Nominees for 2023 Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence

(alphabetical by last name)

Connie Donohue

The New York State (NYS) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program housed in NYS Department of Health is pleased to nominate Dr. Connie Donohue for the Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence to be presented at the 2023 National EHDI Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Following passage of Chapter 585 of the laws of 1999, requiring implementation of newborn hearing screening in New York State, Dr. Donohue was an integral part of the team that developed newborn hearing screening regulations, which became effective in October 2001. She oversaw disbursement of one-time \$3 million State budget appropriation to 163 birthing hospitals at the inception of the statewide newborn hearing screening program to support implementation of the program. She was the co-principal investigator for New York's SPRANS grant and was a contributing staff member for the state Early Intervention Program's development of Clinical Practice Guidelines on Hearing Loss: Assessment and Intervention for Young Children (Age 0-3 Years).

In March 2013, Dr. Donohue received her Doctor of Audiology degree from Arizona School of Health Sciences. She provided full time audiology direct services for 16 years. She was an adjunct professor at The College of St. Rose in Albany for 19 years. She also co-authored *Survey of Audiology: Fundamentals for Audiologists and Health Professionals*, which was first published in 2004, with a second edition in 2008 and a third edition in 2019.

In September 2017, Dr. Donohue became the director of the Bureau of Early Intervention, which includes the statewide EHDI Program. She was the principal investigator for the HRSA and CDC grants. Additionally, Dr. Donohue initiated regulation changes for the statewide EHDI Program to align with earlier state statutory changes, the 2019 Joint Committee on Infant Hearing recommendations, and considering changes in the management of congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) in the neonatal period. She is currently serving as a member of the New York State cCMV Pilot Newborn Screening Advisory Committee.

Throughout her career, Dr. Donohue has shared her extensive knowledge of audiology and early intervention with colleagues working in the both the Early Intervention and EHDI Programs. Her passion, expertise, and leadership have constantly inspired and guided her colleagues and peers to improve services to young children with hearing loss and their families.

Sheri Farinha

I would like to nominate Sheri Farinha for the Antonia Brancia Maxon Award. Since 2012, Sheri has worked tirelessly to ensure Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) children and their families receive the education and support they deserve. She was critical in launching the Language Equality & Acquisition for Deaf Kids– Kindergarten - Readiness (LEAD-K) campaign, which she co-founded. Her organization LEAD-K Family Services is the current recipient of the California HRSA Grant for EHDI in which Sheri is the PI. LEAD-K Family Services ensures

families of newly identified babies are connected with their Part C, 0-3 provider, and connects families with parent mentors and Deaf coaches.

The LEAD-K campaign has been hugely successful in getting legislation passed in different states to end language deprivation of DHH children. This is a direct response to the alarming number of DHH children entering kindergarten without a language foundation in either American Sign Language or spoken English. Each state's legislation differs based on the stakeholders involved. A key to the success has been the inclusive approach towards proponents of both American Sign Language and spoken English for DHH children. This has been groundbreaking for EHDI. Since California's LEAD-K law, SB 210, passed in 2015, the language development of DHH children ages 0-5 is being assessed every 6 months in either ASL or English, or both. This provides families and educators with critical information on whether the child is meeting the language milestones and making age-appropriate language growth. It also provides information on how California's Deaf education system can improve.

Sheri Farinha is an accomplished leader, advocate and policy maker for improving the quality of life of DHH children. For the last 29 years as the Chief Executive Officer of NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing, she has been actively involved in supporting families with DHH children. She headed the California Deaf Newborn Identification Advocacy Stakeholder Coalition, a group of advocates, leaders, CODAs, parents of deaf children, and grassroots supporters. Sheri was instrumental in passing the California Assembly Bill 1836, "The Deaf Children's Bill of Rights" in 1994. A product of mainstreamed education, she learned ASL and majored in Deaf Education when she attended California State University Northridge. She went on to receive her Master's degree in 1984. Her legislative and leadership skills have ensured that any California legislation pertaining to DHH children and individuals has representation from the DHH community.

