Weber has been published and has made numerous presentations at society conferences and programs. His committee work includes AAG-HNS Skull Base Surgery Committee and Secretary/Treasurer of the South Carolina Otolaryngology Society.

CAOHC Council Says "Thank You" to Outgoing Council Members

Jeffrey Morrill, Chair of the CAOHC Council, congratulates Eva Barnard, RN BA COHN CIRS, with a commendation on her retirement from the Council. Ms. Barnard has been the National Safety Council representative on the Council and served on CAOHC's OHC Committee and Bylaws/SOP Committee since 1991.



Nancy Craft, RN BSEH COHN-S, is presented with a plaque of commendation by CAOHC Chair, Jeffrey Morrill. Ms. Craft has been the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses representative on CAOHC's Council since 1993, and has served on the CD Screening Committee and Educational Development Committee.



Our special thanks for all of the contributions they have made to CAOHC and best wishes to both of these individuals!

CAOHC COUNCIL RECOGNIZES TOP FIVE COURSE DIRECTORS*

The Council announced the five most active Course Directors at their Fall meeting in New Orleans, in October, 1996. This honor is determined by the number of CAOHC approved courses held annually and number of students certifying with CAOHC. Congratulations and thanks to these top performers!

William Wolfe, MA, Roswell, GA—144 students certified

Timothy Swisher, MA, CCC-A, Pittsburgh, PA—125 students certified

Robert Connelly, MA, Lake Zurich, IL—98 students certified

Mary McDaniel, MA, CCC-A, Seattle, WA—87 students certified

Andrew Stewart, MA, CCC-A, Chapel Hill, NC—76 students certified

* (Determined by number of courses held throughout 1996, with the most students certifying/recertifying.)

Fall 1996 Course Director Workshop

The Fall Course Director Workshop was held in New Orleans, LA, on Monday, October 7, 1996. Thirteen new CAOHC Course Directors were awarded certification upon completion of this workshop, and five previously certified CAOHC Course Directors renewed their certification. The Course Director is the individual responsible for planning and conducting training courses for OHCs and ensuring CAOHC guidelines are followed.

UPDATE Publications Committee Meets

Larry Higdon, UPDATE Editor, met with the new Publications Committee members, Susan Megerson, Linda Dolby, Merrie Healy, and Peter Weber at the CAOHC offices in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, December 10, 1996.

The group held a productive planning session for 1997. The UPDATE will now be published quarterly, starting with the March 1997 issue. You will see issues devoted to employee training and education; audiometric testing; audiometric evaluations & follow-up; and hearing protection.

The Committee looks forward to bringing this improved newsletter to you! Your suggestions are always welcome. Contact the CAOHC office at (414) 276-5338 and ask for Barbara Lechner.



All of the CAOHC Council members and staff wish you and your families health and happiness in 1997.

*And now let us welcome the New Year
Full of things that have never been.*

Rainer Maria Rilke



Events

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE LOCATION FOR COURSE DIRECTOR WORKSHOP

The April, 1997 Course Director Workshop will be held Monday, April 7, 1997, in Nashville, Tennessee at the Sheraton Music City hotel. A special CAOHC room rate of \$110 has been contracted for workshop participants. Conveniently located near Nashville's airport, the Sheraton has ample free parking and complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport. The city of Nashville boasts an average high April temperature of 66 degrees F, and low of 43 degrees F. Plenty of sunshine to enjoy following a day of workshop. To keep you entertained after hours, special events near the hotel include Music Row, the Grand Ole Opry, Opryland USA theme park, and the Hermitage.

This workshop is for CDs who are planning to initially certify, or are using the workshop method to recertify. Applications must be received in the CAOHC office no later than March 3, 1997, and can be obtained by contacting the CAOHC office at (414) 276-5338.

CAOHC Exhibiting At Two Upcoming Conferences

CAOHC will be exhibiting at the 22nd Annual NHCA Hearing Conservation Conference being held at the Grosvenor Resort, Orlando, Florida, February 20-22, 1997.

In addition, CAOHC will exhibit at the American Occupational Health Conference being held in Orlando, Florida, May 13-15, 1997.

CAOHC will have the ability to verify your certification and note any data updates you need ... so stop by the booth ... we look forward to meeting you personally!

Q & A

QUESTION: Why should persons using a microprocessor audiometer be CAOHC certified?

ANSWER: Keep in mind that often some patients cannot be successfully examined with a microprocessor. Therefore, a manual hearing test must be accomplished. Furthermore, CAOHC training provides the OHC with valuable information in many important related areas:

- a. Legal requirements (ie: calibration of audiometers & sound rooms).
- b. Changes in OSHA mandated requirements or workers' compensation laws.
- c. Requirements concerning record keeping and documentation.
- d. The audiogram and its represented types and degrees of hearing loss.
- e. Recommended referral criteria.
- f. Proper otoscopic examination.
- g. Appropriate employee counseling techniques.
- h. Attenuation characteristics of hearing protective devices.
- i. The different types of hearing protection.
- j. Methods for determining which hearing protection device is appropriate.
- k. The correct way to determine Standard Threshold Shift.
- l. When it is necessary to record the hearing loss on the OSHA Log 200.

This question and answer was submitted by John Elmore CD#675, Precision Hearing Conservation, San Antonio, Texas.

