

BY AMANDA WATSON

**H**LAA is dedicated to bringing you a fun, safe and enlightening in-person Convention in beautiful Tampa, Florida. There is still time to plan your trip! All workshops, plenary sessions and the Exhibit Hall will be located in the brand new JW Marriott Tampa Water Street. Make sure to stay up to date on all Convention activities at [hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention/](https://hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention/).

#### **JW Marriott Tampa Water Street**

510 Water Street  
Tampa, FL 33602  
813.221.4950



Book your room at this brand new hotel in the heart of Tampa. Don't forget to mention the HLA A room block when you call to make a reservation or book online at <https://book.passkey.com/go/2022HearingLossConvention>. Reservations must be made by **Tuesday, May 31, 2022**.

There is still time to register for HLA A 2022 Convention. We are again offering a quick and easy online registration option through Cvent. To register online just go [hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention/hlaa-2022-convention-registration/](https://hearingloss.org/programs-events/convention/hlaa-2022-convention-registration/). Register now! Registration closes on **Friday, May 20, 2022**

If you are a state organization or chapter leader, veteran or speaker please register offline by downloading your corresponding form and filling it out. You can find the forms with further instructions on how to submit them on the registration page of the HLA A website.

#### **Health and Safety Protocols**

The health and safety of our HLA A 2022 Convention attendees is of utmost importance to us. HLA A is closely monitoring guidelines for health safety measures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Florida and Hillsborough County. HLA A will follow applicable federal, state and local laws, adapting our plans accordingly and sharing updates with our attendees. As we went to press, these are HLA A's current health and safety protocols for HLA A 2022 Convention:

1. All attendees are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 according to the CDC. Vaccination status is required when registering for the Convention, but please also bring your card on-site.
2. At this time, HLA A will require masks be worn at all HLA A Convention-related activities inside the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street. We will provide clear masks to all attendees.
3. Social distancing will be practiced at all HLA A 2022 Convention activities.

#### **Vaccination Requirement for HLA A 2022**

HLA A has made the decision that all participants at the in-person HLA A 2022 Convention at the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street, whether a presenter, attendee, exhibitor, staff, guest, or vendor, will be required to be fully vaccinated. Participants must provide proof of vaccination to register for the in-person event. For information on providing your proof of vaccination, visit the Convention web page.

# HLA A 2022 Convention is Fast Approaching!



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Open Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 22  
4:30-6 p.m.

Come and hear about the state of HLA A, meet the directors and enjoy a question and answer period.

## Exhibit Hall Grand Opening

Thursday, June 23  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The HLA A 2022 Convention will officially open at 11 a.m. on Thursday, June 23. Make your way into the Exhibit Hall to visit exhibitors and explore all the newest technology for people with hearing loss. The Exhibit Hall will be open until 4:30 p.m., so feel free to explore until then or attend one of the afternoon workshops. A complete list of exhibitors and sponsors will be available in the *Program and Exhibit Guide*, the Convention mobile app and on the Convention web page.

## Newcomers Session

Thursday, June 23  
Noon-1 p.m.

Calling all Convention first-timers! This session will be helpful in getting you started at your very first HLA A Convention. Learn how to make the most of your first Convention experience.

## Opening Session

Thursday, June 23  
4:30-6 p.m.

We are excited to welcome our keynote speaker for the HLA A 2022 Convention, Achin Bhowmik, Ph.D. Dr. Bhowmik is the chief technology officer and executive vice president of engineering at Starkey. He is responsible for the organization's technology strategy, global research, product development and engineering departments.

Prior to joining Starkey, Dr. Bhowmik served as vice president and general manager of the Perceptual Computing Group at Intel Corporation. There, he was responsible for the R&D, engineering, operations and businesses in the areas of 3D sensing and interactive computing, computer vision and artificial intelligence, autonomous robots and drones and immersive virtual and merged reality devices. We are looking forward to learning how emerging technologies will benefit the hearing loss community.



## Welcome Back Bash!

Thursday, June 23  
7-9 p.m.

Come celebrate being together again! Mix and mingle with familiar and new friends and acquaintances in person while you enjoy cocktails and a light fare. Don't miss out on this year's Thursday night event.

## 2022 HLA A Research Symposium Cochlear Implants: What's new? What's next?

Friday, June 24  
8:30-11 a.m.

The first cochlear implants (CIs) were introduced in the 1970s, but the technology remains relatively poorly understood and underused in the hearing loss community. This year's Research Symposium will address the knowledge gap around CIs, explore who is a potential candidate for implantation, what's involved in treatment and how CI technology has changed and will change further in the future. A mix of clinical information and science, this session is a "must attend" for anyone with hearing loss. The 2022 Research Symposium is supported, in part, by a grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication

Disorders, National Institutes of Health (Award Number R13DC017913).



# A Big Thank You to Our HAAA Hear for Life Partners!

## Research Symposium Presenters:

**Christine Dinh, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Otolaryngology, University of Miami

**Justin Golub, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Otolaryngology, Columbia University

**Candace Hobson, M.D.**, Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Emory University

**Diane Martinez, Ph.D.**, Cochlear Implant Audiologist, University of South Florida

## 2022 Awards Ceremony and Reception

Friday, June 24  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we recognize volunteers, state and chapter leaders from across the country who work to make a difference in their communities and for their commitment to HAAA. Come in your best cocktail attire as we enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and spirits. Cheers!



## An Evening with the Filmmakers— “We Hear You | Now Hear Us”

Saturday, June 25  
4:30 - 6 p.m.

*We Hear You* is an award-winning documentary about hearing loss, the invisible disability that impacts 430 million people worldwide, including 48 million in the United States alone. By shining a light on the hearing loss experience, it strives to build awareness, community and a more inclusive world for all.

This session will be the first of its kind for HAAA, bringing the typical film festival experience directly to the HAAA community. We will screen the 45-minute film and then open the floor to the community for an additional 45 minutes of questions with filmmakers Roxana Rotundo, Shari Eberts, Holly Cohen and Toni Iacolucci. Together we can help raise awareness, create change and improve lives for people with hearing loss.

## LEADERS



## CHAMPIONS



## ADVOCATES



## SUPPORTERS



## FRIENDS



## Transportation

The Tampa International Airport (TPA) is less than a 20-minute drive to the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street.

- **Parking:** Valet parking at the hotel costs \$32 per car, per day. The hotel is next to the Pam Iorio Parking Garage and on non-event days the rate is \$12 for 24 hours.
- **Shuttle:** Guests can arrange their own transportation via Blue One Shuttle for \$15 per person.
- **Uber/Lyft:** Use Uber (uber.com) or Lyft (lyft.com) for another convenient way to get to and from the airport and around the city. All you have to do is upload the app on your smartphone, enter your destination, confirm the number of seats you need and confirm your pickup location.

