

# Safa M. Alqudah

## E-Mail:

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## Mobile:

(+962) 795635953.

## Objective:

To live honestly and work in a highly challenging competitive environment to enhance my working capacities and professional skills and achieve the optimum profitability of the organization.

## Professional Skills:

Computer Literate:

- Microsoft Office.
- Internet.
- State, SPSS, and Many tap statistic and research software.

## Strength:

- Hard working.
- Open-minded.
- Quick learner.
- Great motivator and listener.
- Friendly.
- Open to the feedback of others.

## Interests and Hobbies:

Internet Surfing  
and chatting.  
Reading in nature

## Known languages:

- Arabic (Native Language).
- English:
  - Excellent Reader.
  - Excellent Writer.
  - Fluent Speaker.
  - TOEFL certificate.

## *Date and Place of Birth*

*December 29, 1987, KSA.*

## *Gender:*

*Female.*

## *Nationality:*

*Jordanian.*

## *Status:*

*Single.*



## *Education and Achievements*

- 2012-2016 University of Kansas (KU) – Ph.D. of Audiology in Neurogenetics, 3.7 out of 4 with Excellent Estimation.
- 2005-2009 Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) – BSc of Speech and Hearing, second in the class, GPA of 88.5 % with Excellent Estimation.

## *Training and Working Experience*

- Working as Associate Professor at the College of Medical Rehabilitation Sciences, Taibah University, August 2024 till now
- Working as Associate Professor in the Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences at Jordan University of Science and Technology, September 2021 till now
- Working as Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences at Jordan University of Science and Technology, September 2016- September 2021
- Working as a Project Leader on “Hear Jordan” Project funded by the Swiss foundation, Hear the World, 2020 till now
- Completed an Advanced ABR Course and Hearing Training, Zurich, Switzerland, 2025.
- Participating in Auditory Verbal Therapy Workshop, 2022
- Organizing Cochlear Implant Workshop for Hearing and Speech students in Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2022

- *Organizing Fine-tuning for hearing aids Workshop for Hearing and Speech students in Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2022*
- *Organizing Real Ear Measurement Workshop for Hearing and Speech students at Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2021*
- *Participating in Raising Students' Engagement in Remote Learning, January 2021.*
- *Participating in Basics of Distance Education Workshop, August 2020.*
- *Organizing Sign Language Workshop for Hearing and Speech students at Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2019.*
- *Organizing Assessment and Management of Vestibular and Hearing Workshop for Hearing and Speech students at Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2019.*
- *Working as a supervisor in the Cooperative Group of Medical Professional's Magazine at Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2018 till now.*
- *Participating in the Teaching and Learning Techniques Workshop held at Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2017*
- *New animal user training August 8th, 2014.*
- *Animal biosafety training August 8th, 2014.*
- *Cell Counting training September 10th, 2014.*
- *Conducting immunohistochemistry Experiments, December 2014.*
- *Running Auditory Electrophysiological measurements on mice, December 2014.*
- *Training on acoustic trauma experiment, December 2014.*
- *Training on using Florence microscope for research purposes, February 2015.*
- *Have a specialist audiology certificate from the Jordan Ministry of Health.*
- *Working as a Reviewer in PLOS ONE Journal.*
- *Working as a volunteer with Dr. Marcello Peppi in Auditory Physiology Lab at University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC), 2013-2016.*

- *Working as a teacher assistant with Dr. John Ferraro in the Auditory Evoked Potential class offered by KUMC, September- December 2014.*
- *Working as a research and Teaching Assistant in the Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences at Jordan University of Science and Technology, August-December 2011.*
- *Working as an audiology and speech pathology technician in the speech and hearing clinic at Jordan University of Science and Technology, September 2009.*

