

## **Making meaningful differences in audiological care of clients with SSD and AHL**

Ms Colleen Psarros<sup>1</sup> and Ms Emma Van Wanrooy<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Hearing Implants Australia, Sydney Australia, Crawley, Australia*

<sup>2</sup>*Pittwater Hearing, Sydney Australia Melbourne, Australia*

### **Overview:**

The disparate causation of single sided deafness and asymmetrical hearing loss, and the potential otological complexity of patients, cannot be limited to a single approach of audiological care.

Traditionally, protocols for management of clients with SSD/AHL have involved a regime of trialling conventional devices prior to consideration of hearing implants or no intervention at all.

In this learning lab, otological, psychosocial, behavioural and functional determinants for counselling, device selection and audiological care will be explored.

Evidence from a cohort of 40 adult clients aged between 22 and 85 years with SSD & AHL who were assessed and monitored over a two year period will be presented. Clients were classified according to the cause of their hearing loss into the categories including congenital long duration loss, sudden onset idiopathic, acoustic neuroma, long term otological conditions (eg trauma from previous surgeries). Comorbidities included tinnitus, facial weakness and poor balance.

Participants in this learning lab will use a range of speech discrimination tasks, self-report tools and a focus on real world measures to determine device suitability and client specific functional fitting of devices. Whilst formula based device fitting targets according to audiogram information and insertion gain measures may be helpful for audiologists, this learning lab will practice more tangible processes that may be readily transferrable and generalized to the clients everyday situations and provide the opportunity for clients to be more actively engaged in their auditory rehabilitation. Procedures and processes to ensure intervention is making a "meaningful" difference will be demonstrated and implemented in a range of case studies.

Case studies of recipients who have received a CROS, BAHA, CI or have progressed through a range of hearing devices will provide the basis for the laboratory. Participants will be invited to bring their own cases for the practical component.

Participants will explore an evidence based tool kit that can be readily integrated into their clinical practice. This time efficient toolkit will provide the audiologist with a profile of the clients audiological and psychosocial requirement to ensure targeted management.

This lab is designed for delegates working in a diagnostic and rehabilitative setting who provide ongoing longitudinal monitoring and management of clients with SSD & AHL hearing loss

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Participants will identify the impact of the pathology and causation of SSD / AHL and the implications for audiological care
- Participants will identify and implement relevant speech discrimination tasks to provide intervention and ongoing management of clients with SSD or asymmetrical hearing loss
- Participants will practice and develop a battery of procedures including functional listening and quality of life measures that when used in combination with speech discrimination tasks will facilitate a comprehensive baseline measurement of hearing function, and enable ongoing monitoring of client wellbeing following intervention