

Lauren Ashley Buford
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EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Doctor of Speech Pathology; GPA: 4.0

March 2022

Culminating Project:

“What Does Increased Support Look Like for Families Impacted by Autism?”: A Mixed-Methods Systematic Literature Review Focused on Outcomes Associated With the use of Family-Centered Care

Relevant coursework and/or projects:

- **Education and Supervision of SLPs:** Wrote teaching and learning manifesto to reveal my pedagogical approach and philosophy in addressing the diverse, ever-changing student and employee environment
- **Operations and Process Improvement for SLPs:** Designed process improvement plan to optimize resources and gain efficiencies in the collection of co-pays and self-pays at private practice
- **Leadership for SLPs:** Established action plan built on core leadership principles and consisting of tools to facilitate shift from individual contributor to strategic leader in an evolving healthcare world
- **Organizational Behavior for SLPs:** Developed toolkit of methods and strategies to develop collaborative teams and motivate team members based on human behavior in complex organizations

Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Master of Science, Speech-Language Pathology; GPA: 3.8/4.0

May 2017

Hampton University, Hampton, VA

Bachelor of Arts, Communicative Science and Disorders, Concentration: Pre-Medicine; GPA: 3.7/4.0

May 2013

Institutional Honors: Magna Cum Laude; ***Departmental Honors:*** Summa Cum Laude

Robert E Screen Communicative Science and Disorders Honors Award – Superior academic performance in the face of challenges and personal hardship, May 2013

Key International Honor Society – 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Lead Pediatric Speech Language Pathologist, Step Stone Therapy, Herndon, VA May 2022 - Present

- Execute clinical oversight of speech language pathologists at various levels, volunteers, students, by carrying out responsibilities such as providing feedback, approval of therapy notes, evaluation reports and progress reports thus ensuring written reports reflect patients' communication strengths and barriers and records are in accordance with professional standards, state guidelines, and company policies.
- Establish interprofessional practice (IPP) collaboration with community stakeholders to increase patients' early diagnosis and specialized intervention and improving the odds of significant developmental progress
- Educate community stakeholders regarding the scope of practice in speech-language pathology to mitigate the referral gap for speech-language pathology services of children with communication and feeding deficiencies thus filling a gap in early specialized intervention and improving positive outcomes
- Review speech therapy services, identify areas in need of quality improvement and apply operations and process improvement principles and guidelines to enhance service outcomes, customer satisfaction and excellence in service delivery

Pediatric Speech Language Pathologist, Tiny Toes Therapy, Sterling, VA

Mar 2019 – Apr 2022

- Coached and collaborated with caregivers; plan and administer assessments and evidence-based interventions to 20 children per week with 12 children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or suspected of having ASD (verbal or non-verbal) with deficits in speech, language, oral motor, and feeding
- Executed supervisory duties for 4 newly credentialed speech clinicians by performing tasks such as providing feedback and approval of clinical records thus ensuring the records are in accordance with professional standards, state guidelines, and company policies

- Maintained documentation in accordance with private practice policies, insurance mandates, Federal regulations, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
- Performed telehealth services for 15 children with a diagnosis of ASD or suspected of having ASD from ages 2 – 11 for 15 months using video conferencing, interactive learning platforms, and coaching of parents; most children improved speech and language skills significantly, and increased parental participation led to generalization of skills in the home environment

Pediatric Speech Language Pathologist, The Children's Therapy Center, Springfield, VA Aug 2018 – Mar 2019

- Formulated annual professional growth smart goals, with one such goal resulting in enrollment in a feeding course; application of skills soon helped contribute to the organization meeting its service goal of a significant increase in patients with feeding needs
- Administered interdisciplinary therapeutic treatment with occupational therapists and physical therapists to caseload of 20 children per week from underserved communities presenting with speech, language, fluency, voice, autism, feeding, developmental, and intellectual disabilities
- Communicated with referring physicians and other professionals to ensure comprehensive patient care

Clinical Fellow, Therapy Connections, LLC., Beltsville, MD

Jun 2017 – Jun 2018

- Improved collaborative communication with education partners and families of students with ASD in underserved community with a caseload of 65 students, ranging from K through 7th grade
- Expanded formal communication of 10 children with ASD in high demand communication situations in 9 months as indicated by 25 – 30% change in accuracy rate over progress period

Graduate Speech Clinician

Jan 2017 – May 2017

- Coached caregivers; planned and administered in-clinic assessments and evidence-based interventions for 15 children per week with speech and language deficits
- Devised and administered therapeutic treatment in a group setting of up to 6 students with ASD based on individual IEPs with data reflecting improvement in appropriate responses to activities in 2 months

Graduate Speech Clinician, Eagle Academy, Washington, DC

Sep 2016 – Dec 2016

- Eliminated speech and language observation/screening backlog of 35 students in 2 months facilitating support for students in Pre-K and Kindergarten entering process for determination of speech and language disability and IEP as appropriate, in addition to regular workload of 16 children
- Prepared and provided therapeutic treatment to a playgroup of up to 6 students with ASD based on referral concerns with data collected reflecting students' strengths and weaknesses that facilitated appropriate placement in special education
- Created and executed outreach plan to reach non-participating families of impoverished children of color, resulting in increased trust, parental involvement, and child's therapeutic progress