## ***Teaching Courses***

- *Acoustics (Lab)*
- *Acoustics*
- *Anatomy and Physiology of Hearing*
- *Audiological Evaluation 1 Practical*
- *Clinical Practicum / Audiology(4)*
- *Clinical Practicum Audiology(4)*
- *Clinical Practicum Audiology 1*
- *Clinical Practicum Audiology 2*
- *Clinical Practicum Audiology 4*
- *Research Project*
- *Diseases of Ear, Nose and Throat*
- *Introduction to Audiology and Speech Pathology*
- *Pediatric Audiology*
- *Pediatric Audiology (Lab)*
- *Pediatric Audiology Practical*

## ***Thesis Title***

*“Methionine Sulfoxide Reductase A (MsrA) knockout mice show early progressive hearing loss and exacerbated damage from acoustic trauma,” presented at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO) 38th Annual Midwinter Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland.*

## ***Doctoral Dissertation Title***

*“A Methionine sulfoxide reductase A provides age-dependent protection from early onset hearing loss in the mouse cochlea: anatomical study.”*

## ***Research Interests***

- *Identification of the roles of genes on audiology and vestibular functions, such as antioxidative genes and Tetratricopeptide Repeat Domain genes, using the mouse model.*
- *Investigation of the impact of noise exposure on the vestibular system.*
- *Adoption of Arabic versions for standard audiological scales and questionnaires.*
- *Improving the life quality of hearing aid and cochlear implant users*

## ***Master Students***

- *Working as a co-supervisor on Amany Alaredah, M.S in Rehabilitation Sciences, 2018*
- *Working as the main supervisor on Haneen Alwaqfi, M.S in Biology, 2019*
- *Working as a co-supervisor on Duaa Matter, M.S in Medical Laboratory, 2021*
- *Working as the main supervisor on Israa Afdar, M.S in Audiology with teaching collaboration with the School of Advanced Education, Research and Accreditation (SAERA), 2021*

## ***Membership and Awards***

- *Consultant in Audiology and Balance from the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties, December 2024.*
- *Member of the Advisory Committee for the Audiology and Balance Program at Princess Nourah University, Saudi Arabia, November 2024-2026.*
- *Working as a member of the Study Plan Committee for Speech and Hearing at the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education, 2024.*
- *Working as chairman of the Accreditation Committee of the Master of Audiology Program at the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education, 2023.*
- *The Distinguished Teacher Award Recipient at the college level, 2022.*
- *The second-place Recipient in the Distinguished Teacher Award competition at the university level, 2022.*
- *A member of the Jordanian Rehabilitation Platform, 2021*
- *A member of the American Institute of Balance, 2017-2021.*
- *A member of the Community Committee of the Rehabilitation Department at Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2020-2021.*
- *A member of the Scientific Committee of the Rehabilitation Department at Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2020-2021.*
- *A member of the Curriculum Planning Committee of the Rehabilitation Department at Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2020-2021.*
- *A member of the Community Committee at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences in Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2020-2021.*
- *A member of the Media Committee at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences in Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2020-2021.*

- *A member of the Research Committee for evaluating a project presented by Dr. Hussein Al-Qassem entitled “The importance of pre-cochlear implant audiological assessments in children aged between one and three years old” at Zarqa University, 2020.*
- *A member of the Community Committee at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences in Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2019-2020.*
- *A member of the Media Committee at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences in Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2019-2020.*
- *A member of the Community Committee of the Rehabilitation Department in Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2019-2020.*
- *A member of the Curriculum Planning Committee of the Rehabilitation Department at Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2019-2020.*
- *A member of the Scientific Committee at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences in Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2018-2019.*
- *A member of the Media Committee at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences in Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2018-2019.*
- *A member of the Curriculum Planning Committee of the Rehabilitation Department at Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2018-2019.*
- *Receiving an Appreciation Award for Supervising the Student Team Winning First Rank in the First Olympiad for Creativity in the Health Field, organized by the Center for Excellence and Creativity at the Jordan University of Science, Irbid, Jordan, 2018.*
- *A member of the Community Committee of the Rehabilitation Department in Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2017-2018.*
- *Attending the Vestibular Assessment & Management Certification held at the American Institution of Balance, Florida, U.S. (2017).*

