



The newsletter of the Hearing Loss Association of America, Albuquerque Chapter

WIRED FOR SOUND

Meandering Through the Hearing World

Linda Bolideau, NBA, MFA llindabilodeau19@gmail.com

Advancing Hearing Solutions

After being diagnosed with sensorineural hearing loss, my father, who also had hearing loss, told me to try anything that would help me hear. Though he died in 2004, I still heed his words. I keep tabs on hearing research through internet searches. My audiologist brings new technology to my attention, and we discuss new products often.

There is much going on within the field of Hearing research. Most hearing aid and cochlear implant manufacturers conduct research and have scientists and physicians solely dedicated to finding new hearing solutions. There are corporations and pharmaceutical companies dedicated to curing hearing loss, by bringing new drugs to market.

It takes time, effort, and a great deal of research before new hearing solutions can be released. In the United States, all new technology and drugs must be safe and effective. This is done through FDA approval. Clinical trials aid in the approval process. All have specific protocols and purposes. The testing phase in clinical trials involves single- or double-blind studies. In single-blind studies, researchers know whether or not the participant is given the research drug or a placebo. In double-blind studies, the researchers don't know if study participants are given a placebo or the drug or technology under research.



To be a participant in a clinical trial you must meet specific criteria. Each study outlines those criteria and they are specific to that trial. If you do not meet the criteria of one study, you might be eligible for another. Those chosen to participate in clinical trials are tested and questioned extensively. All participants are told of adverse reactions. Once the trial is finished, the researcher puts data together and tabulates results to see how many people had a positive result.

The benefits experienced from participating in a clinical trial may include a positive improvement in hearing at no cost and helping others. However, there is a chance of a negative reaction or that after receiving a placebo there is no improvement.

A listing of current and past clinical trials can be found on clinicaltrials.gov. There you can search for studies by typing in a main topic, such as "hearing disorders." Another great source is Hearing Loss Association of America. On the HLAA webpage, click on Hearing Help, and then scroll down to Research. The drop-down list brings you to a cornucopia of choices.

I recently heard about the FX322 study, which is for adults with stable sensorineural hearing loss. FX322 is a new drug developed by Frequency Therapeutics, a private upstart with a subdivision dedicated to curing hearing loss. It is hoped that FX322 will regenerate hair cells, thus

WIRED FOR SOUND

is published by the
HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER
Providing support and advocacy for
people with hearing loss

P. O. Box 36792,
Albuquerque, NM 87176
(505)219-1962

HLAAbq@gmail.com

Home page: hearinglossabq.org

Hearing Loss Association of
America – Albuquerque
chapter

Mention of goods or services in articles or
advertisements or meetings does not mean
endorsement by Hearing Loss Association of
America, Albuquerque Chapter, nor does
exclusion suggest disapproval.

ABQ Chapter Board:

President:
vacant

Treasurer: Bobbi Rodríguez
TreasurerHLAAbq@gmail.com

Editor: A. E. "Rod" Rodríguez
EditorHLAAbq@gmail.com

Membership & Web Master: Jim Dillow
catchJimmy@comcast.net

VP Programs: Victoria Rivera
vrivera@unm.edu

Publicity Chair:
vacant

Hospitality Chair: Jim Twohig
JKTwohig@gmail.com

Professional Advisor: Dr. Carol Clifford
CClifford@abqhearing.com

Special Programs: Courtney McBride
Courtney.A.McBride@gmail.com

Past Pres./Advisor: Mary Clark
Mary@mandgclark.com

The Albuquerque HLAA Chapter is
affiliated with the



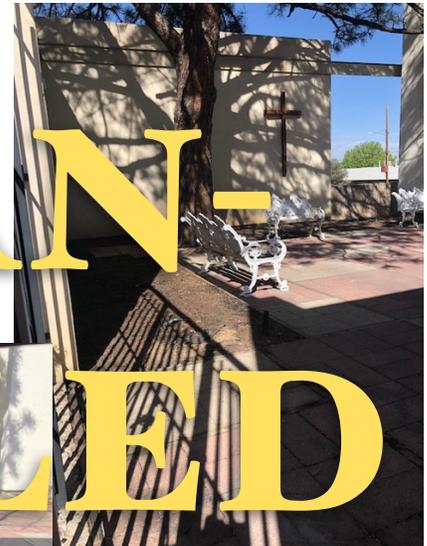
7910 Woodmont Ave, Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
phone: (301)657-2248

~~16 May Meeting~~ 10:00 AM - Noon On Zoom

The May social meeting was cancelled because several members were concerned about upticks in reported COVID numbers.

Social on the patio

The patio will be set up with tables and chairs for visiting, and tables for drinks & food. Please bring something to share. We plan to have a PA system for announcements, and we're working on setting up a loop, as well.



