



AUDIOLOGY

Audiology at the Cleveland Clinic

Audiology is a highly recognized healthcare profession and has been ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the Best Careers for the past several years. Audiologists in the Head & Neck Institute, Section of Audiology at the Cleveland Clinic provide comprehensive state-of-the-art audiologic assessment and re/habilitative management services for patients of all ages using evidence-based clinical practices. Diagnostic services include behavioral and electrophysiologic evaluation of auditory function. Audiologic re/habilitation focuses on improving quality-of-life for individuals with hearing loss and their families through application of hearing assistive technology (HAT) including hearing aids, FM systems, and implantable devices. In conjunction with HAT, intensive and ongoing counseling to patients and families are an important aspect of helping patients with hearing loss overcome their communication problems in everyday life. Audiologists play an integral role in several specialty programs and clinics including the Hearing Implant Program, Pediatric Hearing Management Clinic, Tinnitus Management Clinic and the Cleft Palate Clinic. In addition to clinical services, the Ph.D. faculty in the Audiology Research Laboratory conduct investigations in the areas of hearing, dizziness, and tinnitus outcomes measurement, hearing aid signal processing, cochlear implants, development of diagnostic test materials, and auditory electrophysiology.

Northeast Ohio Au.D. Consortium (NOAC)

In 2005, The Head and Neck Institute at the Cleveland Clinic, the School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at The University of Akron, and the School of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Kent State University united efforts to form The Northeast Ohio Au.D. Consortium (NOAC). The goal of the collaborative nature of the Consortium is to merge the strong assets of two university programs focusing on the scientific and clinical bases of audiology with the Section of Audiology offering students clinical exposure to the breadth and depth of contemporary audiologic diagnosis and treatment. The strengths of each institution including academic and clinical faculties, resources, and facilities are combined into one unified Au.D. program. The Au.D. degree is granted either through The University of Akron or Kent State University depending upon which academic institution the student is enrolled.

The mission of NOAC is to provide Ohio with a pool of independent and competent professional audiologists. The consortium seeks to:

- Prepare audiologists through professional education and clinical training who can diagnose, treat, and manage individuals with hearing and balance disorders.
- Enhance service to the professional community through continuing education, mentoring, consulting, and joint research
- Provide for research and clinical service through external funding from federal, state, and local agencies.

The doctoral program consists of a continuous 4-year, post-baccalaureate course of study designed to integrate classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences. The emphasis of the program is on the principles and practices underlying diagnosis, treatment, and provision of hearing health care services. Students complete their fourth year externship under the guidance of audiology preceptors at the Cleveland Clinic who assume responsibility as the primary clinical

educators. This unique affiliation between the Cleveland Clinic, The University of Akron, and Kent State University serves as a national model for Au.D. programs and in October 2006 was the recipient of the *Award for Educational Excellence* by the Audiology Foundation of America.

Clinical Externship

Students completing their fourth year externship at the Cleveland Clinic participate in a variety of rotations exposing them to the breadth and depth of clinical audiology services. The rotations include experiences in the following areas: comprehensive audiologic diagnosis including puretone/speech audiometry and immittance measurement; pediatric behavioral assessment using visual reinforcement and play audiometry; electrophysiologic evaluation employing otoacoustic emissions, electrocochleography, auditory brainstem response, auditory steady-state response and vestibular evoked myogenic potentials; sensory device selection, fitting and follow-up (including programming of cochlear implants); assessment and management of tinnitus; and provision of auditory based therapy to facilitate spoken language in individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Further Information

For additional details about clinical externships at the Cleveland Clinic, contact Craig Newman, Ph.D., Section Head at 216.445.8520 or Email: newmanc@ccf.org. Additional information about NOAC (The University of Akron and Kent State University) is available at the following website: www.educ.kent.edu/noac/