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July 2026 e-News

August Fieldtrip to Cochlear Americas



What: In-Person Tour of Cochlear Americas Headquarters,
Tour, Discussion, and Lunch included

When: Fri., Aug 28, 12:00 - 2:30

Where: 10350 Park Meadows Dr., Lone Tree, CO 80124 [driving directions](#)

RSVP: Required, link below

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[Tour Guide: Grant Hart](#)

Bilingual Engagement Manager I

Phone: +1 720-660-1535

Email: ghart@cochlear.com

www.cochlear.com



The following link will take you to registration to RSVP for this event:

[https://cochlear.cventevents.com/event/aa195ede-5219-4ab1-9d8e-777627374eef/summary?](https://cochlear.cventevents.com/event/aa195ede-5219-4ab1-9d8e-777627374eef/summary?Refid=CaST_Cochlear.com)

[Refid=CaST_Cochlear.com](https://cochlear.cventevents.com/event/aa195ede-5219-4ab1-9d8e-777627374eef/summary?Refid=CaST_Cochlear.com)

Grant spoke at our May meeting about the Cochlear Nucleus Nexa System and Bone Conduction Solutions. We have been invited to the headquarters for a tour on August 28.

Grant brings both professional expertise and personal experience to his role at Cochlear. In his early 30s, he became right side Single Sided Deaf suddenly due to a large and aggressive acoustic neuroma. Navigating this unexpected, life-altering experience—and ultimately finding benefit through Cochlear's technology portfolio—shaped his passion for helping others with hearing challenges. Today, Grant is driven by the opportunity to ensure those with hearing challenges have the knowledge, resources, and support needed to make informed decisions that strengthen their connection to life through better hearing.

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The Nucleus® Nexa™ System represents a major leap forward in cochlear

implant innovation, setting a new benchmark for adaptability, reliability, and future-readiness.

Building on Cochlear's legacy of over 40 years of trusted performance and technological leadership, the Nexa System is designed to meet the evolving needs of recipients, delivering greater hearing potential today and unlocking new possibilities for tomorrow.

At the heart of this innovation is the Nucleus Nexa Implant, the first cochlear implant to run its own firmware. Much like a smartphone, it can receive firmware updates that introduce new features and enhancements over time.

This future-ready design allows recipients to benefit from the latest scientific insights, algorithmic improvements, and user-driven innovations without needing a new implant, ensuring their hearing experience continues to improve throughout their journey.

The Nexa System also features a state-of-the-art chipset with onboard diagnostics and internal memory, enabling the implant to self-monitor and store each recipient's unique settings. These settings can be easily transferred to any compatible Nexa Sound Processor, simplifying care and reducing the burden on recipients and caregivers.

With the ability to update both the implant and sound processor, recipients are empowered to experience their best possible hearing throughout their journey. This flexible, upgradeable system sets a new benchmark for the industry, ensuring that hearing technology keeps pace with progress and continues to deliver life-changing outcomes.

Future implant firmware upgrade opportunities

- ✓ Increased power efficiency
- ✓ Earlier activation
- ✓ Future objective measures and diagnostics
- ✓ Precision diagnostics of neural health
- ✓ New stimulation modes and sound coding strategies



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RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

NEEDED!

TOPIC

Understanding Experiences With Communication Barriers
Faced by d/Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Patients in Primary
Healthcare Settings



SHARE YOUR...

- Thoughts
- Experiences
- Ideas



REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

- Identify as d/Deaf or hard of hearing
- Be 18 years or older
- Have used non-audiology healthcare services in the past 12–24 months
- Includes: physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner
- Reside in the United States

SCAN THE QR CODE!



WHAT YOU WILL DO?

Scan the QR code to complete a 15–20 minute online survey sharing your experiences and perspectives on communication challenges encountered during primary healthcare appointments.

The Central Michigan University Institutional
Review Board has approved this study

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

Stacey R. Lim, AuD, PhD, CCC-A
Lim3s@cmich.edu
Ridley N. Kemeny, B.S
Berth1kn@cmich.edu

PARTICIPATE NOW!

My name is Stacey Lim, and I am a Professor of Audiology at Central Michigan University. (Incidentally, I also wear a cochlear implant and a hearing aid.)

I have a Doctor of Audiology student, Kemeny Ridley, who is doing her research project for completion of her AuD degree. She is investigating the accessibility that d/Deaf and hard of hearing adults in the US have when going to their general practitioners' offices for doctor's appointments. Kemeny and I are hoping that you can help, either by taking the survey, or sharing the survey with your fellow HLAA members, or friends that have hearing loss. Our

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who are d/DHH. This survey has been approved by Central Michigan University's IRB.