- *A member of the ISO accreditation project at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences in Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2016-2017.*
- *Attending the 2nd Conference of Jordanian Universities in Rehabilitation Sciences at Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid, Jordan (2016).*
- *Attending the 2nd International Paramedic Conference “Middle East Mitigation” Held at Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid, Jordan (2016).*
- *Student Governing Council Travel Award from University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) February 2016.*
- *Student Research Travel Award for ASHA Convention, August 2016.*
- *Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund from the University of Kansas (KU), February 2015.*
- *A member of the American Auditory Society, 2014-2015.*

## ***Scientific Publications and Conferences***

- Alqudah, S., ALHarbi, M. F., & Alenzi, H. M. (2025). *Psychometric evaluation of the Arabic version of the Teachers’ Evaluation of Aural and Oral Performance of Children questionnaire in quiet and noisy educational settings. International Journal of Educational Research Open*, 9, 100532. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedro.2025.100532>
- Alqudah, S., Al-rashed, L., & Mansi, L. (2025). *The relationship between auditory processing disorder and articulation disorders. PLOS ONE*, 20(10), e0333016. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0333016>
- Alqudah, S., Shatarah, A., Milhem, A., ALHarbi, M. F., Alenzi, H. M., Zuriekat, M., Rababah, R., Alazzam, S., Alhawamdh, E., & Saleem, I. (2025). *Cross-cultural adaptation, reliability, and validity of the Arabic version of the Speech, Spatial, and Qualities of Hearing Scale. Clinical Rehabilitation*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02692155251361913>

- lenzi, H. M., Alsagri, R. A., Alfakhri, M., Alqudah, S., Zuriekat, M., Alshareef, M., & Alkhamees, A. H. (2025). Association between glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) levels and hearing threshold elevation in Saudi adults with type 2 diabetes: A cross-sectional study. *Diabetes Epidemiology & Management*, 19, 100281.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dem.2025.10028>
- Alwaqfi, H., Alqudah, S., Mahasneh, A. A., & Zuriekat, M. (2025). Genetic association between methionine sulfoxide reductase B1 polymorphisms and risk of noise-induced hearing loss. *Electronic Journal of General Medicine*, 22(6), em691.  
<https://doi.org/10.29333/ejgm/17048>
- Zuriekat, M., Qarmout, S., Alsous, M., Nanah, A., Al-Halasa, F., Alqudah, S., & Alhanbali, S. (2024). Hearing loss in Jordan: an overlooked public health challenge: Hearing loss and hearing healthcare in Jordan. *Jordan Medical Journal*, 58(3).
- Alqudah, S., Zuriekat, M., Hassan, S., Mahafdeh, H., Alqudah, Z., Shatarah, A., & Smadi, G. (2024). The prevalence and patterns of hearing loss in Jordan: A cross-sectional study. *Plos one*, 19(8), e0304125.
- Zuriekat, M., Alfuhaha, O. A., Alqudah, S., Uchiyama, A., Alfar, M., Masadeh, N., ... & Almuaili, A. (2024). Exploring Attitudes Towards Hearing Aid Use Among Middle-Aged Adults with Hearing Loss: A Quantitative and Validation Study. *The Journal of Laryngology & Otology*, 1-27.
- Al-Shdifat, K. G., Tha'er, T., Quran, M. A., Alqudah, S. M., & Alhanada, M. R. (2024). Comparison between two phonological awareness tasks in Arabic. *Ampersand*, 12, 100177.
- Alqudah, S., Zuriekat, M., & Shatarah, A. (2024). Impact of hearing impairment on the mental status of the adults and older adults in Jordanian society. *Plos one*, 19(3), e0298616.
- Zuriekat, M., Alqudah, S., Semeraro, H., Watson, V., Rowan, D., Kirby, S., & Ferguson, M. (2023). The audiological rehabilitation of workers with hearing loss in the UK: a qualitative study of workers' perspectives. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 1-15.
- Alqudah, S., Alqudah, A., Zaitoun, M., & Alqassem, H. (2023). Parental knowledge and



attitudes towards hereditary hearing loss and genetic technology. *Electronic Journal of General Medicine*, 20(6).

