



**SPEECH THERAPISTS & AUDIOLOGISTS
ASSOCIATION OF GHANA
(STAAG)**

PRESENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AND

**≡ SCIENTIFIC ≡
CONFERENCE**

THEME

**STAAG AS A PROFESSIONAL
BODY: THE WAY FORWARD**

CPD Accredited

TIME: 8AM - 4:30PM | EACH DAY

**Army Officers MESS
(OPPOSITE 37 MILITARY HOSPITAL)
Accra**

**15TH - 16TH
AUGUST
2024**



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**SPEECH THERAPISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS'
ASSOCIATION OF GHANA (STAAG)
2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND
1ST SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE**



THEME

STAAG AS A PROFESSIONAL BODY: THE WAY FORWARD

THURSDAY, 15TH TO FRIDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2024

**ADDO HOUSE - ARMY OFFICERS MESS
OPPOSITE 37 MILITARY HOSPITAL, ACCRA**

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Appreciation

BRIEF HISTORY OF STAAG

The Speech Therapists and Audiologists Association of Ghana, commonly abbreviated as STAAG, was founded in 2015 after a series of discussions which finally gave way to a major meeting leading to the declaration of the formation of STAAG in August of the same year. STAAG was eventually registered with the Office of the Registrar of Companies at the Registrar General Department as an Association under the Companies Act 193 (Act 179) on 20th June 2017. This impressive achievement was made possible by the collective efforts of 12 dedicated individuals who came together to establish this association. Notable among them were Prof. Geoffrey Kwabla Amedofu, Dr. Neal Boafo, Prof. Yaw Nyadu Offei, Jemima Fynn, Clement Amponsah, Josephine Ohenewa Bampoe, and Nana Akua Victoria Owusu. Graduates from the first three cohorts of the University of Ghana's MSc Audiology programme were also instrumental in this achievement.

To guide the association's growth, a leadership team was formed, comprising nominated members who would oversee its affairs. The following distinguished individuals assumed roles as interim executives:

Dr. Neal Boafo	- President
Ms. Josephine Ohenewa Bampoe	- Vice President
Mrs. Jemimah A. Fynn	- General Secretary
Mr. Ronald Nkansah-Adjekum	- Dep. General Secretary
Mr. Clement Amponsah	- Organising Secretary
Mrs. Elsie Otuo-Acheampong	- Financial Secretary
Ms. Nana Akua Victoria Owusu	- Public Relations Officer

In 2018, Major Emmanuel Deladem Nkornoo was chosen to take over as Deputy General Secretary, succeeding Mr. Ronald Nkansah-Adjekum who had stepped down to pursue further education overseas. The current framework of STAAG is largely attributed to the tireless efforts of the interim executives. While progress may seem effortless from the outside, the reality is that establishing a professional association is a challenging task, often hindered by systems that inadvertently undermine their survival. Despite encountering obstacles, the team achieved some successes, implemented various initiatives, and secured approvals, although some entities posed significant challenges. Nevertheless, we remain optimistic, believing that our perseverance will ultimately lead to a brighter future.

In October 2022, STAAG held elections and a substantive executive team was voted in. The official handing over ceremony took place on 23rd December 2022 at the Addo-House, Army Officers, opposite 37 Military Hospital. The first substantive executives were;

Maj. Emmanuel Deladem Nkornoo	- President
Mr. Clement Amponsah	- Vice President
Ms. Eunice Appea-Korang	- General Secretary
Mrs Catherine Hammond	- Dep General Secretary
Lt Cdr Michael Tetteh Donkor	- Organising Secretary
Mrs Deborah Lamptey	- Financial Secretary



Upon assumption of office on 23rd December 2022, the new executives continued from where the interim executives left off. A new membership register was compiled, which led to increased membership. The constitution, initiated by the previous regime, was voted on and adopted as the National Association's guiding document. In March 2023, STAAG hosted a symposium to mark World Hearing Day, attended by various sister professional associations and bodies, including the Ghana Federation of Allied Health Professionals, Paediatric Society of Ghana, E.N.T Nurses Group, and a representative from the World Health Organisation.