Requirements for the survey are:

- be d/Deaf or hard of hearing
- have gone to a general practitioner (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant) appointment within the last year
- be 18 years or older
- reside in the United States

The link to the survey is here: <https://bit.ly/DHH-MedicalAccessibility>. You may also use the flier above to access this survey.

If you wish to share the survey from my Facebook page, this is the link you can use to share:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1009734494973598&set=a.166362239310832>

Please let me know if you have any questions. We also appreciate any help you may be able to provide.

Best regards,

Stacey Lim

Stacey R. Lim, Au.D., Ph.D., CCC-A (She/Her/Hers)

Full Professor of Audiology

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Central Michigan University

Health Professions Building 2172

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Follow me at facebook.com/DrStaceyLim

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Past Issues of HLAA Convention 2025 Louisville, KY](#)[Translate ▼](#)

The 2026 HLAA Convention in Louisville, KY, was great! It was a 3-day event that included training for chapter leaders. Attending these conventions is a favorite of mine. [continue reading](#)

Meet Mines Engineering Students

Give YOUR input to help with the Mines project to develop device to get your attention in noisy places

We, a group of engineering students, based out of the Colorado School of Mines, are focusing on a project aimed to create a device that would help those who are deaf or hard of hearing be alerted when someone is trying to get their attention without being yelled at, waved at, or touched.

We are also interested in talking with people who do not have hearing loss and live with with, work with, go to school with or have concerns about getting the attention of someone that interactions with a person who has hearing loss in noisy situations.

Thanks for all your help!

-Taylor LaRose

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Taylor LaRose (B.S Design), tlarose@mines.edu,

Kat Bauer (B.S Mechanical, M.S. Additive

Manufacturing), katherinebauer@mines.edu,

Will Royon (B.S Design), wsroyon@mines.edu

Colin Smith (B.S Design), colin_smith@mines.edu,

Jade Woycheese (B.S Design) jade_woycheese@mines.edu,

Latest Update

This project is still ongoing as Taylor is working on prototype during the summer. We had a test of the prototype after the May Boulder Chapter meeting. It is about the size of a binocular case that strapped around our waist. We are all interested for the next testing sometime in the fall.

Juliëtte Sterkens, AuD post about: What Type of Hearing Aids Should Consumers Buy?¹⁴

Consumer Reports recently interviewed me (and used information from an earlier interview with Wynne Whyman) as to why consumers should get both Auracast and telecoils. It is a very clearly written article that makes the subject of assistive listening easier for the typical consumer to understand. See

www.consumerreports.org/health/hearing-aids/one-of-best-hearing-aid-features-many-still-arent-using-a41029

"What Hearing Aid Users Should Do: Experts say the message for consumers is clear: The next time you upgrade your hearing aids or cochlear implant, make sure they have both a telecoil and Auracast capability. That will ensure you can access existing assistive listening systems with ease today, and that you'll be ready to take full advantage of Auracast once it becomes more commonly available."

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aids: <https://centerforhearingaccess.org/wp-content/uploads/ADA-Access-Ready-Hearing-Instruments-List.pdf>

Sundance Film Festival

The 2027 Sundance Film Festival will make its debut in Boulder, Colorado, on January 21–31, 2027. Join us this year for a variety of exciting and engaging talks, screenings, and special events across Colorado. We're ready to meet you and share a taste of the Sundance Film Festival experience. See our [Colorado Community Events](#) and sign up for our Colorado email list to be the first to find out about the latest updates.

Colorado Environmental Film Festival



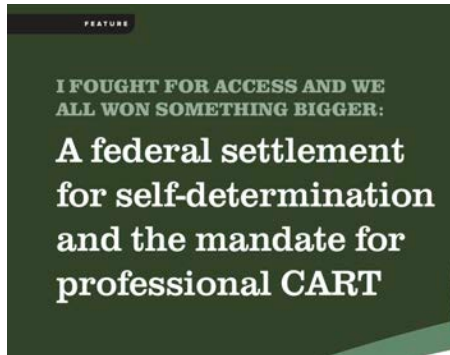
We're always looking for more energetic, enthusiastic people to support the work we do at CEFF. Whether it's event planning, film judging, or scanning tickets, there are so many ways to get involved! Learn more about becoming a volunteer and sign up today:

<https://ceff.net/volunteer/>

Follow CEFF on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), BlueSky app @coenvirofilm.bksy.social

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Know Your Rights About Requesting CART - Read about Fed Case that Mandated CART



Hard of Hearing advocate Tremmel Watson recently won a federal settlement that strengthens legal protections for effective communication, including the use of CART. This is a significant step forward for the Hard of Hearing communities!

