



## Aftermath of the 2002 AMPHL Conference Miamisburg, OH

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The Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses 2002 conference was held in Miamisburg, Ohio, July 20-21. Attendees braved a series of electrical storms covering the northeastern United States to join AMPHL for two days of fellowship and information exchange. AMPHL was proud to note that in only our second conference we became truly international, with participants from New Zealand and Canada!

AMPHL is composed of an incredibly diverse group of individuals who cover a wide spectrum of professions ranging from audiology to veterinary medicine. One of the most difficult tasks during conference planning was selecting a program that would provide something for everyone. (The complete conference program can be found on the 2002 conference page of this website.) The conference kicked off on Saturday morning with a series of technology updates, from the latest stethoscopes (Candie Barrere, D.V.M.) to hit the market to what's new in assistive-listening devices (ALD; Samuel Atcherson, M.Ed., and Becky Morris). Kimberly-Clark representative Corrinne Sukiennik was on hand to provide an update on the ongoing development of clear surgical masks, a project that AMPHL has been involved with for the past several years. Andrey Vyshedskiy, Ph.D. introduced a new visual display module that displays heart and lung sounds of patients when used with a stethoscope. Dan Sheridan, R.Ph., capped off the day with some insight and humor as he detailed his life as a hospital pharmacist.

Sunday's program became more academic, starting off with Martha Smith presenting on the Oregon Health & Science University Health Sciences Faculty Education Project. Martha demonstrated the project's universal application to AMPHL attendees as she discussed a series of strategies developed through the project to facilitate the success of disabled students in health science programs. Basya Veyberman, M.D. and Michelle Nashleanas, Ph.D. continued the education theme by reviewing the challenges faced at different stages of a medical student's career and discussing some of the strategies available to overcome them. For life beyond rotations, Thomas Kavic, M.D. shared his experiences as a practicing radiologist. And, for those pondering what it would be like to be the teacher rather than the student, a panel of academic professionals with hearing loss (Phillip Zazove, M.D., Peter Hauser, Ph.D., and Myron Weinberger, M.D.) shared their stories from the other side of the textbooks.

Following our commitment to total accessibility, AMPHL was proud to provide American Sign Language interpreters, Computer-Aided-Realtime-Translation (CART) and FM systems for all presentations.

This year's conference continued AMPHL's goal of providing hands-on experience with all the equipment one would ever wonder about, but didn't know how to use, including the most comprehensive modified stethoscope display available today. The display, coordinated by Candie Barrere, D.V.M. included everything from lightly amplified stethoscopes to stethoscopes with visual display attachments. Representatives from several stethoscope companies were on hand to demonstrate their models and answer technical questions. ALD specialist, Becky Morris, supplied an incredible

array of ALD devices. She teamed up with audiologist Sam Atcherson to explain what the different devices are for and how to use them effectively.

In between all the presentations and gadgets, AMPHL attendees found time to attend a focus group hosted by Kimberly-Clark to provide input on what medical professionals with hearing loss REALLY want from a clear mask (or at least what we think the "hearries" want - they have to wear 'em too!). They also found time to mob the local TGIF's for some down-time and socialization! After all, what good is a conference without some nightlife?

As AMPHL continues to grow we hope to continue our tradition of being the one place any medical professional with a hearing loss can go and find what they need. We hope that this year's conference attendees came away with new friends and ideas, and that they will encourage everyone to join us next time!

*EDITORIAL NOTE: 2002 AMPHL Conference pictures can be viewed at <http://www.amphl.org/>*