One of the previous administration's dreams was to create an official website for the National Association. This became a reality in September 2023, with the launch of the website, attended by STAAG members from within and outside Ghana, as well as Professor Ayo Osisanya representing the Speech Pathologists and Audiologists Association of Nigeria (SPAAN). The website has provided a platform to connect with the outside world and showcase the Association's activities.

In November 2023, STAAG held its Maiden Key Stakeholders and Pioneers Conference at the University of Ghana, Legon, to discuss prevailing issues and chart a way forward. The conference strengthened the executives' position on becoming a professional body. Representatives from the 3 institutions with training programmes in Audiology and Speech and Language Therapy (UG, KNUST and UHAS) were also in attendance. The conference agenda covered key issues such as:

- Pursuing professional body status
- Standardising the training programmes for Audiologists and Speech and Language Therapists,
- Defining a clear scope of practice
- Addressing other relevant matters

The Maiden Conference solidified the executives' stance on becoming a professional body, highlighting the need for legal recognition beyond being a group of like-minded professionals.

Our advocacy for professional body status gained support from memos by the Allied Health Professions Council and the Ghana Federation of Allied Health Professions President.

To pave the way for this transition, STAAG changed its name to the Ghana Society of Audiologists Speech and Language Therapists on January 19, 2024, freeing the STAAG name for future use as a professional body. This dream became a reality on March 12, 2024, when STAAG attained professional body status under the Professional Bodies Decree, NCRD 143 of 1973, joining the elite group of professional bodies in Ghana's health sector.

A total of 83 members, consisting of 53 Audiologists and 30 Speech and Language Therapists, were officially registered with the Office of the Registrar of Companies. Additionally, we are proud to be an international affiliate of the prestigious International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders (IALP).

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Major Emmanuel
Deladem Nkornoo
President



Clement Amponsah
Vice President



Eunice Appea-Korang
General Secretary



Catherine Hammond
**Assistant General
Secretary**



Mrs. Deborah Lamptey
Financial Secretary



Lt. Cdr.
Michael Tetteh Donkor
Organising Secretary

AGM PLANNING COMMITTEE



Lt. Cdr.
Michael Tetteh Donkor
**AGM Planning
Committee Chairman**



Mr. Francis Kwame Aklika
**Interim Committee
Chairman**



Mr. Solomon Dong-Yiri
Committee Member



Mr. Benjamin Arthur
Committee Member



Ms. Grace Solomon
Committee Member



Eunice Appea-Korang
Executive Secretary



Mrs. Deborah Lamptey
**Executive Financial
Secretary**



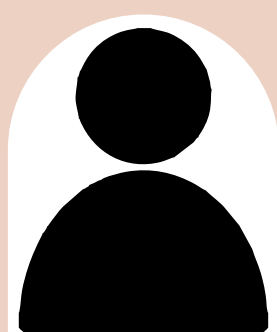
Ms. Elizabeth
Kekeli Ahiabu
Committee Member



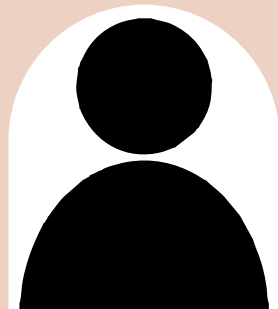
Mr. Bismarck Adu-Twum
Committee Member



Miss. Keren Priscilla Tetteh
Committee Member



Mr. Kwadwo Ofusu Antwi
Committee Member



Mr. Kester Akoto
Committee Member



PROFILE OF THE GUEST OF HONOUR

**ALHAJI
HAFIZ ADAM**



Alhaji Hafiz Adam is currently the Chief Director at the Ministry of Health, where he oversees nine directorates. He is also the Ministry's coordinator and acts as the Chief Advisor to the sector minister. He was appointed Chief Director of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in March 2021. He also served as secretary to the Ministry of Youth and Sports' Ministerial Advisory Board and a member of the Ministerial Advisory Board of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations. He is the Chairman of the International Games Committee.