Marcia Fort

We are writing today to nominate of Dr. Marcia Fort for the 2023 Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Excellence. It is our great honor and privilege to do so. Dr. Fort is a valuable member of the EHDI family whose life work has positively impacted our system of care at the state, national, and federal levels. Dr. Fort is the Unit Manager, Genetics and Newborn Screening, North Carolina Division of Child and Family Well-Being, Whole Child Health Section. She is also the EHDI Coordinator and Data Manager for North Carolina. Dr. Fort holds a Doctorate in Audiology and has spent her career dedicated to serving children and families. Dr Fort ensures the EHDI system of care moves forward and brings quality services to infants and their families within her state and at the national and federal levels. She has led through some of the most challenging times in the history of our country and our world. Dr Fort is an inspiration, and she is always willing to listen and identify how we can be successful as a public health initiative. Dr. Fort speaks up, is culturally sensitive and a true advocate for families, infants and young children.

The following represents just a few of Dr Fort's many accomplishments:

• Redesigned the NC EHDI Program structure to allow for continuity of care management from the consultants (screening through enrollment into early intervention).

- Strengthened the EHDI connection with the Schools for the Deaf, the Division of Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DSDHH) and Deaf community. She has collaborated on a Common Ground Workgroup and increased the EHDI program capacity for inclusion and diversity.
- Proponent of family participation and family support services in the EHDI Programs.
- Champion of continuous quality improvement. The North Carolina team is well trained in quality improvement strategies.
- Advocate of EHDI staff interacting with the community and building capacity of community partners.
- Leads at the National Level
 - President and Board Member Directors of Speech and Hearing Programs in State Health and Welfare Agencies DSHPSHWA
 - o Member of the Parent Choice Committee
 - o Partners with HRSA, CDC, NCHAM and FL3- COVID-19 challenges and other key initiatives
 - Mentor of new EHDI Coordinators.
- Expanded the North Carolina EHDI Advisory Committee by increasing parent participation and including Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults.
- Developed a collaborative relationship with the UNC-LEND Program.
- Author on two articles: COVID-19 impact on EHDI systems of care published in the Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (November 2022).

We deeply appreciate Dr. Fort's passion and dedication to our field. She is a true leader that exhibits creativity, compassion, empathy, honesty, and promotes equity and inclusion. Dr. Fort is a key partner in creating collaboration at the national and federal level, successfully supporting and moving EHDI programs forward. There is no one more deserving of the prestigious EHDI Excellence Award than Dr. Marcia Fort. We proudly recommend her for the highest honor in the EHDI system.

Lisa Hunter

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Dr. Lisa L. Hunter for the 2023 Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence. Lisa has been a true champion for EHDI since the very beginning of her career and has made numerous contributions to advancing diagnosis of congenital hearing loss. Her work in both tympanometry and otoacoustic emissions testing has informed the field of developmental trajectories of these measures. She has contributed to developing new immittance and electrophysiologic technologies and assessment approaches with normative data to evaluate the auditory system of infants that expedite early hearing detection and intervention. Lastly, she has remained a steadfast champion of evidence-based practice by not only developing and informing our field of these technologies, but also leading a grassroots effort to challenge audiologists to effectively use these technologies to expedite diagnosis. Her

contributions to the advancement of audiology have led (and continues to lead) to significant improvements in EHDI programs.

Lisa has approached her contributions to our field always with the child and family in mind. Her focus on family-centered care and support has been central to her overall body of work. She has used novel approaches to reach families who have been lost-to-follow-up through partnership with governmental agencies, most notably the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC). She continues to identify how to best support families of children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing by conducting community-engaged research and implementing family-focused interventions to increase awareness of the importance of newborn hearing screening and reduce loss-to-follow-up. She achieves optimal outcomes by having a keen insight into family needs during the screening, diagnosis, and early intervention phases of the EHDI process.

Lastly, Lisa makes her largest contribution to EHDI excellence through mentorship. She is involved with undergraduates, graduate students, professionals in their early career as well as seasoned veterans, providing constructive insights and sharing a knowledge base about EHDI that is second to none. She is selfless with her time, being engaged in mentorship through the University of Cincinnati Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program, the graduate program at UC that educates both AuD and PhD students, and with professionals throughout the country that she guides individually. It is her mentorship of students and professionals that will have the most lasting impact well beyond her own career that makes her particularly worthy of this prestigious award.