We welcome your comments or contributions to this question and answer. If you have a question you'd like answered, please submit it in writing to the **UPDATE Editorial Staff**, CAOHC, 611 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3816.

CAOHC Comments

• CAOHC would like to thank all of the new and recertifying OHCs for responding to the questionnaire that was handed out at your latest CAOHC course. This questionnaire appears on the back of the CAOHC OHC application form. Over 90% of OHCs submitting an application took the time to complete this questionnaire! We thought you might like an overview of the responses.

72% of respondents were first time applicants.

99% would recommend the course to others.

99% feel comfortable evaluating an audiogram and know when referral is necessary.

98% feel comfortable about fitting hearing protectors.

We congratulate all CAOHC Course Directors conducting these courses and thank you for your professionalism.

• CAOHC has approved over 500 CAOHC courses throughout the world for the 1996 year. We currently have 365 certified Course Directors, and over 17,000 certified OHCs. The first three quarters of 1996 showed an attendance at CAOHC courses of over 5,000 new and recertifying students.

DID YOU FIND AN ERROR OR PLAN A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

CAOHC would like to ensure that your mailing address stays current. If you have (or are going to make) a change in your name, degree, company, address, or phone number please take a minute to notify us by using this form.

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Name: _____ Degree: _____

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Suite/Apt # _____

Address: _____

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Business Phone No: _____ Home Phone No: _____

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Atten: Barbara Lechner, Administrative Coordinator

611 E. Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 53202-3816

Fax: (414) 276-3349

Please photocopy this form
if you wish to save the back page

Upcoming OHC Certification and Recertification Courses

Date	City	Course Director	Phone	Date	City	Course Director	Phone
1/6	Guam	Cavalli, Gail	(Navy)	1/31	Brooks AFB, TX	Edris, Robert	(Air Force)
1/6	Ft. Sam Houston, TX	Ostler, Cpt. Dale	210/916-7307	2/2	Portland, OR	Atack, Rodney	503/228-6479
1/8	Greeley, CO	Meinke, Deanna	970/351-0818	2/4	St. Louis, MO	Levine, David	314/968-4710
1/8	Boise, ID	Bowman, Rick	208/376-3591	2/5	Jacksonville, FL	Green, Nancy	904/399-3370
1/8	Boston, MA	Peterson, Nancy	617/267-4730	2/11	Greensboro, NC	Juarez, Omar	910/665-1818
1/8	Brookfield, WI	Korabic, Edward	414/288-3428	2/13	Ft. Hood, TX	Babeu, Lorraine	(Army)
1/11	Baltimore, MD	Rembe, Raymond	410/298-4179	2/19	Omaha, NE	Norris, Thomas	402/391-3982
1/13	Walnut Creek, CA	Fankhauser, Charles	707/746-6334	2/25	Fort Carson, CO	Hart, Loren	(Army)
1/13	Pearl Harbor, HI	Cameron, Cheryl Cpt.	(NAVY)	2/25	Oakbrook Terrace, IL	Connelly, Robert	847/382-3095
1/13	Westmont, IL	Stukas, Natalie	630/241-0990	2/26	Oakbrook Terrace, IL	Connelly, Robert	847/382-3095
1/14	Chapel Hill, NC	Stewart, Andy	919/967-2228	2/26	Chapel Hill, NC	Stewart, Andy	919/967-2228
1/14	Brooks AFB, TX	Edris, Robert	210/536-2844	2/26	San Juan, PR	Stepkin, Richard	609/435-7200
1/15	Albuquerque, NM	Harlan, William	505/275-1415	2/27	Fort Smith, AR	Prince, Jane	501/972-1166
1/21	Jonesboro, AR	Prince, Jane	501/972-1166	3/3	Mandeville, LA	Istre, Clifton	318/233-4081
1/21	Marietta, GA	Moore, A. Gregg	770/953-4699	3/4	Bellevue, WA	McDaniel, Mary	206/706-7352
1/21	Brook AFB, TX	Edris, Robert	(Air Force)	3/5	Greeley, CO	Kastner-Wells, Laurie	970/351-2014
1/22	Portland, OR	Fairchild, Michael	503/232-1646	3/10	Lexington, KY	Green, William	606/323-5840
1/22	Dallas, TX	Harris, Dean	970/586-0702	3/11	Charlotte, NC	Newman, Valerie	910/665-1818
1/23	Philadelphia, PA	Klavans, Sharon	(Navy)	3/12	Owensboro, KY	Gerteisen, Rita	502/683-2069
1/27	Kansas City, MO	Wallen, Tamara	816/587-6018	3/12	Charlotte, NC	Newman, Valerie	910/665-1818
1/28	Naples	Neuhann, Gail	(NAVY)	3/12	Portland, OR	Fairchild, Michael	503/232-1646
1/28	Ft. Bragg, NC	Gass, Albert	(Army)	3/12	Dallas, TX	Harris, Dean	970/586-0702
1/29	Boston, MA	Peterson, Nancy	617/267-4730	3/17	Westmont, IL	Stukas, Natalie	630/241-0990
1/29	Williamsville, NY	Nelson, David T.	716/633-7210	3/17	Brooks AFB, TX	Edris, Robert	(Air Force)



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