- Abuhammad, S., Khabour, O. F., Alzoubi, K. H., Hamaideh, S., Khassawneh, B. Y., Alsmadi, B. F., ... & Alqudah, S. (2023). *Mental health of COVID-19 recovered individuals: A national study from Jordan. Electron J Gen Med.* 2023; 20 (2): em451.
- Zaitoun, M., Alqudah, S., & Nuseir, A. (2022). *Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice of Hearing Loss Among Physicians in Jordan. American Journal of Audiology*, 31(2), 370-379.
- Alqudah, S., Zaitoun, M., & Alqudah, S. (2021). *Invoking the influence of emotion in central auditory processing improves the treatment of speech impairments. Saudi Medical Journal*, 42(12), 1325-1333.
- Alqudah, O., Alqudah, S., Al-Bashaireh, A. M., Alharbi, N., & Alqudah, A. M. (2021). *Knowledge, attitude, and management of hearing screening in children among family physicians in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. PloS one*, 16(8), e0256647.
- Zaitoun, M., Alqudah, S., & Al Mohammad, H. (2021). *Audiology practice during COVID-19 crisis in Jordan and Arab countries. International Journal of Audiology*, 1-8.
- Almomani, F., Al-Momani, M. O., Garadat, S., Alqudah, S., Kassab, M., Hamadneh, S., ... & Gans, R. (2021). *Cognitive functioning in Deaf children using Cochlear implants. BMC pediatrics*, 21(1), 1-13.
- Alotibi, M., Alqudah, O., & Alqudah, S. (2021). *Knowledge and attitudes of family physicians towards coronavirus disease 2019 infection burden: A cross-sectional study.*
- Alqudah, S., Zaitoun, M., Alqudah, O., Alqudah, S., & Alqudah, Z. (2021). *Challenges facing users of hearing aids during the COVID-19 pandemic. International Journal of Audiology*, 1-7.
- Alqudah, S., Zaitoun, M., Almomani, F., Alshdifat, K., & Alhanada, M. (2020).

*Adaptation of the Arabic versions of the Hearing Handicap Inventory for adults and elderly with permanent sensorineural hearing loss. International Journal of Audiology, 59(11), 818-822.*

- Zaitoun, M., Rawashdeh, M., AlQudah, S., Nuseir, A., & Al-tamimi, F. (2020). *Knowledge and Practice of Hearing Screening and Hearing Loss Management among Ear, Nose, and Throat Physicians in Jordan. International Archives of Otorhinolaryngology.*
- Alqudah, S. (2019). *The effect of noise exposure on the vestibular systems of dental technicians. Noise and Health, 21(103), 223.*
- Alqudah, S., Chertoff, M., Durham, D., Moskovtiz, J., Staecker, H., & Peppi, M. (2018). *Methionine Sulfoxide Reductase A Knockout Mice Show Progressive Hearing Loss and Sensitivity to Acoustic Trauma. Audiology and Neurotology.*
- Alqudah, S. (2016). *Methionine sulfoxide reductase A provides age dependent protection from early onset hearing loss in the mouse cochlea: anatomical study. Doctoral Dissertation, Intercampus program of communicative disorders, the University of Kansas (directed by John. A. Ferraro, Ph.D.). DOI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1808/24155>.*
- Alqudah, S., Moskovtiz, J., & Peppi, M. (2016). *Methionine Sulfoxide Reductase A (MsrA) Knockout Mice Show Abnormal Expression of MsrB1, MsrB3, and Loss of Spiral Ganglion Neurons. Poster presented at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO) 39th Annual Midwinter Meeting, San Diego, California.*
- Alqudah, S., Chertoff, M., Durham, D., Moskovtiz, J., Staecker, H., & Peppi, M. (2015). *Methionine Sulfoxide Reductase A (MsrA) knockout mice show early progressive hearing loss and exacerbated damage from acoustic trauma. Poster presented at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO) 38th Annual Midwinter Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland.*
- *Participating in the 4th Medina International Conference for Medical Rehabilitation Updates, Saudi Arabia, September 2024.*
- *Participating in the Annual Conference of the British Academy of Audiology in Liverpool, United Kingdom, November 2018.*