Thank you for your kind consideration of Dr. Lisa L. Hunter for the 2023 Antonia Brancia Maxon Award in EHDI Excellence. I am happy to expand on Lisa's worthy attributes as it relates to this nomination at any time.

Terri Ibieta

We are honored to nominate Terri Ibieta for the 2023 Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence. Terri has been with the Louisiana EHDI program since 2002. Prior to this, she worked as a certified classroom teacher of the deaf, and as a parent educator with the Louisiana School for the Deaf. Her experience providing service to families of young children who are deaf/hard of hearing afforded her a wealth of knowledge, which she enthusiastically brought to her role with EHDI. Terri is knowledgeable in all aspects of EHDI, including hearing testing, parent communications, early intervention, family-to-family support, and education of professionals.

Terri has been a leader in the Louisiana EHDI program. Instrumental in the creation, design, and development of LAEHDI-IS, she worked with database developers to create the database, and continues to enhance the function, design, and user interface on a regular basis. During Terri's tenure, substantial improvements have been made in reporting, reduction of errors, and training for hospitals and outpatient providers. Terri routinely examines data reports and utilizes her analytical abilities to identify problems and create unique solutions to address the issues she finds. One of her most outstanding attributes is that she encourages change and progress, even when it is uncomfortable. She considers the success of the program a priority, and this is reflected in her work ethic. Terri is always willing to offer her perspective and challenge the

status quo. As an influencer on the EHDI team, she encourages her colleagues to think creatively and to be innovative.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the LA EHDI team had to adapt their processes to ensure that hearing screening and follow-up were not interrupted. Terri led the successful implementation of transitioning to virtual processes and supporting the EHDI team through the challenges. She approached this as an opportunity to develop progressive measures to ensure EHDI remained focused and successful. These initiatives were thoughtfully implemented in such a way that they are sustained, not temporary fixes. Additionally, an important part of the EHDI program is monitoring loss to follow up (LTFU). Through the years Terri has helped develop procedures and mechanisms to reduce LTFU in Louisiana, through conduction of Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA). Terri does not shy away from the pursuit of effectiveness, and all program activities are implemented with 'Quality' continuous improvement methods, and utilization of strategies learned through NICHQ.

Terri's role produces many tangible deliverables and results. However, her bright personality and positive attitude bring joy and influence the culture of the team. She is a passionate encourager, and her influence reaches beyond the team into the entire Bureau of Family Health, the EHDI Advisory Council, and external partners. Illustrated by the ongoing support and guidance she provides, Terri unwaveringly advocates for the most important part of the program - the support of children and their families. Her pure dedication to improving outcomes for children who are deaf/hard of hearing make her a deserving candidate for this award. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Adrienne Johnson

I would like to nominate Adrienne Johnson, Au.D. from the University of Utah for the Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence. Adrienne Johnson recognized the need for improvement in referrals with NICU babies with diagnosed hearing loss. Families were overwhelmed and would often decline services before they even started. Dr. Johnson, along with the Parent Infant Program, compiled information in flyers that are posted near the child's crib. This information empowered parents by educating them about what things they could do currently to build their child's language skills and also emphasize the importance of early intervention. Dr. Johnson has received positive feedback regarding the flyers and has shared the information with other hospitals as well.

Secondly, Dr. Johnson has started serving as a liaison between the family and the provider from the Parent Infant Program when the NICU child is first diagnosed. Often families are too overwhelmed to bring in another specialist and as a result, decline early intervention services. Dr. Johnson communicates with early intervention providers when the family is ready for services or will be discharged and also educates the family about the importance of early intervention. Dr. Johnson's efforts have helped families enroll in early intervention.

Sheila Moodie

We respectfully nominate Sheila Moodie, Ph.D. for the 2023 Antonia Brancia Maxon Award. Her body of professional work, as well as her contributions and commitment to parent

engagement and partnerships, would honor the memory of Dr. Maxon and her contributions to the EHDI community.

