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2026



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TRAVEL GRANT AWARD WINNERS

[VIEW THE WINNERS HERE!](#)

The 2026 Fall Voice Conference Program Chairs are pleased to announce the recipients of a **2026 Fall Voice Travel Grant Award**. These awards are generously supported by **Dysphonia International**, the **Alliance for Voice, Airway and Swallowing Education (AVASE)**, and the **Sid Khosla Foundation**. Travel Awards were presented to the highest-rated podium and poster abstract submissions.

Dysphonia International Travel Grants:

1. **Julianna Smeltzer, MS, CCC-SLP (Podium)** – *“Autonomic Reactivity and Psychological Vulnerability in Primary Muscle Tension Dysphonia”*
2. **Elizabeth D. Young, PhD, CCC-SLP (Podium)** – *“Auditory–Somatosensory Influences on Vocal Motor Control in Primary Muscle Tension Dysphonia”*
3. **Madeline Knutson, MS, CCC-SLP (Podium)** – *“Botulinum Toxin Treatment for Adductor Laryngeal Dystonia Reduces Speech-Related Cognitive Load”*
4. **Daniel Du, BAS (Podium)** – *“Clinical Underdetection of Dystonic Tremor in Laryngeal Dystonia: Evidence from Automated Acoustic Analysis”*
5. **Amanda Stark, PhD, CCC-SLP (Podium)** – *“Respiratory Kinematics Reveal Phenotypic Differences in Essential Vocal Tremor and Laryngeal Dystonia with Vocal Tremor”*
6. **Lauren Ross, BA (Podium)** – *“Psychiatric Disorders in Laryngeal Dystonia: A Retrospective Cohort Study”*
7. **Jenny Pierce, PhD, CCC-SLP (Podium)** – *“Evidence of Altered Function of the Brain Cortex based on Body Position in Laryngeal Dystonia”*
8. **Cara Sauder, PhD, CCC-SLP (Podium)** - *The effects of sentence length and phonetic loading on differences in voice severity in Adductor Laryngeal Dystonia*

Alliance for Voice, Airway and Swallowing Education Travel Grants:

1. **Best Voice Therapy / Behavioral Science**
Keiko Ishikawa, PhD (Podium) – *“Toward a Clinical Measure of Automaticity: Using Reaction Time to Quantify Cognitive Load During Speech Modification”*
2. **Best Measurement / Outcomes Science**
Brett Welch, PhD, CCC-SLP (Podium) – *“A Critical Examination of the Psychometric Properties of the VHI-10: Are We Measuring What We Think We’re Measuring?”*
3. **Best Clinical Innovation**
Ladan Navari, MD (Podium) – *“Internal Superior Laryngeal Nerve Injection of Botulinum Toxin A for Laryngeal Neurosensory Disturbances”*
4. **Best Translational / Basic Science Platform**
Shicheng Yang, PhD (Podium) – *“Toward Noninvasive Local Steroid Delivery for Vocal Fold Disorders”*
5. **Top Poster Awards**
 - a. **Claire Ong, BS** *“Single Cell Analysis of Human Fetal Trachea Reveals Dynamic Stem Cell Populations and Distinct Developmental Lineages”*
 - b. **Carson Miller, BS** *“Correlating vocal fold bowing and muscle fiber changes in an aging rat model.”*

Sid Khosla Awards:

1. **Diana Lopez-Fay, MD, MS (Podium)** - *“The impact of female hormones on idiopathic subglottic stenosis (iSGS) scar”*
2. **Nabeeha Hasan, BS (Podium)** - *“Cervical Inlet Patches in Retrograde Cricopharyngeus Dysfunction: An Unrecognized Predictor of Treatment Failure”*