Alhaji Hafiz Adam was appointed Chief Director of the Civil Service of Ghana in February 2019 and posted to the Ministry of Business Development in April 2019. There, he provided leadership and direction for implementing the Ministry's initiatives, which yielded significant results. He was also instrumental in bringing to life the Entrepreneurship Policy, which will deepen Ghana's entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Alhaji Hafiz Adam's journey in the Public Service began in November 1992. Starting as an Assistant Director in the Administrative Class, he steadily climbed the ranks through hard work and dedication, reaching the position of Director of Administration in 2010. His career is a testament to his enthusiasm, optimism, and energy as a public servant, with several years of experience in Public Administration.

From 2004 to 2018, he worked as a Coordinating Director in various Districts. He provided effective and efficient strategic leadership for the District Assemblies. He coordinated the activities, plans, and programmes of all decentralized and non-decentralized Departments of the Districts to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure harmony in implementing Government policies. He also served as the Secretary to the District Assemblies and Executive Committees of the various Assemblies.

Alhaji Adam's academic journey reflects his commitment to his profession. He holds an impressive array of qualifications, including an MA in Conflict, Peace and Security, an MA in Public Sector Management, a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration, a Postgraduate Certificate in Public Administration, a Bachelor of Education, and a Diploma in Economics.

He has participated in many international and local training programmes from institutions such as the MasterMinds Business School, London, UK, The Harvard University Division of Continuing Education, Boston, USA, The Anderson Executive Development Centre, Dubai, UAE, the Inter-Africa Consulting, London, UK and the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Accra to enhance his capacity in the Strategic Management of the Public Sector.

Alhaji Hafiz Adam's career objective is clear and ambitious. He aims to carve a distinctive path in public administration and thrive in a challenging and learning environment. His goal is to enhance the capacity of employees, equipping them with the necessary skills, competencies, and behaviours to realize their full potential and contribute effectively to achieving planned objectives.



PROFILE OF THE GUEST SPEAKER

**CONSULTANT MLS
EVANGELIST DR.
JACOB AKUETTEH
ARMAH**



Evangelist Dr. Jacob Akuetteh Armah is an Evangelist of the Anglican Church of Ghana. He is a trained biomedical scientist who has risen to the pinnacle of his professional career, earning him the consultant rank. He is a Consultant Medical Laboratory Scientist and serves as the Head of the Laboratory of The Trust Hospital Company Limited.

His leadership qualities propelled him to many leadership appointments such as being the Past General Secretary of the Ghana Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (GAMLS) and the Founding General Secretary of the Ghana Federation of Allied Health Professions (GFAHP). Others include a current Member Secretary of the Council of Elders of Ghana Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (GAMLS), a Foundation Fellow of the West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science (WAPCMLS), Foundation Registrar of WAPCML-Ghana Chapter and the Current Treasurer of WAPCMLS.

Evangelist Dr. Jacob Akuetteh Armah was born on Easter Sunday, 18 April 1965. He resides in his beautiful house in the UN city of Kasoa in the Central Region. The man of God, who doubles as a clinical scientist is happily married to his wife, and together, they are blessed with three children and a beautiful granddaughter.



**PROFILE OF DIRECTOR
ALLIED HEALTH,
MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**DR. IGNATIUS
ABOWINI NCHOR
AWINIBUNO**



Dr Ignatius Abowini Nchor Awinibuno is the Chief Programme Officer of Allied Health and the first Allied Health Director at the Ministry of Health. He is a part-time Lecturer in Chemical Pathology and also lectures in Management, Leadership, and Ethics at the University of Development Studies.

He is an alumnus of the Ministry of Health, School of Medical Laboratory Technology, Korle Bu, and the University of Ghana, School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences, where he obtained a Certificate and Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Laboratory Science, respectively. While in the above-mentioned institutions as a student, he held several leadership roles such as President of the Medical Laboratory Technology Students and foundation President of the University of Ghana Allied Health Students Association.