Our nomination for Dr. Moodie comes from the impact that she has made in her definitive research regarding the specific components of effective Parent-to-Parent Support and her commitment to the parent voice in research, partnerships, and implementing research into practice that improves the lives of families in the EHDI system. As parent-to-parent support is increasingly integrated in EHDI programs, best practice suggests that providers ensure that all families have access to parent-to-parent support from other families of children who are D/HH and recognize the key role of parent-to-parent support in promoting social and emotional well-being for families.

Sheila Moodie is an Associate Professor at The University of Western Ontario in the Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. She is also an Associate Member at The National Centre of Audiology at Western. As Principal Investigator in the Family-Centred Early Intervention Laboratory at Western University (www.uwo.ca/nca/fcei) her recent research is focused on developing strategies and tools to support families within early hearing detection and intervention programs, including the development of video-based tools (www.uwo.ca/nca/fcei/hearon). Dr. Moodie has published over 60 peer- and non-peer-reviewed publications and has delivered more than 100 presentations of her work world-wide.

In 2016 an Evidence-based Conceptual Framework was developed by researchers from Western University, led by Dr. Sheila Moodie. The findings from a dual stage scoping review and electronic Delphi study provide a conceptual framework that defines the vital contribution of parents in Early Hearing Detection and Intervention programs. http://aja.pubs.asha.org/article.aspx?articleid=2527221. The purpose of the eDelphi study helped confirm the vital importance of parent-to-parent support in the overall care of children who are DHH.

Lisa Kovacs, Director of Programs for Hands & Voices and the FL3 Center shared "having an evidence-based model that is backed by research provides us with the confirmation of what we've known for years -- parent-to-parent support plays a key role in promoting social and emotional well-being for families. Not only have we been able to implement the constructs of the Conceptual Framework into our family support training and education, but we have also been able to use the model in developing outcome measures to collect data that demonstrates the impact parent-to-parent support has for families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Sheila is incredible to work with, always willing to roll up her sleeves and engage in any work that will advance family support in the systems that serve D/HH children."

Sheila's eagerness to not just 'research' parents, but to learn, partner and respect the parent perspective and role of Parent-to-Parent support in EHDI systems, and her authentic desire to strive for excellence are the reasons her nomination for the Maxon Award reflects the spirit in which the award is given.

Melanie Morris

On behalf of Georgia Mobile Audiology, a program of the Georgia Dept of Education's State Schools Division, I am nominating Dr. Melanie Morris for the Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence. Dr. Morris is a pediatric audiologist for the Georgia Mobile Audiology program. This program was started and designed to fill the gaps in services across the state of Georgia, and to particularly target families who are vulnerable, including families in rural areas, families in poverty, and families with limited access to services. We acquired a mobile truck to travel across the state and provide on-site services for families who had limited mobility. However, during COVID, the program was grounded and unable to travel for a period of months. Like many others, we began to investigate the possibility of a tele-health visits for infant screening to continue to serve families during the pandemic.

Dr. Morris is directly responsible for the success of the tele-audiology program by (a) contributing to the development of the tele-audiology training manual for additional pediatric audiologists to follow when working with the program; (b) partnering with individual district EHDI Coordinators to refer families to our program; (c) using technology to create a unique sign-up system for ease of use for EHDI Coordinators; (d) training all of our parent navigators to become audiology assistants; and (e) creating and delivering training to reduce the referral rate for hospitals to maximize the use of the audiologists' time.

As a result of Dr. Morris' efforts, our most vulnerable families have access to a follow-up diagnostic test immediately after a failed screening, which reduces the need for multiple trips or days off work, or transportation arrangements. I believe that Dr. Morris' contributions to the field will ultimately reduce loss to follow-up from screening to diagnostic in a significant way throughout the state of Georgia.

