Clinical Foundations in SLP Program

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Chairs: Blair Whiteside, CCC-SLP and Evan Kennedy, CCC-SLP

The Fall Voice Clinical Foundations in SLP Program is intended for current graduate students, clinical fellows, or SLPs who have fewer than five years of experience treating voice and upper airway disorders. *This educational program provides an introduction to contemporary assessment and treatment strategies for voice, swallowing, and upper airway disorders across diverse patient populations. Through evidence-based presentations, expert panel discussions, and interactive learning experiences, participants will strengthen their understanding of the anatomical, physiological, and neurological foundations that guide clinical decision-making.*

Sessions span the continuum of care—from hands-on therapeutic techniques such as laryngeal massage and respiratory retraining to specialized interventions for singers, gender-affirming voice care, neurologic voice disorders, and the coordinated management of dysphagia and dysphonia. Attendees will also examine emerging research, interdisciplinary models of care, and real-world case studies that demonstrate how assessment findings translate into individualized, patient-centered treatment plans. Collectively, the program emphasizes the integration of current evidence, collaborative practice, and practical clinical application to enhance outcomes for individuals with voice and upper airway disorders while equipping clinicians with skills they can immediately incorporate into practice.

7:00 - 8:00 AM	**Registration & Continental Breakfast**
8:00 - 8:05 AM	**Opening Remarks**
8:05 - 8:55 AM	**Take it to the Necks Level: Foundational Manual Therapy Skills** ***Speakers: Holly Reckers CCC-SLP, Nora Whittaker Jones CCC-SLP*** *This session explores laryngeal massage as a clinical tool in the management of voice disorders, grounded in a review of relevant laryngeal anatomy and physiology. Presenters will connect structural and functional concepts to clinical reasoning for manual techniques. Opportunities for demonstration and experiential learning may be incorporated to support skill development and clinical confidence.*
8:55 - 9:45 AM	**Dysphagia and Dysphonia Co-Treatment** ***Speakers: Jonelyn Langenstein CCC-SLP, Lisa Zughni CCC-SLP*** *This presentation examines the clinical overlap between dysphagia and voice disorders and considerations for coordinated care. Presenters will highlight how voice and swallowing interventions may overlap, specific patient populations frequently requiring tandem interventions, and highlight when interventions work synergistically to facilitate functional improvement for patients.*
9:45 - 10:00 AM	**BREAK**
10:00 - 10:45 AM	**From Pitch to Practice: Developing Functional Voice Goals for Injured Singers** ***Speakers: Shirley Gherson CCC-SLP, Joshua Glasner PhD, CCC-SLP, Geddy Warner, MM*** *This presentation aims to introduce the perspectives of SLPs and Singing Teachers when it comes to collaborative intervention and decision making. Presenters will explore how findings are synthesized in a singing voice evaluation to inform treatment decisions, including consideration as to whether a singer needs rehabilitation versus habilitation.*
10:45 - 11:30 AM	**Gender Affirming Voice Care** ***Speakers: Becks von Duering CCC-SLP, Nora Mahon CCC-SLP*** *This session will focus on the basics of GAVW including stimulability, SLPs role in supporting authenticity in voice therapy, and an introduction to techniques for voice modification. Resources for further education and training necessary on cultural humility, gender diversity–affirming practices, and trauma-informed care will be provided.*
11:30 - 1:00 PM	**LUNCH on your own OR NEW VOICES Lunch Program – RSVP HERE!**
1:00 - 2:00 PM	**Breathing Pattern Disorder: From Physiology to Clinical Practice** ***Speakers: Abbey Tabor CCC-SLP, Emily Nauman CCC-SLP*** *This presentation will highlight foundational skills for the assessment and management of breathing pattern disorder, grounded in a functional review of relevant anatomy and physiology. Key therapy*

	targets including respiratory retraining will be discussed with practical clinical examples, emphasizing assessment-driven, patient-centered care.
2:00 - 2:30 PM	**HOT OFF THE PRESSES: Current Research in VUAD** ***Speakers: Molly Huston MD, Amanda Gillespie PhD, CCC-SLP*** *Join this session for a rapid-fire preview about the most exciting, emerging research in voice and upper airway disorders.*
2:30 - 2:45 PM	**BREAK**
2:45 - 3:55 PM	**SLP Perspectives on Vocal Tremor & Laryngeal Dystonia** ***Speakers: Austin Collum CCC-SLP, Katie Marks PhD, CCC-SLP*** *This session will provide an overview of the SLPs role in evaluation and treatment for individuals with vocal tremor and laryngeal dystonia. Attendees will review key components of assessment, including perceptual, instrumental, and patient-reported measures, as well as current approaches to behavioral voice therapy within an interdisciplinary care model. Case examples will be used to illustrate clinical decision-making and long-term management strategies.*
4:00 – 5:00 PM	**WATCHING FILM** ***Speakers: Sarah Schneider CCC-SLP, Sarah Hoch CCC-SLP, Raquel Tripp CCC-SLP, Ruchi Kapila CCC-SLP, Natalie Sheppard CCC-SLP, Nic Valdez CCC-SLP*** *Back due to popular demand, this session will involve clinicians presenting video of therapy sessions for a variety of conditions, with live reflection and troubleshooting as facilitated by a senior clinician coach.*
5:00 - 6:00 PM	**Poster & Exhibit Viewing Cocktail Reception**
7:30 – 9:30 PM	**Keynote Film Screening:** *"Come See Me in the Good Light"*

ASHA CE APPROVED PROVIDER

San Jose State University
Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences

The conference is offered for up to 0.65 ASHA CEU's (Various levels; Professional area)