Dr Ignatius also holds a Doctor of Medical Laboratory Science from the University of Development Studies and a Master of Philosophy in Chemical Pathology from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. His quest for knowledge led him to pursue a Master of Business Administration in Corporate Governance from the University of Development Studies. At the University of Development Studies. He also enrolled in certificate programmes at the University of Washington, focusing on Leadership and Management, Monitoring and Evaluation in Global Health, and Implementation Science in Health.

His selfless dedication to humanity saw him in several leadership roles during his professional service to his country. These roles include the Immediate Past President of the Ghana Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists, Chairman of the Council of Presidents for the Ghana Federation of Allied Health Professions, and former Board Member of the Medical Laboratory Credit Union, among many others.

With over 23 years of professional practice, Dr. Awinibuno is a Consultant Medical Laboratory Scientist, bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to his role. He is a Foundation Fellow of the West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science (WAPCMLS).

Dr Ignatius is a member of the Health Commodities Group for COVID-19 at the Ministry of Health. He has contributed immensely to negotiating the salaries and conditions of service of health workers and facilitated the establishment of several unions and societies, including MELPWU and Labpreneurs Network among others. One of his passions is leadership development and mentorship. He is the CEO of WLMRCXHealth Laboratory Services & Consult.



**PROFILE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF SPEECH
THERAPISTS
AND AUDIOLOGISTS'
ASSOCIATION OF GHANA**

**MAJOR EMMANUEL
DELADEM NKORNOO**



Major Emmanuel Deladem Nkornoo's professional journey serves as a testament to his remarkable growth and potential. A proud alumnus of Anlo Senior High School in the Volta Region and the University of Cape Coast where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Laboratory Technology, Emmanuel's academic achievements laid the foundation for his success. His time at the University of Cape Coast was marked by notable accomplishments, including his leadership roles such as a student leader of his department and several others.

Major Emmanuel also holds a Master of Science degree in Audiology from the University of Ghana, Legon. His time as a graduate student also saw him in a leadership role in his department. He had his externship at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital Audiology Center and the 37 Military Hospital simultaneously. He has been practicing as an Audiologist and doubled as the head of the Audiology Unit at 37 Military Hospital since 2016, accumulating extensive experience in the field.

He has held various leadership positions, including his current role as the first substantive President of the Speech Therapists and Audiologists Association of Ghana (STAAG). From 2018 through 2022, he held an interim appointment as the deputy general secretary of STAAG. He serves on several committees, namely the World Hearing Day Planning and the Constitution Committee of the Association.

Under Emmanuel's leadership, the Association achieved significant milestones, including overseeing striking successes such as the outdooring of the Constitution, the launch of its website, and the attainment of the Professional Body status. In fact, most of these achievements were made possible through the relentless effort of colleague executives and the strong foundation laid by his predecessors. The list cannot be conclusive without the mentioning of his committed members.

To further enhance his professional skills, Major Emmanuel pursued additional training with the Ida Institute, completing a range of certificate courses. Seeking to deepen his understanding of global health, Major Emmanuel enrolled in certificate programmes at the University of Washington, focusing on Project Management in Global Health, Leadership and Management, Monitoring and Evaluation in Global Health and Fundamentals of Global Health Research.

A proud product of the Ghana Military Academy and the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College. Emmanuel has served as a UN Platoon Commander in Lebanon and a UN Military Observer in Western Sahara, where he was appointed into other leadership roles.

In 2019, Major Emmanuel attended the European Union of Hearing Aid Acousticians (EUHA) conference in Germany, where he engaged with industry experts and expanded his knowledge. Additionally, he completed a series of training sessions in Germany, earning certifications as a Service Level I and II trainer for PATH MEDICAL Equipment.



WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHAIRPERSON OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE 2024 AGM AND 1ST SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF STAAG

President, Current and Past Executives of STAAG, Members, Distinguished Invited Guests, Esteemed Colleagues, Interns and Students, Friends Of STAAG, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Planning Committee, I welcome you all to this Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of the Speech Therapists and Audiologists' Association of Ghana (STAAG). As the Interim Planning Committee Chairman, it is an honor and a privilege to stand before you today as we embark on this significant journey together.