You can read the full details in the article here:

https://mcusercontent.com/4f3751cbc508a37579bcaa57a/files/9f8478f0-7c53-ec26-4e14-e30f70a35073/Tremmell_CART_win.pdf

HLAA Communication Access in Health Care How to Invite YOUR Healthcare Providers to Connect with HLAA Communication Access in Health Care Program



Do you or have you had problems communicating with anyone in the health care medical field about any of your healthcare issues due to your hearing loss and lack of effective communication in person, over the phone, or through the patient portal?

To begin better communication between providers/providers' staff/hospitals and patients with hearing loss, please be a PART OF THE SOLUTION. Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is asking providers to get involved in finding solutions for effective communication between patients and/or patients' companions with hearing loss and healthcare providers.

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[Hospital Safety and Hearing Loss: A Hospital Panel Discussion](#)

(scroll to the bottom).

For more information and an email/letter template to send to your provider to learn about effective communication and becoming a stakeholder of HLAA's [Communication Access in Health Care](#) program, click [here](#).

Healthcare with Hearing Loss

In the first week of November 2025, a new blog series was launched by two national advocates whom several HLAA Colorado advocates respect. The inaugural blog, *"State of Affairs," begins the conversation about the work ahead for advocates seeking to create systemic change.*

Learn from those who have lived experience. To receive blogs, vlogs, and other content on this important issue, sign up on the [HealthcareWithHearingLoss.com](#) website. Feel free to share with others, too.

Purpose

- To empower every individual who lives with hearing loss to communicate easily, effectively, and safely in all medical settings.
- To work intentionally and impactfully with patients, providers, administrators, and researchers.
- To maximize our collaborative relationships towards the creation of targeted projects with the highest potential for results.

**The Lincoln Performing Arts Center (LPAC)
Offers Open Caption Performances
Tickets for 2026-2027 Season Now on Sale**

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The 2016 Women of Americana performance allowed photos to be taken to show where the open-captioning monitors are located. Notice there are 4 captioning monitors. Two are mounted on upper side walls and two lower at the stage level. LPAC also has a hearing loop and provides closed captions on your cell phone if you are sitting too far from the open captions. They also have clamp devices to hold your phone, so you do not have to hold it during production. They are now installing Auracast. If you want to attend a show that does not have captioning, fill out the [Reasonable Accommodation Request Form](#). Enjoy the live theater and many other special shows at LPAC.



[Lincoln Center of Performing Arts](#)

417 W Magnolia St,
Fort Collins, CO 80521

PLEASE HELP US GET ALLY'S ACT PASSED!

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)So many of our children and adults have [Translate](#) ▼

been denied insurance coverage for Bone Anchored Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants. Ally's Act would ensure that private insurers cover these devices for children and adults from birth to age 64! With passage of Ally's Act, every state would benefit from this bill's services!

Press release is out and be sure to watch the video too!

<https://neguse.house.gov/media/press-releases/video-rep-neguse-joins-ally-and-melissa-tumblin-introduce-allys-act>

For complete details and to take action, click [here](#). [HLAA Take Action](#)



Melissa Tumblin

Founder & Executive Director

[EarCommunity.org](https://earcommunity.org)

501(c)(3) Federal Tax ID # 46-0923897

Action Alerts



Where your action is needed

Reach out to legislators to make your voice heard on key topics impacting hearing loss and our community. Check this link on a regular basis and write your legislators. Make your voice heard. [Learn more](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Open Caption Movie Club**

Open Caption Movie Club
***NEW & FREE* Email Subscription for**
Open Caption Movie Screenings Near You!

All four HLAA Colorado chapters are pleased and honored to be the first organizations to partner with OC Movie Club in May 2025. Chris is a filmmaker who created the OC Movie Club, which helps us find OC movies in your area in a much simpler way. OC Movie Club is a free service. Read more about it and register today! It's free!

[Read more](#)

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF OPEN CAPTION MOVIES IN COLORADO

Join hands with Colorado's efforts for open captions at the movies.
Please email us if you have any questions at HLAABoulderOC@gmail.com.

Colorado Open Caption Movie Group is celebrating its 5th Anniversary since some Colorado movie theaters began regularly screening open caption movies or offering them upon request.

[Read More](#)[Join Our Facebook Group](#)

Film Makers With Disabilities

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for all disabilities, including captioning at film festivals and events. Did you try to attend the Denver Film Festival, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, or any other festivals? How well were you able to get accommodations? Please fill out the scorecard. You can join for free as an ally with or without disabilities [here](#).

