



**BRAIN HEALTH
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
at Kent State University

NEWS

BHRI RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Audet, Assistant Professor, Speech Pathology & Audiology



I am the director of the Neurodiversity Research Initiative within the BHRI. The inaugural year of the initiative, 2023, brought together a leadership team with members from KSU, neurodiverse students and alum of KSU, and external partners. Our aim to support research collaboration, provide education and outreach was furthered through the first NRI guest lectureship hosting Dr. Lawrence Fung from Stanford University. Members of the NRI have submitted a grant to further understand the intersectionality of systems that influence the lives of neurodiverse college students. If awarded, that grant will allow us to

bring together teams of researchers and stakeholders to create interdisciplinary research.

As a speech language pathologist, I am interested in the experiences, challenges, barriers, and systems that influence neurodiverse individuals. My research is informed by my 35 years as a clinician and the lived experiences of neurodiverse individuals and their families. As an applied researcher my work has focused on perceptions of neurodiverse college students, effectiveness of programs designed to support neurodiverse college students, the connection between executive functioning and social communication, and use of augmentative alternative communication (AAC) and assistive technology with neurodiverse students.

The opportunity to engage students in research is an important part of my scholarship. Students from the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) and I have partnered with the Greater Akron Autism Society and North Canton Parks and Recreation to create and install communication boards in their fully accessible Possibilities Playground in Dogwood Park. The project is designed to provide access

A LOOK AHEAD

Seminar Series

12:30 Tuesdays

ISB LL Lobby

Shreesh Mysore, Ph.D.
(Johns Hopkins)
September 12

Carmen Maldonado-Vlaar, Ph.D.
(University of Puerto Rico)
October 10, 2023

Gunnar Poplawski, Ph.D.
(Cleveland Clinic)
November 7, 2023

Kim Oller, Ph.D.
(University of Memphis)
January 16, 2024

Eric Wilkey, Ph.D.
(Vanderbilt)
February 13, 2024

Jaideep Bains, Ph.D.
(University Health Network)
April 9, 2024



to communication within a natural context for children with speech difficulties. The students will research the language typically used on the playground to design the communication boards. The boards will include a QR code with a link to resources for families, plus a link to be involved in research exploring how the boards influence social interaction on the playground.

Diversity in the speech language pathology profession is a contemporary issue I am committed to address. This has allowed me to develop study abroad programs in Brazil, collaborate with international autism and AAC researchers and develop high school recruitment pipeline projects with Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

RESEARCH EXCHANGE AND RETREAT

September 22, 2023

The BHRI Research Exchange and Retreat will be held on Friday, September 22, at the KSU Hotel and Conference Center. All faculty, faculty-equivalent, and student members are cordially welcome to attend!

The day will consist of a retrospective overview of the goals and accomplishments of the BHRI, four sessions of research exchange presentations from BHRI investigators (two morning and two afternoon), and a working lunch for brainstorming the institute's future goals and direction.

11TH ANNUAL NEUROSCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

October 26-27, 2023

One of the most exciting areas of research in neuroscience in the past few years has been the use of brain-machine and brain-computer interfaces in expanding our knowledge of the functions of the normal nervous system, and as a therapy in the restoration of function for patients after a variety of debilitating nervous system diseases or injuries.

Join us at the BHRI 11th Annual Neuroscience Symposium on October 26-27, 2023, at the Kent State University Hotel & Conference Center, as we hear from world-leading researchers working on brain-machine and computer-machine interfaces, as well as from patient users and therapists and corporate leaders involved in advancing neurotechnology in this area. A research skills workshop and student poster presentations will also take place as a part of this two-day Symposium event.

Use QR Code to go
to BHRI's website.



SUMMER 2023 RECAP

Undergraduate Fellows Program

BHRI had a fellowship group of 16 fellows for the 2023 program, its largest group so far. The fellows ended the program with a successful capstone experience on July 26, where each of the fellows presented their research.

Summa Health Research Exchange

Researchers from Summa Health met with BHRI members on Kent State's main campus to discuss current research and ways to collaborate between the two institutions. A second meeting will be scheduled this fall at Summa Health.

NLO Microscope

A new multimodal nonlinear optical (NLO) microscope capable of various image scattering techniques using lasers, was installed in the Integrated Sciences Building on the Kent Campus in June 2023. It will be used by faculty and researchers in both Kent State's AMLCI and BHRI, as well as science researchers from across the university.

The microscope was purchased with money from the Research and Economic Development division's new "[Game Changer](#)" program.

Brains on Tap – Can You Hear Me?

Drs. Huyck and Mussoi presented research about hearing and listening changes through a person's lifetime to the Kent community at the second event in the 2023 Brains on Tap series hosted by the BHRI. There was a lively Q&A discussion to end the event.