This year's theme, "STAAG as a Professional Body: The Way Forward," is not just a reflection of our past achievements but a clarion call to envision and shape the future of our profession in Ghana. Over the years, STAAG has grown in strength and stature, and today, we find ourselves at a critical juncture – an opportunity to solidify our foundations, embrace new challenges, and propel our profession to greater heights.

Our gathering here today is a testament to our collective commitment to excellence in Speech Therapy and Audiology. It is also a recognition of the essential role that each of you plays in improving the lives of countless individuals across the country. Whether you are a seasoned practitioner, a researcher, an educator, or a student, your contributions are vital to the growth and success of our profession.

This conference is designed to be more than just a meeting of minds; it is an incubator for ideas, a forum for critical discussions, and a catalyst for change. We have carefully curated a programme with a series of thought-provoking presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities. These sessions are intended not only to enhance our professional knowledge but also to inspire us to take bold and innovative steps forward.

As we deliberate on the way forward for STAAG, let us do so with a spirit of collaboration, openness, and mutual respect. Our strength lies in our unity, and it is through our collective efforts that we can achieve the ambitious goals we set for ourselves and our association.

I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our sponsors and every individual who has contributed to the planning and preparation towards this special day. The list cannot be exhaustive without mentioning of the indefatigable teamwork exhibited by my fellow committee members.

In conclusion, I encourage each of you to fully engage with the programme, share your insights, and take advantage of the opportunities this conference offers. Let us also make time to network and connect with each other, as these interactions can lead to meaningful collaborations and friendships that will strengthen our professional community. Let us leave here not only with new knowledge but with a renewed sense of purpose and a clear vision for the future of STAAG.

Once again, welcome to the 2024 Annual General Meeting and 1st Scientific Conference. I look forward to a fruitful and inspiring experience with you all.

**Warmest regards,
Francis Kwame Aklika, Interim Planning Committee Chairman**

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1 (THURSDAY, 15TH AUGUST 2024)

Time	Activity	Responsibility
Thursday Morning (08:00 – 12:35) hrs		
08:00 – 09:00	Arrival and Registration of Members	Planning Comm.
09:00 – 09:15	Members Seated	MC
09:15 – 10:00	Presentation on STAAG Constitution	Mr. Clement Amponsah Vice President
10:00 – 10:05	Sponsors	Planning Comm.
10:05 – 10:20	Tea Break	Ms. Grace Solomon
Opening Ceremony 10:20 – 12:35hrs (Launching of STAAG and Induction of Members)		
10:25 – 10:30	Arrival of Dignitaries	Mrs. Deborah Lamptey
10:30 – 10:32	Opening Prayer	Ps Roger Boakye-Akuffo
10:32 – 10:35	Introduction of Chairperson	Ms. Eunice Appea-Korang General Secretary
10:35 – 10:40	Chairperson's Address	Prof Y. Nyadu Offei
10:40 – 10:50	Fraternal Messages (AHPC, UHAS, UG, KNUST, GFAHP)	MC
10:50 – 11:20	STAAG As a Professional Body: The Way Forward (Professional Perspective)	Evang. Dr. Jacob Akuetteh Armah (Head of Laboratory - Trust Hospital)
11:20 – 11:30	President's Speech	Major E.D Nkornoo STAAG President
11:30 – 11:40	Address from Guest of Honour	Alhaji Hafiz Adam Chief Director, MoH
11:40 – 11:45	Remarks from the Director, Allied Health (MoH)	Dr Ignatius Awinibuno

11:45 – 11:55	<p>Launching of STAAG and Unveiling of Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Logo ➤ Constitution ➤ Code of Ethics ➤ Registration Certificate 	Alhaji Hafiz Adam Chief Director - MoH
11:55 – 12:05	Brief Presentation	
12:05 – 12:10	Chairperson's Closing Remark	Prof. Y. Nyadu Offei
12:10 – 12:15	Vote of Thanks	Ms Catherine Hammond Deputy General Secretary
12:15 – 12:20	Closing Prayer	Ps Franklin Akuamoah
12:20 – 13:20	Lunch	Planning Comm.