Accessibility Scorecard:

<https://www.fwd-doc.org/film-event-accessibility-scorecard-2023>

[Read More](#)

**1,254,963 Views since 3/2/26 on Audiologist
Juliëtte Sterkens' TEDx Oshkosh talk**

What are Assistive Listening Devices?



Click on the image above to listen to

Juliette's 18 min TEDx Talk

Hearing loops, FM, infrared, and, in the future, Auracast streamed assistive listening systems provide clarity and minimize background noise. **Learn more about assistive listening and "ADA-Access-Ready" hearing instruments at**

www.CenterForHearingAccess.org

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New Educational Handouts for consumers & providers

(Buying Hearing Aids, the Need for Assistive Listening Systems, and Telecoil Instructions)

We ([Center for Hearing Access](#)) just finished a new 2-page handout. [Buying Hearing Aids in Colorado](#) that covers hearing evaluations, hearing aid features, wireless connectivity, verification, contracts, returns, and complaints. Designed to be printed back-to-back and folded in half for a handout.

Other recent handouts that may be of interest

- [Hearing Loss and the Need for Assistive Listening Systems](#) (2 pages)
- [Telecoil instructions](#) (1 page) to take to your audiologist or hearing instrument specialist to add a “telecoil program”

All 3 handouts are on the Colorado webpage at the bottom

<https://centerforhearingaccess.org/colorado/> (easy to remember, and automatically forwards to <https://centerforhearingaccess.org/state-colorado/>)

Hear Better in Public and Private Places



Steps to “Auracasting” Your Community by [Juliëtte Sterkens, AuD](#)

Published on Mar 19, 2026

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Auracast has the potential to do more than add a new feature to hearing devices—it could help hearing care providers expand access to better hearing across their communities.... [Read More](#)

Colorado Assistive Listening Systems

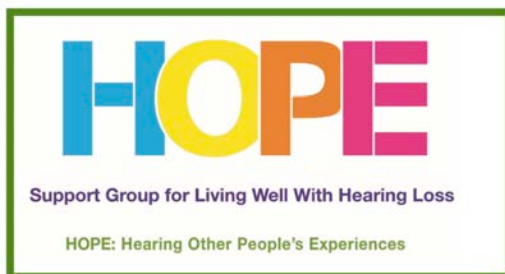
In Colorado, there are 500+ assistive listening systems already installed in libraries, theaters, council chambers, event spaces, courtrooms, places of worship, and more. These are required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

There are three types of assistive listening systems: hearing loops, FM, and infrared. Hearing loops are the most user-friendly of the assistive listening options and the first choice for many people, offering benefits for both individuals and venues. [HIPAA and Service Counter Hearing Loops](#) (1-page) also benefit patient privacy.

A good place to start is the [Colorado webpage](#) on assistive listening. It includes a list of places for Boulder County and the state. For other resources ...[Read More](#)

HOPE: Hearing Other People's Experiences

Learn and share with hearing loss peers

[Read More](#)

Save the Dates

Fri., Aug 28, 1:00 In-Person Tour of Cochlear Americas Headquarters

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Communication Access in Healthcare at UHealth Requesting Captioning at UHealth Medical Appointments



A tablet has been mounted on a stand with rolling caster wheels. The tablet receives live captioning translation through a program that livestreams from a transcriptionist (captioner) who listens to patient encounters with their medical providers.

If you are concerned about missing important information when you are in the hospital or at medical appointments, you can ask for captioning. [Read More](#)



This group is suitable for all levels of sign language skills. Beginners are welcome.

Our upcoming social:

TBD

Join us at:

Starbuck's

1535 Rocky Mountain Ave ·

In Centerra Marketplace, Loveland, CO

Questions: Email HLAABoulderOC@gmail.com or contact [Danette on FB Messenger](#).

[Read More](#) [Join us on Facebook](#)

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HLAA's 43rd Annual Convention June 24-26, 2027 in Atlanta, GA

[HLAA Convention 2026](#)

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We send once a month and occasionally for important news or reminders. You can modify your subscription at any time.



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Get Involved - We Love Volunteers!



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would like to offer. Do you have questions, or comments? If you would like to find out more, just reply to this email or contact us at HLAABoulder@gmail.com. Thank you!

HLAA Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter Meeting and More

Veterans with hearing loss are invited to attend the next Veterans Across America Virtual Chapter Meeting (VAAVC) online using Zoom. To find details for this and more events, see [Veterans](#) on hearingloss.org.

HLAA Disclaimer

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