Message From the Chair

Dear alumni and friends of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders,

It’s been a wonderful 2019 for our department here at the Institute.

We welcomed 62 new master’s students who arrived in September from across the country and around the world. In addition to beginning their clinical work in the Speech, Language, and Literacy Center at the Sanders IMPACT Practice Center, they participated in our increasingly vibrant interprofessional education program.

We also expanded our ongoing relationship with the nearby Harvard-Kent Elementary School, running our literacy enrichment camp this summer to prevent summer slump in reading skills. The project was directed again by Joanna Christodoulou with significant assistance from other CSD faculty members and current CSD students.

Our research faculty have continued with great success on their funded projects and have obtained new grants as well. As co-directors of the Cognitive Neuroscience Group, Yael Arbel, Lauryn Zipse and Sofia Vallila-Rohter have mentored more than a dozen students in projects investigating learning in children and adults with various disabilities using eye-tracking and evoked potentials. And Jordan Green’s lab continues to investigate speech and feeding disorders in infants and adults with ALS; he also has several groundbreaking projects related to dysarthria in neurological conditions and in individuals who have received face transplants.

We are also so proud to highlight that the Institute’s PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences program welcomed five of our SLP master’s alumni into the 2019 cohort, representing almost half of the new entering class of 11 students.

The CSD Department is also excited to offer more global service experiences. Several students visited Manipal University in India in January along with faculty member Rachel Pittmann, and two also accompanied OT faculty member Rawan AlHeresh and CSD faculty member Sue Lambrecht-Smith to work in the Community Rehabilitation Program.

See You at the Convention

The 2019 ASHA Convention is in sunny Orlando November 21-23. Please stop by our booth in the exhibit hall while you’re there, and we also invite you to check out the 40 presentations, posters, and seminars by faculty, students, and alumni.

Our annual alumni reception occurs on Friday, November 22, starting at 8:30 p.m., right after the awards presentations. It’s in the Hyatt Regency, Plaza Ball K. We’re expecting more than 150 people to come by, and we’ll have complimentary hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar so hope to see you there! Contact Director of Alumni Relations Katie Mulcahy if you haven’t already RSVP’d.

Faculty to be Recognized

Three faculty will be recognized at the ASHA Convention for their exemplary contributions to speech-language pathology:

Dr. Robert Hillman, director of the Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Rehabilitation Sciences, has been named recipient of the 2019 Alfred K. Kawana Award for Lifetime Achievement in Publications. The award is reserved for outstanding researchers/scholars who have a sustained history of exemplary publications in
Jordan last summer. A 2019 graduate, Alyssa Savery also helped us develop a week-long experience in Belize last April as part of the Inspiration Project. Check out her story about how she and two classmates had an eye-opening experience. Across the board, students and faculty say these experiences are life-changing.

Our Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) Program in Literacy and Language now offers two options: a 20-credit option with an onsite practicum and a 17-credit option without a practicum. All courses are online (except the practicum) to meet the needs of working professionals. This year Tiffany Hogan used podcasts from her child-language-expert colleagues in one of her courses in this program, Leading Literacy Change, and she launched her SeeHearSpeak podcast that already has more than 20,000 listens and is fast becoming the talk of the profession.

Also, be on the lookout for invitations from us to participate in our ExCEL program (Excellence in Clinical Education Leadership), run by our Director of Clinical Education, Jennifer Mackey, and her associate practicum coordinator, Lisa Moran. As part of this program, you can attend exciting CE events on campus with an option to also participate remotely.

We are also excited to announce that we are developing a new mentorship program for students of color that will involve our alumni as mentors. We are grateful to our new Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Executive Director, Dr. Kimberly Truong, Assistant Director for Multicultural Programming and Inclusion, Dr. Leah Gordon, and the new Director of Alumni Relations - our own Katie Mulcahy! – for their assistance in this effort.

Marjorie Nicholas, PhD, CCC-SLP, FASHA
Professor and Chair

CSD Faculty Receives IHP New Investigator Award

Dr. Sofia Vallila Rohter received the New Investigator Award Recipient Dr. Sofia Vallila Rohter with Associate Provost Dr. Jordan Green. Dr. Tiffany Hogan, director of the SAIL Lab and a CSD professor, will formally be inducted as a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Dr. Howard Shane, a professor who has been affiliated with the IHP since 1996, will receive the Frank R. Kleffner Lifetime Clinical Career Award for contributions to clinical science and practice over a period of 20 years or more.

SLP Student Receives Award

Jocelyn Chokkattu, a second-year SLP student, has received a 2019 Scholarship of Excellence Award from the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professionals. The award recognizes outstanding students in the allied health professions who are achieving excellence in their academic programs and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in the allied health professions.

CSD Alumni Join PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences Cohort

New Investigator Award Recipient Dr. Sofia Vallila Rohter with Associate Provost Dr. Jordan Green.

(1-r): Jocelyn Chokkattu and SHRS Dean Michael Iwama.
IHP’s New Investigator Award for her efforts in using event-related potentials, neuroimaging, and behavioral methods to investigate learning in people with and without aphasia. She received the award in September at the annual Faculty Convocation. Story.

