INTRODUCTION

These three articles describe current issues and advances related to hearing diagnostics, treatment, and prevention. The first article is a detailed description of the impact that COVID-19 face masks and social distancing regulations have had on speech recognition and how face masks affect the acoustic signal and increase cognitive effort in listeners with hearing loss. Suggestions for mitigating these deleterious impacts on communication are provided. The second article is a research study examining the correlation between self-perceived hearing difficulty, determined using a questionnaire (Adult Auditory Performance Scale), and speech-in-noise performance (Listening in Spatialized Noise–Sentences Test) in listeners with normal pure-tone thresholds. Results highlight the relationship between self-perceived hearing abilities and binaural speech-in-noise performance supporting the inclusion of speech-in-noise testing even in those with normal pure-tone thresholds. The third article is a review of current genetic, stem cell, and pharmacotherapy research for treatment and prevention of hearing loss. Animal models are discussed, as well as steps to translate this research into clinical practice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:

- explain the ways in which face masks and social distancing impact the acoustics of a speech signal
- discuss the relationship between self-perceived hearing difficulty and speech-in-noise performance
- describe recent advances in treatment and prevention of hearing loss using gene therapies, stem cell therapies, and pharmacotherapies

CONTENTS

COVID-19, Face Masks, and Social Interaction: How a Global Pandemic Is Shining a Light on the Importance of Face-to-Face Communication by Tina M. Grieco-Calub

The Relationship Between Self-Perceived Hearing Ability and Binaural Speech-in-Noise Performance in Adults With Normal Pure-Tone Hearing by Christina M. Roup, Amy Custer, and Julie Powell

Emerging Therapies and Approaches to Treat and Prevent Hearing Loss by Alaa Koleilat, Colin L. W. Driscoll, Lisa A. Schimmenti, and Gayla L. Poling

PROGRAM HISTORY and IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Start date: October 11, 2021
End date: October 11, 2026
Advances in Hearing Diagnostics, Treatment, & Prevention (SIG 6)

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the learning assessment on or before October 11, 2026.

This course is offered for 0.30 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).