

Caregiver Perspective on Pediatric Hearing Loss and Amplification

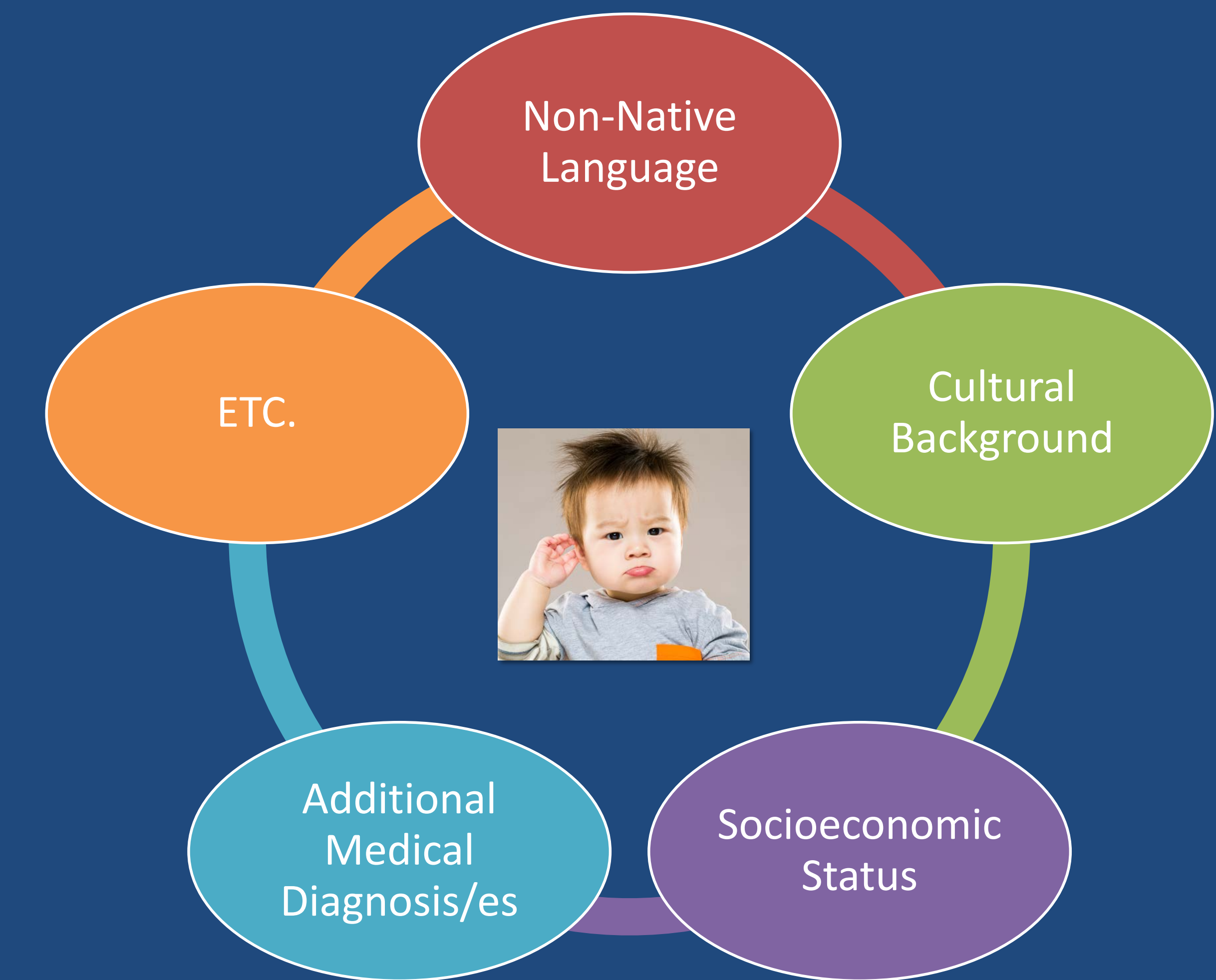
MaryKate Bisailon, B.A.; Christopher Garret, B.S.;
Rochelle Mezei, B.S.
Sarah Ellis, Au.D. CCC-A

¹Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center, R.F. Kennedy University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY, USA

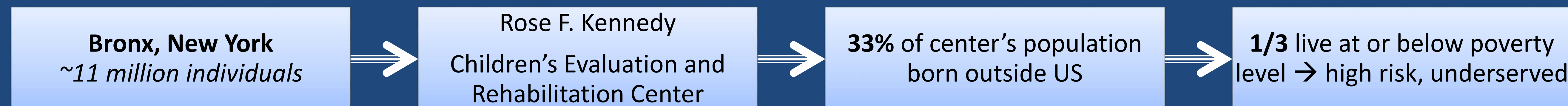
²Department of Otolaryngology Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY, USA

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

- Audiologist can fit and verify the hearing aid to match appropriate settings, but parents, caregivers, and families are the *key* to ensuring consistent hearing aid use at home
- "Consistency of Hearing Aid Use in Infants with Early-Identified Hearing Loss," Moeller, Hoover, Peterson, and Stelmachowicz (2009) found that only three out of seven infants/children, were using amplification full time consistently, despite the fact that all of the parents were highly motivated and attended regular appointments.
- Results of the above study underscore the importance of identifying what is preventing full time use of amplification
- Consistent use is especially critical but that much more difficult in a population that is underserved or limited by other factors
- While fixed factors such as the child's age, degree of hearing loss, and socioeconomic background cannot be changed directly, awareness of these challenges and identification of ways to address them will improve consistency of hearing aid use (McCreery, Walker, & Spratford, 2015)



OUR POPULATION



Purpose

- Evaluate caregiver perspective of children from RFK CERC with hearing loss to assess understanding of hearing loss, amplification, and importance of device usage.

Methods

- Study Design: cross-sectional, survey
- Subjects: caregivers of CERC patients with hearing loss at audiology hearing aid check appointment; goal of 20 completed surveys, ages 0-18
- Analysis: statistical analysis of quantitative survey data using descriptive statistics; qualitative information reviewed for emerging themes

References

- McCreery, R. W., Walker, E. A., & Spratford, M. (2015). Understanding Limited Use of Amplification in Infants and Children Who Are Hard of Hearing. *Perspectives On Hearing & Hearing Disorders In Childhood*, 25(1), 15-23. doi:10.1044/hhdc25.1.15
- Moeller, M. P., Hoover, B., Peterson, B., & Stelmachowicz, P. (2009). Consistency of Hearing Aid Use in Infants with Early-Identified Hearing Loss. *American Journal of Audiology*, 18(1), 14-23. http://doi.org/10.1044/1059-0889(2008/08-0010)

Preliminary Results

- Quantitative
- N=5 (14.8 years old)

Survey Question	Scale 1-5 (Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree)
Wears hearing aid(s) regularly	4.8
Feel child benefits from hearing aid(s)	5
Comfortable with device use and management	4.6
Comfortable communicating and advocating for child's needs	4.6
Understanding child's hearing abilities is important	5
Use of hearing aids benefit child's speech and language, and academics	4.8

- Qualitative

