HELLO Lab: Community Connections and Outreach

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SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND **HEARING SCIENCES**



What are the next steps for the HELLO Lab?

Please

see our

other

poster!

procedures

Community Engagement

Database building with the New England

Cocreation of research questions and

Seek out new connections with clinics who

Center for Hearing Rehabilitation

Who is the HELLO Lab?

Team

Torri Ann Woodruff Gautherin, PhD

Research Scientist

Robert Bourque, B.A.

Juliette Ranelli, B.A Au.D. Student

Ph.D. Student, SLP Student

History

Dr. Derek Houston, HELLO Lab PI, received his doctorate in cognitive psychology from Johns Hopkins University in 2000.

His early work was focused on how typically developing infants segment words from fluent speech and recognize words across different talkers.

After graduating, he constructed the world's first laboratory to investigate the speech perception and language skills of infants who receive cochlear implants at Indiana University.

Since then, his work (supported by NIDCD) has investigated the role of early auditory experience and parent-child interactions on cognitive, linguistic, and social building blocks of language development.

He also engages in communitybased participatory research aimed at addressing barriers families face in obtaining highquality early intervention services for their children.

In 2022, the HELLO Lab moved to the University of Connecticut!



Undergraduate Research Assistants: (from left) Naya Peterson, Giovanna Doria, Mackenzie Hackney, Adriana Rinaldi, Madeline Germe, Ranyelis Espinoza, Sofia Rebelo (Not Pictured: Olivia Koziell &

Current Research

THE PIE PROJECT PARENT-INFANT EYE TRACKING STUDY

/isit our UConn Storrs campus lab, or we come to you!

Goal: Better understand parent-child interactions and how elements of interaction can support children who are DHH in learning words

Actively recruiting and running participants. Looking for children who use Cochlear implants or hearing aids under 3 years of age and their families!

THE ABLE PROJECT

ADJUSTMENT, BEHAVIOR, LANGUAGE, AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING STUDY

our UConn Storrs campus lab, or we come to you!

Goal: Better understand the development of psychosocial/executive functioning skills in children who use cochlear implants within the family environment.

Actively recruiting participants. Looking for children who are 3-7 years old and use cochlear implants.

SWADDLING EAR TO EAR VIRTUAL STUDY

Open to any parent of a child with hearing outside of the typical

Goal: Better understand barriers to intervention access and decision making supports.

"Wrapping" parents in support through their family's hearing

How does the HELLO Lab connect with the community?

What does community service and engagment look like for the lab?

At the HELLO Lab, community engagement is about building lasting relationships and working together to support children who are D/deaf and hard of hearing, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

We are passionate about collaborating with educators, parents, and communities to bring about positive changes in language learning opportunities and outcomes for all children.



Outreach

educational needs, and build the events

We collaborate with parent groups, clinics, schools, and service providers to share knowledge and provide support. Initiatives include:

- Research education for families
- Parent advocacy Family-friendly research translation
- Community arts with D/deaf and hard of hearing parent
- Clinical data support Joint research projects on

community priorities

A large group of

stakeholders help to

consult on inclusion and

accessibility at all our

events as well as provide

recommendations on

types of events to develop.



We study how to best support spoken language learning in children who are D/deaf and hard of hearing.

Our research is ongoing, with open enrollment for families interested in participating.

We prioritize inclusive practices, such as mobile testing, flexible scheduling, and support for families during participation.

In transitioning from community service to community engagement we have made connections in our

See our other poster with

NECHEAR outlining our

community engaged

research practices

Maze

opples are all around us at Buell's Orahards! Which ones

e pick? Let's sort our apples! First, pick on apple color,

s. Next, dig through the trees to find a shiny apple with

community where collaborators work with us to develop research questions, identify event and



impact.

Education

As part of the University of

We provide training and

undergraduate students,

working with researchers,

we aim to bridge the gap

Connecticut, we serve as a hub

for learning and collaboration.

mentorship for graduate and

professionals, and families. By

educators, and service providers,

between research and real-world

Working in collaboartion

with various community

groups, we collect

educational resource

requests and create those

materials with the support

of expert stakeholders

stakeholders

Please reach out to us tawg@uconn.edu

Community Service

Continued

- Partnership with: • CT Hands & Voices
- CT AG Bell
- West Hartford Public Schools
- NY Hands &
- Voices Language First
- NECHEAR

Extend our partnerships with schools, other labs, and diverse

Channel focused

Plan at least once community outreach event every

month

Late 2025

release of

HELLO Lab

Presents

YouTube

on child

language

development

serve children and families eligible for our ongoing projects Create meaningful engagement with

- research participants to help them personally learn and benefit from research participation Support partners in data collection with
- analysis related to personal questions of interest
- Embrace Community Based Participatory Research

Useful Links

Educational Resources



HELLO Lab Collaborators



Ongoing Research













Is your child D/deaf or

hard of hearing?

Acknowledgements

We are very appreciative to our current and future community partners! Our community service, engagement, and research would not be possible without the families that take time to engage with our lab. The development of the National Institutes on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (RO1DC017925). The opinions expressed, however, are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Departments or Institute.







of hearing-related research?

Join the HELLO Lab participant pool for personalized invitations



Primary Investigator: Derek Houston derek.houston@uconn.edu













Resources for Caregivers: First being told your child i D/deaf or hard of hearing HEARING EXPERIENCE LANGUAGE LEARNING OUTCOMES UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT