

FY12 Committee Accomplishments

Audit Committee

- Received an unqualified audit report from the independent auditor, reviewed the audit report with the audit firm, and recommended acceptance of the report to the board

Business Enhancement Strategies & Tools Committee

- Completed three-part eAudiology series on utilizing social media to market an audiology practice
- Completed Direct-to-Consumer Hearing Aid Sales Tool Kit
- Scheduled to present at AudiologyNOW! 2013
- Updated *Audiogram of Familiar Sounds* 2013
- Contributed several articles to *Audiology Today*
- Contributed Practice Management Tip of the Month for audiology.org and *AT Enews*

CRC

- Successfully obtained 10 new HCPCS codes for FM/DM technology after working with Audiology Organizations to submit of a HCPCS application, develop a comment letter to CMS, and present testimony at a CMS Public Hearing on the topic
- Developed relationships and held several meetings with staff from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and commercial payor representatives to advocate for equitable reimbursement, including but not limited to PQRS, HCPCS codes, and coverage for OAE codes
- Collaborated with Audiology Organizations to develop educational materials on contracting with third party payers, and several pieces on changes to the Medicare Physician Quality Reporting System

Education Committee

- Held a Featured Session at AudiologyNOW! 2012 called: *Future of Audiology Education and Training*, based on the Gold Standards Summit Task Force recommendations
- Vetted a proposal by Vanderbilt University to provide academic coursework to university programs via eAudiology; ultimately this proposal was not approved. The committee is currently looking at variations of this proposal
- Received approval from the Board of Directors for a new category within the Research Grants in Hearing and Balance program related to Audiology education. The committee is working with the AAAF for a source of dedicated funds for the grant
- Created the Audiology Core Competencies Worksheet – a fillable PDF assessment tool that includes a list of core competencies and clinical skills that can be used to document a student's level of skill acquisition not only prior to the externship year but throughout the clinical training program

Ethical Practices Committee

- Responses to multiple cases and inquiries for guidance/information from members.
- Presented a featured session at AudiologyNOW!
- Implemented the Guideline for Financial Relationships with Industry

Finance Committee

- Conducted frequent review of Academy financial statements to ensure compliance with approved budget.
- Provided oversight over all investment decisions, ensuring compliance with the Academy investment policy

Government Relations Committee

- Developed the following public policy resolutions to serve as a resource for members, lawmakers, and consumers: Mail Order/Internet Ordering of Hearing Aids, Internet Hearing Evaluations for the Purposes of Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids, and Support Personnel in Audiology
- Conducted a state advocacy challenge to see which states could make the greatest number of contacts to their members of Congress through the Legislative Action Center. The winning state (Ohio) was announced during General Assembly at AudiologyNOW!® 2012
- Worked with the independent health care economics consulting firm Dobson | DaVanzo & Associates, LLC to determine the impact on Medicare spending of direct access to audiologists for Medicare beneficiaries. The study found that direct access could yield a cost savings to Medicare of about \$240 million over 10 years. This compelling evidence will be used to advance direct access and other related legislative issues on Capitol Hill.

Honors Committee

- Received and reviewed a total of 15 nominations; selected six honorees for 2013.

International Committee

- As a part of Streamlining committees, the International Committee become a subcommittee of Membership

Membership Committee

- The Welcoming Subcommittee welcomed 569 new members to the Academy.
- The Resume Review Subcommittee reviewed 53 resumes
- Announced that at year end 2012, the Academy had reached 11927 members – the highest in Academy history
- The Member Assistance Program Subcommittee reviewed 6 applications and awarded assistance to 4 individuals (however one individual declined assistance)

Nominations Committee

- Produced a slate of nominees for the election of the President Elect and three member at large board positions

PAC Advisory Board

- Promoted its fundraising campaign entitled, “PUSH the PAC.” Highlighted a variety of ways members can “PUSH the PAC,” including making a personal contribution,

recruiting other audiologists to give, joining the monthly debit program and other promotional activities

- Hosted the annual AudiologyNOW! PAC event at the Union Oyster House in Boston. Two members of Congress: Representatives Richard Neal (D-MA) and Bill Keating (D-MA) attended the PAC event
- Exceeded previous PAC cycle fundraising totals

Practice Compliance Committee

- Undertook a comprehensive revision and update to the Practice Compliance pages of the Academy web site to focus on several key issues of compliance in audiology practice, including HIPAA, fraud and abuse, private contracting, ADA and more.
- Assisted in the creation of and provide updates to a new Academy Coding Reimbursement & Compliance monthly electronic newsletter on compliance issues pertinent to the practice of audiology, and continued to contribute Did You Know Questions and articles to *Audiology Today*

PPAC

- After achieving recognition by policymakers of the value of audiologists' full scope of practice by obtaining a seat at the CPT Editorial Panel Health Care Professional Advisory Committee (HCPAC) in 2012, PPAC has actively supported the Academy Advisors to represent audiology in discussions regarding code development for our profession as well as that of our colleagues
- Continued to attend AMA RUC and CPT Editorial Panel meetings and work closely with our audiology partners
- Continued to work toward the goal of obtaining an independent audiology seat on the RUC HCPAC

For Professional Development:

- Launched 21 new Web seminars
- The first Coding and Imbursement series Web seminar was launch in September 2011. Five in the series were presented during FY12
- Converted 18 sessions from AudiologyNOW! 2012 to eAudiology Web seminars
Approved 774 CE Provider courses for Academy CEUs

Professional Standards & Practices Committee

- As a part of streamlining committees, this committee merge with Strategic Documents

Program Committee

- Reviewed and selected submitted sessions
- Finalized invited sessions
- Planning student, special events and DiscovEARy Zone

Publications Committee

As a part of streamlining, this committee was sunset

Public Relations Committee

- Successfully involved the SAA into Audiology Awareness Month by having them create videos revolving around audiology and posted them on YouTube
- On-going recruitment of middle-school and high-school aged students via local science fairs and had them attend AudiologyNOW!

- Worked with Marvel Comics to promote the super hero character Blue Ear, who wears a hearing aid, to children who have hearing loss
- Developed 2 fact sheets which are posted as resources on the website

Research Committee

- Selected 6 Academy Research Grant in Hearing and Balance recipients
- Submitted topics for ARC 2014-2016 in advance of submitting a three-year conference grant (R13) to support ARC
- (ARC Program Committee) Held ARC 2012 on March 28 on noise-induced hearing loss

(ARC Program Committee) Planned ARC 2013 to be held on April 3 on binaural auditory processes

State Network Committee

- As a part of streamlining, this committee became a subcommittee of the Government Relations Committee

Strategic Documents Committee

- Completed the *Audiologic Guidelines for the Assessment of Hearing in Infants and Young Children*
- Completed a report on Central Presbycusis
- Completed select and widespread peer review of *Pediatric Amplification Guidelines*

SAA Advisory Committee

- Worked with the SAA to add three more SAA chapters, bringing the total to 64 (87.6% of the 73 AuD programs)
- Guided the SAA in a restructuring of its nominations process to allow for greater flexibility in selecting talented SAA members for leadership
- SAA President and Humanitarian Committee Chair represented the SAA at the Special Olympics International Winter Games in South Korea. At the Games, the SAA received the Special Friend Award from Special Olympics
- SAA instituted a fundraising event at ANI and applied funds toward SAA Student Leader Scholarship and SAA H.E.A.R. Chapter Grant Awards