Karrie Hughes Moser

With much enthusiasm, I nominate Karrie Hughes Moser for the Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence. For the past 22 years, Moser, a registered nurse certified in neonatal intensive care, has dedicated her career to newborn hearing screening (NBHS). She began her NBHS career in 2000 by helping launch NBHS programs at 14 hospitals in Oklahoma. After two years of building successful Oklahoma NBHS programs, she became the Pediatrix NBHS Operations Regional Manager and oversaw NBHS programs across nine states. Within another year, she was promoted to the Pediatrix Corporate NBHS Team and was responsible for operations and quality control of Pediatrix's NBHS programs in 36 states. The NBHS programs she oversaw had a loss-to-follow-up rate of less than 10% during her tenure. From 2010 to 2013, she managed the Pediatrix NBHS programs for the West and East Region states.

While overseeing NBHS programs for Pediatrix, Moser was directly involved in all aspects pertaining to NBHS. She personally screened the hearing of thousands of infants. Routinely, her programs screened over 99% of the infants born in the hospitals she served. She collaborated with industry partners to develop NBHS ABR systems that are simple and efficient to use while also maximizing the sensitivity/specificity of screening results. She developed training programs for NBHS screeners and created scripts for screeners to follow to ensure families were provided with appropriate information following their infant's hearing screening. She was also instrumental in developing software programs and data management systems that were used to seamlessly deliver NBHS data to the state EHDI programs and provide real-time metrics for quality assurance and control.

Moser's efforts do not end with NBHS alone. Her most impressive achievement is quite possibly the exceptionally low loss-to-follow-up rates achieved at the NBHS programs she has overseen.

She has worked tirelessly and creatively to create systems to ensure infants undergo diagnostic assessment after not passing their hearing screening, and when they are identified with hearing loss, she ensures they receive the audiology and EHDI services they need.

In an attempt to address a loss-to-follow-up rate in excess of 50% in Oklahoma, Hearts for Hearing (HFH) became a provider of NBHS services in 2021 and named Moser as the Director of the HFH NBHS program. To date, HFH has screened the hearing of almost 9,000 infants, and not a single infant has been lost-to-follow-up. The average age of diagnosis is 32 days, the final inpatient/outpatient refer rate is less than 1%, and 21 infants have been diagnosed with hearing loss (incidence: 2.36 out of 1,000).

Karrie Hughes Moser deserves recognition for her long and successful EHDI career. She has achieved excellence in all aspects of NBHS from direct service provision to the creation of innovative systems and solutions to optimize NBHS/EHDI programs and outcomes. She embodies all the qualities and characteristics associated with this prestigious award.

Nancy Schumann

It is my honor to nominate Nancy Schumann from Summit Speech School in New Providence, New Jersey for the 2023 Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence. Nancy Schumann is someone I met when my daughter was born with hearing loss. Nancy is everything people want in an educator and professional. She advocates, teaches, and makes parents feel seen and heard. I often tell her that I'd love her on a billboard because she has so much information to offer families.

Nancy is a true professional in her career. She has taught college-aged students, owned her own speech practice, is AVT certified, and runs the parent infant program for Summit Speech School's early intervention. Her years of experience continue to provide parents from all over the confidence they need to learn about their child's disability while making sure they are receiving the correct and most appropriate services. She makes herself available to parents and guides them to people they can contact when they need help.

I'm so glad that I was able to meet Nancy Schumann. She truly is an asset to the early hearing detection and intervention community. She deserves an honor for what she provides families in times of need and is always willing to go an extra step for families when they encounter obstacles along their journey

Maria Sentelik

I am writing to nominate Maria Sentelik, CCC-A, for the 2023 Antonia Brancia Maxon Award for EHDI Excellence. I have worked with Maria for 22 years, and can attest to her desire for professional excellence and her lifelong commitment to children with hearing loss and their families. Maria began her career as an audiologist, where she first worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer creating programs for children with hearing loss in Ecuador. Following that, Maria served as a college instructor and an audiologist.

Since 2000, Maria has served as the founding Executive Director of Ohio Valley Voices (OVV), an early intervention program that teaches children with hearing loss to listen and

speak through the use of hearing aids/cochlear implants. In this time frame, Maria has grown OVV from a program of 12 children to more than 50 children ranging in age from birth through 8, with over 280 alumni. Under Maria's leadership, OVV has broadened its initial scope of direct therapy and educational programming to include an audiology center, family support group, and an outreach center to work with local entities.