SAiL Lab Hosts Conference

(L-R) Will Baker, the Dyslexia Foundation; Nicole Landi, NERDY president, University of Connecticut and Haskins Laboratories; Albert Galaburda, NERDY Co-Founder, BIDMC, Harvard Medical School; Nadine Gaab, NERDY co-founder, Boston Children’s Hospital; and Tiffany Hogan, SAiL Lab.

The Speech & Language (SAiL) Literacy Lab hosted the fourth meeting of the New England Research on Dyslexia (NERDY) Conference in June. The event brought together an interdisciplinary community of New England-based researchers, clinicians, educators, and policy experts to share research and discuss ways to improve prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and intervention for developmental dyslexia and related disorders. Keynote speaker Dr. Albert M. Galaburda, the organization’s co-founder, a cognitive neurologist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School who has written extensively on dyslexia, received the first NERDY Outstanding Contribution Award.

A Podcast Star is Born

Professor Tiffany Hogan, director of the SAiL Lab, recently debuted her SeeHearSpeak podcast. Her podcast features interesting conversations with interesting people who care about reading, language, and speech in the developing child. Story.

Five graduates who earned their Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology degree at the IHP joined this fall the largest contingent of students in the PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences cohort. The alumni are (l-r) Xue Bao ’18, Melissa Feller ’04, Marc Maffei ’16, Amy Maguire ’12, and Carla (Tierney) Hendricks ’12.

Hooding Ceremony and Commencement Awards

Alyssa Savery (center left), Professor Emerita Julie Atwood (center right), Department Chair Marjorie Nicholas (left), Dean of SHRS Michael Iwama (right).

CSD students and faculty received several awards at Commencement 2019. View full list of awards.

Budding Researchers on Campus

Subscribe to our email list.
IHP Research On Display

PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences Fellow Danielle Kline discusses her research.

CSD faculty, PhD students, and post-docs showed their work for the IHP community in the Center for Health and Rehabilitation Research. Attendees also enjoyed a live demonstration of motion-sensor lab equipment from the Speech and Feeding Disorders Lab.

New Faculty and Staff

The CSD department has added several new faculty and staff in recent months. They are:

- **Savetrie Bachan**
  Doctoral Research Fellow
  Cognitive Neuroscience Group

- **Xue Bao**
  Doctoral Research Fellow
  SAiL Literacy Lab

- **Isabel Fitzpatrick**
  Research Study Coordinator
  Cognitive Neuroscience Group

- **Melissa Feller ’04**
  Doctoral Research Fellow
  SAiL Literacy Lab

Zoya Surani (right), a Harvard University student, was one of 11 undergraduate students who worked with the Cognitive Neuroscience Group (CNG) again this summer, learning how to put theory into practice.

Photos.

New SLP Video Debuts

Check out the new video about the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program. It was produced by Assistant Director of Digital Branding Selena Craig, who worked with the IHP's long-time video team of Andy Volk and Scott Stephenson.

Faculty News

- **Dr. Jordan Green**, director of the Speech and Feeding Disorders Lab, has received a grant from Mass General Hospital: "Identifying Physiological Markers of Speech and Swallowing Impairment Across Phenotypes in Individuals with XDP: A Longitudinal Study." Check out the story and video on his work with facial transplant patients.

- **Dr. Joanna Christodoulou**, director of the BEAM Lab and an associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, was recently interviewed for an article on the MIT Integrated Learning Initiative website.

Faculty Scholarship

CSD faculty continue to publish and present their scholarship. A representative sampling of their efforts is available on the website.

Alumni Corner

A Message from the Director

Greetings! I am delighted to know that this newsletter provides you with the “inside scoop” on the IHP CSD
connecting back to the IHP is of utmost importance to us. We are working hard to bring programs and services to the alumni community that will be of most interest to you. To accomplish this goal, we need your input! Please feel free to email me with any thoughts or suggestions you might have.

Katie Mulcahy
Director of Alumni Relations

Tell Us About Your Life!

We invite you to submit a class note to share with your fellow alumni what is happening in your world. This includes such things as new jobs and promotions, professional presentations given, and awards, along with marriage photos, and photos of you with your new baby. We’ll include them in an upcoming issue of the MGH Institute magazine.

Join The IHP’s Online Community

We invite you to become part of our expanding online alumni community by joining IHP’s LinkedIn, Facebook, and other social media to keep up with the IHP and your fellow graduates.

Library Resources

MGH Institute alumni have access to journals, databases, and other research resources at the Institute’s Alumni Library Resources section. This robust section is sure to meet many of your research needs. Contact Director of Library and Instructional Design Jessica Bell with questions or for assistance.

Career Development Available

Making a career move? Need your resume updated? Need to prepare for an interview? Check out IHP’s career development website and start moving forward now. Make an appointment with our career counselor.

Two CSD Funds to Support
Feedback, Tips, Ideas, Etc.
Please forward items of interest to CSD News editor John Shaw. View past editions.

the CSD Department: The Gregory L. Lof Dissertation Support Fund, named after the long-time chair, supports student scholarly work; and the Christopher Norman Educational Fund, named in memory of the 2007 graduate who tragically passed away, supports students to attend conferences, complete thesis projects, and underwrite student research endeavors.

Charlestown Navy Yard | 36 1st Avenue | Boston, MA 02129 | www.mghihp.edu
A graduate school founded by Massachusetts General Hospital

Connect with us:

Charlestown Navy Yard 36 1st Avenue | Boston, MA 02129-4557 US

Subscribe to our email list.