## Grants

- Receiving a grant from the “Hear The World” Foundation. (Names of the projects are “Hear Jordan 1, 2, and 3”) (Active). **Amount: 2,204,283.31 \$.**
- Receiving a grant from the Deanship of Research at Jordan University and Technology. (Name of the project is “The Role of *TTc21b* gene for the Inner and External Ear Development”, Grant # 20180316) (closed). **Amount: 30128.73\$.**
- Receiving a grant from the Deanship of Research at Jordan University and Technology. (Name of the project is “Prevalence and Pattern of Hearing Loss in Jordan”, Grant # 20190016) (closed). **Amount: 11620.74\$.**
- Receiving a grant from the Deanship of Research at Jordan University and Technology. (Name of the project is “Genetic Association Between *MsrB1* Polymorphisms and Risk of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss”, Grant # 20220496) (Active). **Amount: 9,148.21\$.**
- Receiving a grant from the Deanship of Research at Jordan University and Technology. (Name of the project is “The Auditory and Vestibular Phenotypes Associated with Chediak Higashi Syndrome”, Grant # 20220428) (closed). **Amount: 985.95\$.**
- Receiving a grant from the Deanship of Research in Jordan University and Technology. (Name of the project is “The Impact of Hearing Impairment on the Mental Status of the Elderly and Adults in Jordanian Society.”, Grant # 20220262) (Active). **Amount: 11,315.33\$.**
- Receiving a grant from the Deanship of Research in Jordan University and Technology. (Name of the project is “Placement of an Acoustic Isolation Booth in the Hearing and Speech Clinic at Jordan University of Science and Technology”, Grant # 20230016) (closed). **Amount: 13,465.26\$.**
- Receiving a grant from the Deanship of Research in Jordan University and Technology. (Name of the project is “The Relationship Between Central Auditory Processing and Articulation Disorders”, Grant # 20230618) (Active). **Amount: 7,746.75\$.**

## Community Service

- *Participating in a volunteer day for auditory screening at Dar Shatha Al-Ikhaa School, Saudi Arabia, October 2024.*
- *Organizing a volunteering campaign with multiple disciplines to increase the knowledge about Diabetes mellitus at Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, Jordan (2017).*
- *Organizing a volunteering campaign for hearing awareness and screening at the Irbid Model Schools in Irbid, Jordan (2017).*
- *Involving in the organization of a volunteering campaign for medical health at Jarash in Jordan, which was held by the Faculty of Medical Sciences/ Jordan University of Science and Technology (2018).*
- *Organizing a volunteering campaign for hearing awareness and screening at the campus of the International Al-Qimma Schools in Irbid, Jordan (2018).*
- *Organizing the first volunteering campaign for hearing awareness and screening at the Aljabarna Refugee Camp in Jarash, Jordan (2018).*
- *Organizing a volunteering campaign for hearing awareness and screening for students at Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, Jordan (2018).*
- *Organizing a volunteering campaign for hearing awareness and screening at the Sabeel Institute in Amman, Jordan (2018).*
- *Organizing a volunteering campaign for hearing awareness and screening at the Huwwara Charity Organization in Irbid, Jordan (2018)*
- *Organizing a volunteering campaign to increase awareness about age-related hearing loss and screening the hearing of elderlies at the Irbid Charity Organization for elderlies in Irbid, Jordan (2018).*
- *Organizing the second volunteering campaign for hearing awareness and screening at the Aljabarna Refugee Camp in Jarash, Jordan (2019).*