Thursday Afternoon (13:20 -16:40) hrs		
13:20 – 13:40	Presentation from Hu'ier Hearing	Dr. Xu Hongyi
13:40 – 14:10	<p>Speech Therapy in Ghana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ History and Current State ❖ Future Direction 	Mr. Clement Amponsah Vice President
14:10- 14:30	Standards of Professional Practice in Contemporary Times: Speech and Language Therapy Perspective	Ms Jane Dawson
14:30 – 14:50	Break	All
14:50 – 15:10	Presentation from Operation Smiles	Mr Henry Quist Country Manager
15:10 – 15:40	<p>Audiology in Ghana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ History and Current State ❖ Future Direction 	Dr. Neal Boafo Immediate Past President
15:40 – 16:20	<p>5-Year Development Blueprint for STAAG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Profession Specific Group Discussion ❖ Profession Specific Group Presentation 	MC
16:20 – 16:40	Interaction and Networking (Meeting with Students and Interns)	All including Executives
16:40	Closing	MC

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES DAY 2 (FRIDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2024)

Time (hrs)	Activity	Responsibility
	Friday Morning (08:00 - 11:25hrs)	
08:00 - 08:30	Registration	Planning Comm.
08:30 - 08:40	Members Seated	MC
	Presentation and Scientific Session (0840 - 1125hrs)	
08:40 - 09:10	Presentation on Code of Ethics	Mr Cyril Mawuli Honu-Mensah (Lecturer - UE)
09:10 - 09:30	Mentorship session 1	MC
09:30 - 09:50	Development of a Ghanaian English Speech and Language Therapy assessment tool. (Questions and Answers)	Ms Josephine O. Bampoe PhD Student School of Allied Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences, Charles Sturt University, Albury, Australia.
09:50 - 10:05	Break	Planning Comm.
10:05 - 10:25	Hepatitis B virus infection and hearing loss: A case-control study. (Questions and Answers)	Mr George K. Danful PhD Student University of Ottawa, Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Rehabilitation Sciences, ON, Canada
10:25 - 10:45	Ear/Headphones as a Risk Factor to the Aural Health of Disk Jockeys and On-air Presenters in Kumasi, Ghana (Questions and Answers)	Ms. Sandra Saah, Audiologist Department of Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat (EENT), Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Ghana
10:45 - 11:05	Standards of Professional Practice in Contemporary Times: Audiology Perspective	Mrs Jemima Fynn
11:05 - 12:20	Lunch Break	

Time	Activity	Responsibility
Friday Afternoon 12:20 – 15:00hrs (General Meeting)		
	Opening Prayer	Ps. Franklin Akuamoah
	Reading of Previous Minutes & Matters Arising	Ms. Eunice Appea-Korang
Agenda Items		
	1. Progress Report	Mr Clement Amponsah
	2. Induction of New Members	MC
	3. Discussion on the Creation of STAAG Chapters and elections	Mrs. Jemima Fynn
	4. Financial Statements	Mrs Deborah Lamptey
	5. Welfare Issues	Ms Catherine Hammond
	6. Open Forum	MC
Closing Ceremony (14:20 – 15:30hrs)		
14:20 – 14:35	Review of Day 1	Ms Bernice Brown
14:35 - 14:50	Review of Day 2	Ps Roger Boakye_Akuffo
14:50 - 15:20	Mentorship Session 2	MC
15:20 - 15:40	Interaction and Networking 2	All
15:40 - 15:50	Closing Remarks ❖ Interim Planning Committee Chairperson ❖ President	Mr Francis Aklika Major E.D Nkornoo
16:00	Closing prayer and Departure	Ps. Williams Ofori-Atta

TEAM OF MCs

Ms. Keren Priscilla Tetteh

Mr. Desmond Lamptey

Mrs. Juliet Eyram Senoo

Ms. Grace Naa Nyarkoa Solomon

DEVELOPMENT OF A GHANAIAN ENGLISH SPEECH AND LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT TOOL

Josephine Ohenewa Bampoe^{1,2}, A/P Sarah Verdon¹, Dr. Karen Wylie^{2,3}, Dr. Laura Hoffman¹

¹ School of Allied Health, Exercise and Sports Sciences, Charles Sturt University, Albury, Australia.

