

HLAA 2022 Convention



BY AMANDA WATSON

Following two years of virtual conventions, HLAA's community of people with hearing loss came back together in Tampa, Florida for the HLAA 2022 Convention. New friends were made, and old friends reunited. They attended educational workshops on topics related to hearing health, learned from world-renowned scientists, checked out the latest technology in our Exhibit Hall, which was free and open to the public, and so much more.

On behalf of HLAA, I want to thank our Hear for Life Corporate Partners, exhibitors, presenters, tech support, volunteers, CART captioners and attendees. We hope you enjoyed the convention as much as we did. We would love to see you at the HLAA 2023 Convention, June 29–July 1 in New Orleans.

Here are some memories from our time at the convention, and a few photos. Be sure to check out more photos in the HLAA 2022 Convention Archives at hearingloss.org/programs-events/hlaa-2023-convention/convention-archives/hlaa-2022-convention/.

General Session

Achin Bhowmik, Ph.D. was the HLAA General Session keynote speaker. Dr. Bhowmik is 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.



Dr. Achin Bhowmik presenting to HLAA 2022 attendees at the General Session

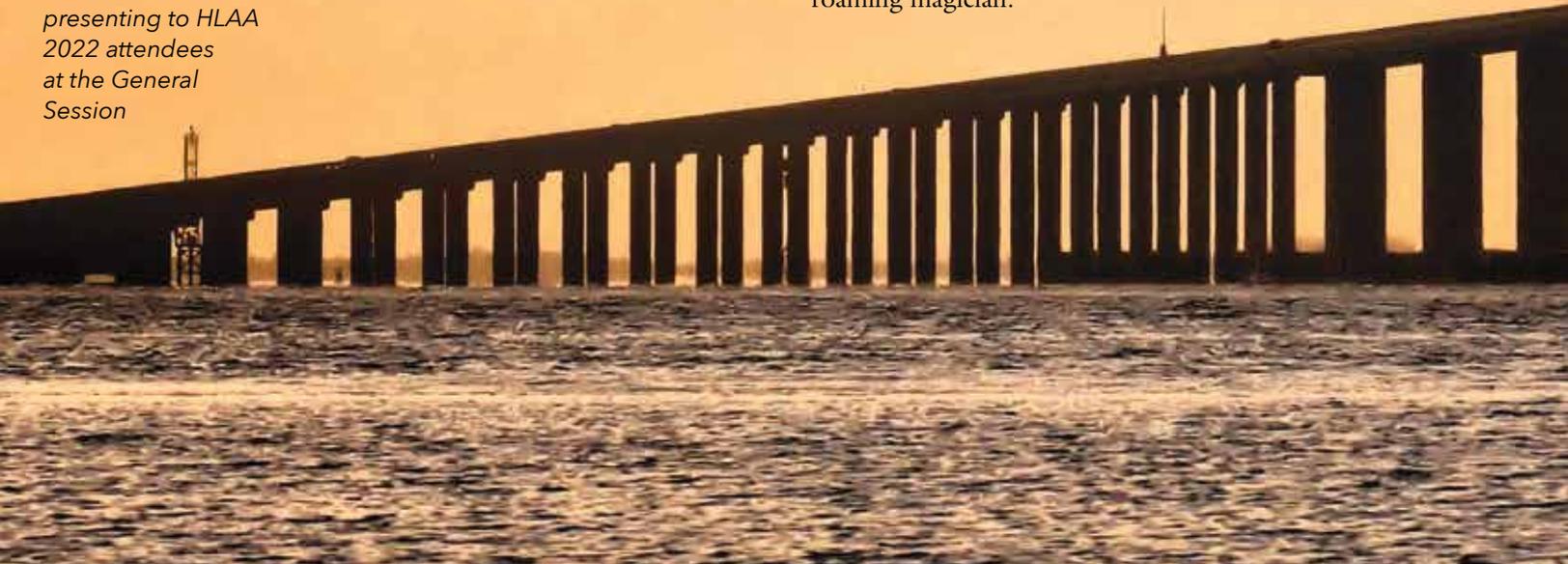
HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley kicked off the General Session by welcoming guests and presented the HLAA Walter T. Ridder Award to American Girl under the leadership of American Girl President Jamie Cygielman. Barbara introduced Kevin Franck, Ph.D., board chair, who introduced Dr. Bhowmik. Dr. Bhowmik presented on Artificial Intelligence (AI) as the future of hearing aids. He went in depth on the human auditory system and the connection between the ear and brain and further discussed how this link with AI will be beneficial to the future of hearing technology.



HLAA 2022 attendees Dianna Landers, NH, and Wendy Ting, VA, at the Welcome Back Bash

Welcome Back Bash

HLAA's Welcome Back Bash gave attendees the chance to mix, mingle and reunite with friends. Dressed in their best beach wear, attendees enjoyed cocktails and food, played cornhole, and viewed mystifying tricks by a roaming magician.





The HLAA 2022 Research Symposium panel discusses cochlear implants.

Research Symposium

Moderated by Christine Dinh, M.D., this year's Research Symposium: *Cochlear Implants: What's new? What's next?*, was very popular as a large number of convention attendees wear at least one cochlear implant (CI). CIs are more powerful, more technologically sophisticated, and are an appropriate option for an increasing number of people with hearing loss, and yet many people who could benefit from a CI haven't yet made the decision to get one. This Research Symposium helped to inform about where one might fit in the spectrum of potential

CI recipients, and to bring one up to date on scientific developments in the field. The presenters addressed the knowledge gap around CIs, explored 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.

The 2022 Research Symposium was supported, in part, by a grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, National Institutes of Health (Award Number R13DC017913).