Maria values partnerships with families, believing parents need education on all options available to them when they have a child diagnosed with hearing loss. Examples of Maria's commitment to educating families include:

- Initiating a partnership with Bethesda North Hospital to complete a research feasibility study to inform parents of language decisions when a child referred on a newborn hearing screening.
- Partnering with Ohio State University and Ohio professionals in a focus group dedicated to educating families of young children with hearing loss about their options for mode of communication and services in Ohio.
- Serving as the principle on the Coalition for the Improvement of Services for Children with Hearing Loss

Additionally, Maria exudes cultural respect to serve the whole family. In response to some of our families who do not use English as their primary mode of communication, Maria created a program that would allow the families to learn to teach their child the home language. This has allowed our children the opportunity to connect with extended family members in the languages of Spanish, Mandarin, Urdu, and Arabic.

Maria presents at the national level, and of note, has been a presenter at EHDI conferences. At the 2020 EHDI Conference, Maria and Dayton Children's Hospital presented their collaborative effort to improve service provision.

For her ingenuity, Maria has received the "Women Who Inspire" award through Mercy McAuley High School, and the "Elwood Chaney Outstanding Clinician" award through the Ohio Speech Language and Hearing Association. Additionally, OVV has won the "Non-Profit of the Year" award through the city of Loveland, Ohio.

Louis Sieminski

Dr. Louis Sieminski grew up in northeast PA. and his close friend Ray was born with hearing loss. Dr. Sieminski observed firsthand the effects hearing loss had on his friend's life. In 1965, Ray and Dr. Sieminski both went off to college on athletic scholarships. Ray, because of his hearing loss was not able to finish his freshman year. Dr Sieminski started taking college courses on hearing loss and received a B.S. in Speech Pathology and Audiology from West Virginia University. He later attended Temple University and obtained a Masters and Ph.D. in Audiology.

After graduation Dr. Sieminski opened a private practice Audiology office to help diagnose and treat children and adults with hearing loss. In 1994 he convinced the administrators of a local hospital to establish an infant hearing screening program and he volunteered his services. He convinced the hospital Auxiliary to purchase the equipment.

The program at Nesbitt Hospital was one of the first of its kind in Pennsylvania.

In 1995 a Pennsylvania State Senator, a patient of Dr Sieminski, observed a baby wearing hearing aids in the waiting room. Dr. Sieminski told the Senator that Rhode Island recently passed a state Bill mandating infant hearing screening. He was told the baby was identified by the hospital's hearing screening program. Senator Lemond asked if Dr Sieminski would help him to make Infant Hearing Screening and Intervention a Pennsylvania law. Subsequently, the Pennsylvania Department of Health brought together experts in the field to discuss the state law proposal. The Pennsylvania Department of Health officials were not supportive of the need for or benefits of early identification and intervention, but Dr. Sieminski and a few others (Dr. Diane Sabo) strongly objected. The Pennsylvania Senate, at Dr. Sieminski's urging, established a 20 Pennsylvania hospital pilot project. Dr. Sieminski volunteered his services to help to establish these pilot programs. He also traveled the state with other experts to inform physicians and others about the benefits of the project. A major opponent of the Senate Bill was the then Governor of Pennsylvania. Dr. Sieminski met with the Governor and his staff members to explain the Program and how the Bill would change the lives of those born with hearing loss. The Governor promised Dr. Sieminski he would not oppose if the Pennsylvania Senate and House would pass the Bill. The Bill passed unanimously! Dr. Sieminski also met with the leaders of the Amish to allow midwives to test those babies born out of hospital.

In 2001The Infant Hearing and Intervention Bill was signed into law. Dr. Sieminski was present and was given the pen used to sign Senate Bill 100 into law! Dr Sieminski was appointed by the Governor to serve on the first Program Advisory Board as well as 3 other terms. Dr Sieminski's presentation at the 2009 EDHI Conference, "Needed Funds and Data Review for an Effective Statewide EHDI Program", was meant to help other states operate a more effective statewide program.