Graduate Speech Clinician, Little Feet and Hands, Washington, DC

Jun 2016 – Jul 2016

- Conducted 20 norm referenced assessments and composed comprehensive evaluation reports for early intervention population in underserved communities, resulting in eligibility for early intervention
- Collaborated during intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary activities with speech, occupational, and physical therapists attaining successful outcomes when addressing problem areas by maintaining open communication, prioritizing group goals, and balancing personal achievements with organizational goals

Graduate Speech Clinician, Howard University, Washington, DC

Aug 2015 – Apr 2016

- Developed and provided therapeutic treatment to adults and children presenting with speech, language, developmental, cognitive, and intellectual disabilities and 1 child with ASD with maladaptive behavior
- Examined 100 dental records revealing relationship between dental and articulation disorders and benefits of collaboration between speech language pathology and orthodontics, resulting in Dental Clinic and School of Communications partnership comprised of referrals and co-treatment of patients

Post-Baccalaureate Fellow, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD

Sep 2013 – Jul 2015

- Enhanced knowledge due to mentoring and observation sessions with Chief of Speech Language Pathology during assessment and therapeutic services provided to clinical trial participants with speech, language, feeding, and swallowing deficits
- Attained and strengthened skills in assignment of oral and pharyngeal physiologic swallowing impairment severity scores by performing score assignment exercises and receiving feedback from Chief of Speech Language Pathology
- Designed database of 40 clinical protocols and related procedures added to training materials provided to new post-Baccalaureate fellows because of its role in aiding in new student hire's success

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Student to Empowered Professional Mentoring Program, Mentor, ASHA, Rockville, MD Feb 2022 - Present

- Guide and mentor undergraduate student on various speech language pathology topics to broaden undergraduate student's interests
- Coach student in shaping and addressing short or long term goals via the Chronus mentoring platform
- Provide resources for guided learning experiences for student to enhance mentee's learning experiences while in pursuit of undergraduate degree

2- Day Workshop Presenter (Volunteer), Public Charter School, Memphis, TN Feb/Apr 2018; Aug/Oct 2019

- Developed training materials that are rooted in evidence-based practice for educators serving at-risk Pre-K-12 students with ASD in underserved community to address problem behaviors related to speech and language in classroom
- Trained educators to aid children with ASD and social pragmatic expressive and receptive language deficits resulting in significant decreases in disruptive classroom behaviors according to survey data

NSSLHA Chapter President, Hampton University, Hampton, VA Jan 2012 – May 2013

- Facilitated monthly meetings to ensure efficiency and to create a positive learning environment for all students
- Consulted with Faculty Advisor and oversaw operations for student-run group focused on support for CSD students
- Led outreach events resulting in an increase of 150 underserved families' awareness of clinic services

SKILLS

Technical: Proficient in Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint; Prezi

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence; Licensed in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.; PROMPT Institute; Hanen's It Takes Two to Talk and Target Word

POSTERS

Lauren A. Buford; **Outcomes Linked to Use of Family-Centered Care Among Families Impacted by Autism.** Virtual poster session, American Speech Language Hearing Association, New Orleans, LA; November, 2022

Lauren A. Buford, Martine Elie, Mary Gereab; **What Types of Malocclusions are Associated with Speech Sound Disorders?** Poster session, National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing Convention, Atlanta, GA; April 2017

Lauren A. Buford, Martine Elie, Shaleeta Jones; **Is There a Relationship Between Articulation and Orthodontic Disorders?** Poster session, National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing Convention, Virginia Beach, VA.; April 2016

Lauren A. Buford, Jane Trepel, Bao Tran, Tom Skelly, Castle Raley, Katherine Mackall, Min Jung Lee, Sunmin Lee, Yusuke Tomita; **Development of a new circulating tumor cell platform and a 3rd generation next-gen sequencing technique for the discovery of oncogenic androgen receptor splice variants driving castrate-resistant prostate cancer**
Presented at the following establishments: The 7th DCEG Fellows Symposium, Division of Cancer Epidemiology & Genetics, NIH, Bethesda, MD, March 2015; the CCR-FYI Colloquium, NIH, Shady Grove

Campus, Bethesda, MD March 2015; the New England Science Symposium, Harvard University, Boston, MA April 2015; and Post-Bac Poster Day, National Cancer Institute, NIH, Bethesda, MD April 2015

Lauren A. Buford, Lauren V. Wood, William Dahut, James L. Gulley, Ravi A. Madan, Philip Arlen, Howard L. Parnes, Brenda D. Roberson, Seth M. Steinberg, Masaki Terabe, Jay A. Berzofsky; **Therapeutic Vaccination with Epitope-Enhanced and Wild Type Tarp Peptides in Stage D0 Prostate Cancer.** Presented at Poster Day, National Cancer Institute, NIH, Bethesda, MD August 2011

PUBLISHED ABSTRACT(S)

Evaluation of a new circulating tumor cell (CTC) platform to predict response and survival in metastatic urothelial carcinoma (UC) patients receiving cabozantinib (cabo); Co-Author; submitted for the 2015 ASCO Annual Meeting (May 29 – June 2, 2015)