Presenters:

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

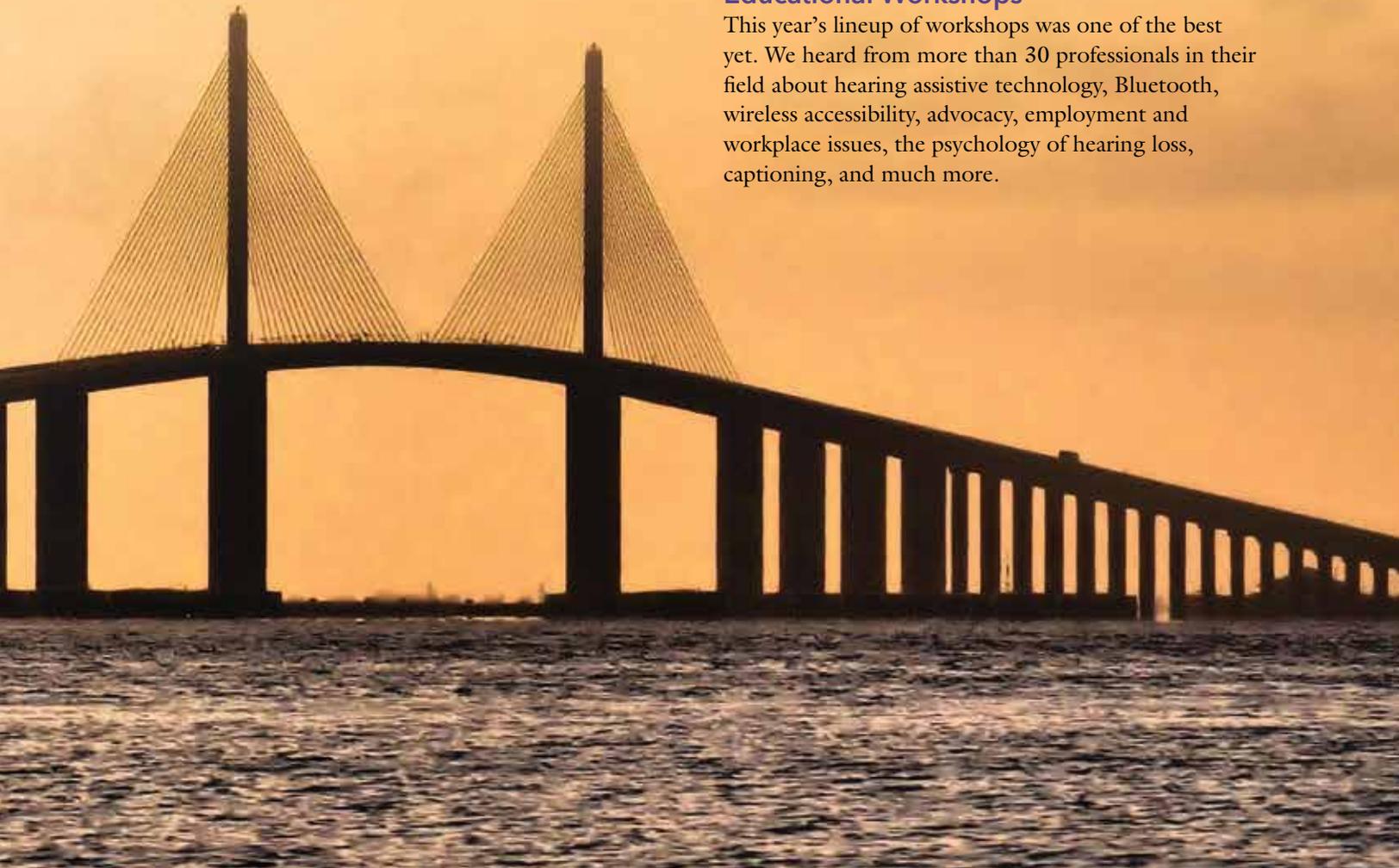
Justin Golub, M.D., Associate Professor of Otolaryngology, Columbia University

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

Diane Martinez, Cochlear Implant Audiologist, University of South Florida

Educational Workshops

This year's lineup of workshops was one of the best yet. We heard from more than 30 professionals in their field about hearing assistive technology, Bluetooth, wireless accessibility, advocacy, employment and workplace issues, the psychology of hearing loss, captioning, and much more.



Save the Date

June 29 - July 1 is HLAA's 2023 Convention at the New Orleans Marriott, 555 Canal Street. Plan your visit to the "Big Easy," birthplace of jazz, and home to Creole cuisine, rich history and southern hospitality. Registration opens December 2.



Our exhibitors bring the fun to our Exhibit Hall in Tampa!

Exhibit Hall

Not only were HLAA attendees thrilled to be back in person, but exhibitors were too. We welcomed 40 exhibitors this year who presented the newest technologies and resources for people with hearing loss. Attendees enjoyed their chance to explore the Exhibit Hall and intermingle with the variety of companies exhibiting. HLAA's Exhibit Hall is always free and open to the public.



Documentary Screening and Q&A with the Filmmakers

We Hear You | Now Hear Us 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 was the first of its kind for HLAA, bringing the typical film festival experience directly to the HLAA community. The audience enjoyed viewing the film together. After the screening, there was a Q&A session so HLAA 2022 attendees could ask the filmmakers questions. **HL**

Amanda Watson is HLAA's Meeting Planner. Email Amanda at awatson@hearingloss.org.



Walk4Hearing participants



Debbe Hagner, FL and Latisha Porter-Vaughn, NJ



Florida Walk4Hearing in Tampa held during the convention



HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley with Board Member Ib Dabo and Joy Kitanga Dabo, GA

A young Walk4Hearing participant



Attendees at the Welcome Back Bash

Lynn Rousseau, FL with Molly Corum, FL

