FACULTY

Mary O’Gara, MA, CCC-SLP, is a nationally known lecturer and instructor, and director of the cleft lip and palate and plastic surgery services at Shriners Hospitals for Children, Chicago. O’Gara is also an associate professor at Northwestern University Medical School Department of Plastic Surgery. She serves as a graduate instructor in the Northwestern University Speech Language Pathology master’s program, teaching about craniofacial anomalies, including cleft palate. O’Gara is the off-campus supervisor for clinicians in the NU Speech and Language master’s program. She is an ASHA member and a member of the American Cleft Palate–Craniofacial Association, where she has served on various national boards for more than 35 years. O’Gara is a past president of the Illinois Association of Craniofacial Teams and was recognized by the organization for “years of service provided in the state of Illinois to improve the quality of lives of children born with craniofacial differences.” O’Gara is a frequent presenter at national conferences and Chicago-area schools and health organizations. She has conducted and participated in numerous research studies in the care and outcomes of children with cleft and craniofacial conditions. After studying Spanish in her undergraduate work at Loyola University, O’Gara is also certified to teach Spanish and bilingual education.

Financial Disclosures
- Employee of Shriners Hospitals for Children, Chicago
- Faculty teaching position at Northwestern University Communication Sciences and Disorders

Nonfinancial Disclosures
- Member of ASHA and of ACPA (American Cleft Palate–Craniofacial Association)
- Development committee volunteer for ACPA

Sarah M. Richards, MS, CCC-SLP, is a speech-language pathologist with the cleft lip and palate and plastic surgery services at Shriners Hospitals for Children, Chicago. She specializes in helping children with speech and articulation issues who have a history of cleft lip/palate and craniofacial anomalies, using both perceptual and instrumental assessments. In addition, Richards is a co-director of Camp Smile, the Chicago Shriners Hospitals’ week-long intensive speech and social skills camp for patients ages 6–12 with histories of cleft lip/palate and craniofacial anomalies. Richards obtained graduate clinical experience at a number of health care centers in the Chicago area, including the Northwestern University Center for Audiology, Speech, Language, and Learning; Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago Gender & Sex Development Program; and Saint Anthony Hospital, Chicago. She is a past member of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association and has volunteered with Operation Smile. Richards has also previously worked as a speech-language pathologist at Wilmette Public Schools in District 39.
Cleft Palate Speech: What Do I Hear? What Do I Do?

Financial Disclosures
- Employee of Shriners Hospitals for Children, Chicago

Nonfinancial Disclosures
- Member of ACPA (American Cleft Palate–Craniofacial Association)