- *Organizing a volunteering campaign for hearing awareness and screening at the Baqa'a Refugee Camp in Amman, Jordan (2020).*
- *Organizing a volunteering campaign for hearing awareness and screening at the Kingdom Creators Academy in Amman, Jordan (2020).*
- *Organizing two volunteering campaigns for hearing awareness and screening in the Ajloun governorate, 2021*

- *Organizing three volunteering campaigns for infant hearing screening at the governmental Ramtha Hospital, 2021*
- *Organizing three volunteering campaigns for hearing prevention in the Irbid governorate, 2022*

### ***Key Project: Hear Jordan***

*“Hear Jordan” is an international project funded by Hear the World Foundation and led by Dr. Safa Alqudah, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The project aims to achieve the following goals:*

- *Better access to audiological services for newborns and children in Jordan*
- *Higher awareness within the Jordan population about language and hearing problems.*
- *Improved access to advanced/scientific education in Audiology.*

*The length of the project is two years (2020/21 and 2021/22) with the following means:*

- *Financial donation in **the amount of approx. 63’374.73\$***
- *400 hearing aids in **the amount of approx. 561’177.88\$***
- *Audiological diagnostic equipment in **the amount of approx. 57’514.18\$***

### ***Key Project: Hear Jordan 2***

*“Hear Jordan 2” is an international project funded by Hear the World Foundation as a continuum work for a previous project called “Hear Jordan.” It is led by Dr. Safa Alqudah, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The project aims to achieve the following goals:*

- *Improved access to hearing assessment and intervention services for infants and children.*
- *Increased awareness about hearing and language issues among the Jordanian population*
- *Great access to high-quality educational training in Audiology*
- *Improved listening environments for children with hearing technology inside classrooms by using roger systems*
- *Developed technology tools for families, teachers, parents, and speech and language therapists working with hearing-impaired children to get better outcomes from auditory verbal therapy.*

*The length of this project is two years (2022/23 and 2023/24) with the following means:*

- *Financial donation in **the amount of approx. 117,485.35\$***
- *200 hearing aids, four cochlear implants, and 102 roger systems in **the amount of approx. 563,424.6\$***
- *Audiological diagnostic equipment in **the amount of approx. 19,873.80\$***

### **Key Project: Hear Jordan 3**

*“Hear Jordan 3” is an international project funded by Hear the World Foundation as a continuum work for a previous series of projects. It is led by Dr. Safa Alqudah, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The project aims to achieve the following goals:*

- *Evaluate the quality of hearing screening in Jordanian Schools.*
- *Distribute the electronic tool for Arabic auditory verbal therapy among families, professionals, and teachers.*
- *Great access to high-quality educational training in Audiology*
- *Improved listening environments for children with hearing technology inside classrooms by using roger systems.*
- *Designing preventative programs for at-risk individuals and groups to reduce the hearing loss rate in Jordan.*

*The length of this project is two years (2024/25 and 2025/26) with the following means:*

- *Financial donation in **the amount of approx. 63,310.86\$***
- *570 hearing aids, four cochlear implants, and 140 roger systems in **the amount of approx. 737,274.67\$***
- *Audiological equipment in **the amount of approx. 20,841.24\$***

## **References**

- 1) Prof. Wa'il Tyfour, Ph.D., CEO at Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan, [wrtfou@just.edu.jo](mailto:wrtfou@just.edu.jo)
- 2) Prof. Nihaya Al sheyab, Ph.D., Dean of Applied Medical Sciences at Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan, [nasheyab@just.edu.jo](mailto:nasheyab@just.edu.jo)



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- 4) *Dr. Joelle Pianzola, PhD, Director of Hear The World Foundation, Switzerland, [joelle.pianzola@sonova.com](mailto:joelle.pianzola@sonova.com)*