² Department of Audiology, Speech and Language Therapy, School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana.

³ Curtin School of Allied Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia.

ABSTRACT

Background: Speech and language disorders can greatly impact children's academic and social lives during their early school years. Therefore, early detection and intervention are important. Accurately assessing the speech and language skills of multilingual children can be challenging if appropriate assessment tools are not used. Speech-language therapists in Ghana lack culturally appropriate assessment tools to accurately identify speech and language disorders in children.

Objective: The objective of this study was to develop a culturally appropriate assessment tool to identify speech and language disorders in Ghanaian English-speaking children.

Methods: An exploratory mixed-method design was employed to develop the tool in three phases: (1) Developing a speech and language assessment tool; (2) Piloting the tool; (3) Collecting data from 100 children to standardise the tool.

A qualitative approach was used because of the need to get the views of speech and language therapists in the development of a tool that is culturally relevant. A quantitative approach was used because of the need to collect data and standardise the tool. Qualitative data was analysed using content analysis method. Building on the qualitative findings, this study employs descriptive analysis, cluster analysis, item analysis, percentile and z scores to analyse quantitative data.

Results: The first Ghanaian English speech and language assessment tool for children between the ages of 5 and 10 was developed based on qualitative and quantitative data.

Conclusions: This study provided a framework for developing a culturally appropriate assessment tool for multilingual children. It also provided speech and language therapists, children, and their families with a culturally appropriate tool to identify speech and language disorders in Ghana.

Implications (potential impact and application): Clinicians and researchers can draw upon the findings of the study to guide the development of culturally appropriate assessment tools for multilingual children. Additionally, speech and language therapists in Ghana can use the tool to identify and provide intervention for Ghanaian English-speaking children with suspected speech and language disorders.

HEPATITIS B VIRUS INFECTION AND HEARING LOSS: A CASE-CONTROL STUDY

George Kweku Danful¹, Sesi Collins Akotey¹, Joyce Esenam Anomah¹, Ewurama D. Ampadu Owusu^{2,3}, Neal Bofo², George Awuku Asare³

¹University of Ottawa, Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Rehabilitation Sciences, ON, Canada

²University of Ghana, Department of Audiology, Speech & Language Therapy, Accra, Ghana

³University of Ghana, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Accra, Ghana

Corresponding author

George Kweku Danful

Email: georgeraldo2006@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Background: Ghana is considered a highly endemic region for the hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection with a prevalence rate of more than 12%. Studies have reported hearing loss among persons infected with chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) in high-endemic regions. Currently, no such data exists among acute sufferers of the disease in Ghana.

Objective: This study investigated the prevalence of hearing loss among persons with acute HBV infection in Ghana.

Methods: The study recruited 117 participants aged 18 to 40, comprising 57 participants diagnosed with HBV infection at the acute phase with viral load > 2000 IU/mL and 60 uninfected. The participants undertook audiometric evaluation, including tympanometry, pure tone audiometry, and a Transient otoacoustic emission test. A hearing threshold average > 25 dB HL at three octaves (500, 1000, and 2000 Hz) was considered a hearing loss. Data were statistically analyzed using a t-test.

Results: Mild sensorineural hearing loss was recorded in both ears among the case group at 4000 Hz and 8000 Hz. According to the total number of ears (114) assessed among participants with acute HBV infection, the prevalence of hearing loss was 74.6% (85 ears).

Conclusion and Recommendation: This study established that persons with acute HBV infection are at an increased risk of sensorineural hearing loss, particularly at high frequencies. Based on the findings, we recommend that audiometric assessment be included in the routine tests for patients infected with HBV.

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