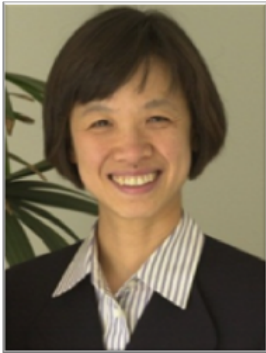




Greg Leigh – Royal Institute of Deaf and Blind Children
Teresa Ching – National Acoustic Laboratories



The changing landscape of language outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing children: The view from 2020.

Developments in a number of related fields over several decades have contributed to vastly improved language development outcomes in children with hearing loss. This co-delivered presentation will consider the historical context for the current situation. It will chronicle the improved language development outcomes associated with a range of significant factors—not least being the advent of Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS) and the increasing accessibility of cochlear implantation at younger ages.

Within the context of this historical review, the presentation will consider the evidence base around earlier identification of hearing loss and earlier access to cochlear implantation. In particular, the presentation will consider data and conclusions from the Longitudinal Outcomes of Children with Hearing Impairment (LOCHI) study. The LOCHI study includes more than 450 deaf and hard of hearing Australian children whose hearing losses were identified variously through newborn hearing screening or later paths to confirmation and intervention. The study provides data for both children with hearing aids and those who have received cochlear implants with outcomes being assessed prospectively at multiple intervals from 6 months to 9 years of age.

Conclusions will be drawn about the current status of language development outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing children and the predictive value of a range of child, family and intervention factors.

Biography – Greg Leigh

Greg Leigh is Director of RIDBC Renwick Centre for Research and Professional Education at the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and conjointly Professor of Special Education and Disability Studies. He began his career in education of the deaf at the Queensland School for the Deaf in Brisbane in 1979. He holds degrees in Special Education from Griffith University; a Master of Science (Speech and Hearing) degree from Washington University (Central Institute for the Deaf) in the USA; and a PhD in Special Education from Monash University. In 2001 he was made a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators and in 2014 he was invested as an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) “for distinguished service to the deaf and hard of hearing community, particularly children, through education, research, public policy development and specialist services”.

Professor Leigh held a variety of positions in the education of deaf children in Queensland before entering academia. He was co-ordinator of the program in education of the deaf at Deakin University from 1987 until taking up the position of Senior Lecturer and foundation Head of RIDBC Renwick Centre in 1993. In 2003 he was International Visiting Scholar at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (Rochester Institute of Technology), New York. As Director of RIDBC Renwick Centre, he is a member of the Senior Leadership Team of the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children.

Professor Leigh is a member of the Editorial Boards of The Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education and Phonetics and Speech Sciences and is a member of the Key Scientists Committee of the Hearing Cooperative Research Centre. He has served on several Australian Government consultative committees including the New South Wales Ministerial Standing Committee on Hearing and the National Neonatal Hearing Screening Working Party. He is currently Chairman of the Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee. He is a former National President of the Education Commission for the World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf and is Chair or Co-Chair of the International Steering Committees of both the Asia-Pacific Congress on Deafness (APCD) and the International Congress on Education of the Deaf (ICED).

Biography – Teresa Ching

Teresa YC Ching, PhD is head of Rehabilitation Procedures research at the National Acoustic Laboratories, Australia. Her current research focuses on investigating efficacy of early intervention for improving outcomes of populations of children with bilateral hearing loss or unilateral hearing loss, identifying factors influencing outcomes, evaluation of sound detection and discrimination in infants with hearing loss or auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder using cortical auditory evoked potential (CAEP) measurements and parental reports, and prescription of hearing aids and electric-acoustic stimulation (bimodal fitting) for children and adults. Teresa has published more than 120 peer-reviewed manuscripts. Key contributions from her original research findings include a validated test of functional performance; evidence-based protocols for bimodal fitting, pediatric referral for cochlear-implant-candidacy, CAEP and functional assessments; and methods for predicting language outcomes of infants with hearing loss. She is regularly invited to deliver keynote presentations at international conferences. She serves on the editorial boards of several international journals.