Meetings will resume in September after the summer break.

The next member meeting (17 Sep) is planned to be an informal Zoom "social" to ask members about their summer, challenges they are facing, topics they would like addressed in the future, or just chew the fat with fellow HoH people.

Check our Web Page (HearingLossAbq.org) for updates and the link to join the Zoom meeting.

Always check our Home Page for the latest information on upcoming programs.

The HLAA ABQ Chapter is always looking for volunteers. You can man a special project. You can help us out for a few months, or consider a longer-term commitment. "Try us out" for a month or two. We will provide orientation for working on a nonprofit board, share our chapter's mission and goals, and discuss topics we can use your help with. If interested, contact any board member (contact info at left), or use the chapter email hlaabq@gmail.com.

curing or significantly improving the hearing of those with sensorineural loss. The current study is looking for individuals between 18 and 65 who have developed sudden or noise-induced sensorineural hearing loss. You can apply on their website at clarahealth.com.

Interested in the study, I went online and filled out the initial data form, but I was turned down because I am over 65 and because I did not meet the specific study criteria. However, if you are interested in a study, do apply and keep trying. I did receive feedback from Clara Heath and I am now on their list as a potential participant for future studies.

Smith's Community Rewards Shop at Smith's with their Rewards card, and Smith's will make a donation to HLAA Albuquerque chapter. You get your usual rewards points. **Correction:**

1-800-444-8081, opt. 3 to sign up or re-enroll.

The HLAABq NPO number for Smith's is **NC419**.

From June 23 to June 25, Hearing Loss Association of American will sponsor their national convention in Tampa, Florida. This is another opportunity to learn more about hearing loss research. In fact, there will be a research symposium on Friday morning, June 24. Visit the HLAA website for more information.

As a person with hearing loss, I am willing to participate in a clinical trial. Research and clinical trials pave the way for new hearing options or a cure for hearing loss. I look for the day when I am able to participate in a study and, hopefully, help others meander through the hearing world just a bit easier.

Amazon Smile You can donate to the Albuquerque Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America every time you make a purchase of most of the products from Amazon.

Go to <http://www.hlaabq.com/amazonsmile.html> for more information and detailed instructions on how to designate HLAA-ABQ Chapter as your charity of choice when you make amazon.com purchases.

Once you have set it up, always log into smile.amazon.com to purchase from amazon. 0.5% of the purchase price is automatically donated to HLAA Albuquerque Chapter—at no cost to you.

Loop People, Loop Places

Ginevra Ralph

Describing the Invisible

Can you explain how a hearing loop works? Or what your telecoil does? It's really hard to describe a somewhat magical process that you can't see but that allows you to hear better!!

As advocates for this powerful and empowering tool everyone needs to be able to describe the essential, fundamental components to someone else. Understanding these basics also gives the telecoil user the ability to troubleshoot if a system doesn't seem to be working correctly.

So, at the risk of holding a one-sided conversation, I am sharing an image our Oregon loop group has developed to reduce a loop system's operation to its very basics. (Note: we always use it as an in-person teaching tool.) We have found it especially effective when explaining loops to non-telecoil users in groups like Rotaries, Chambers of Com-

merce, etc. Often, these are "hearing" business people who then become interested in installing a counter loop when they understand the simplicity.

We fondly call this the "Blue Mist" of looping! It depicts the fundamentals needed from the user's perspective for any loop system of any size to work. The user needs to have in place:

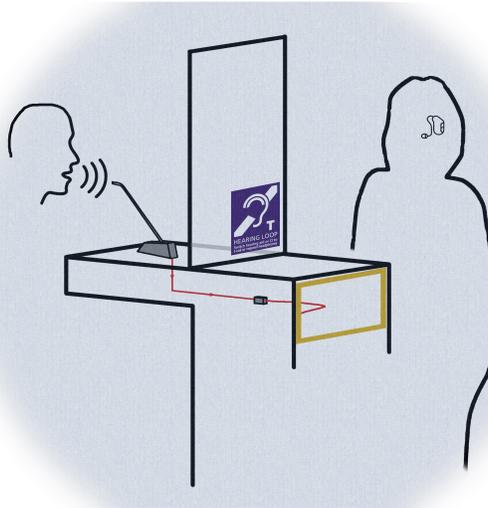
1. A copper wire loop (almost always invisible, shown here as a yellow rectangle), that when connected to a power source sets up...
2. A magnetic field (also invisible!) "shown" here by our "blue mist" that goes through glass barriers and covers multiple users, and...
3. A microphone (sometimes invisible) to send the sound directly to...

Yearly dues are \$15 per household.
They are due in January.

4. A telecoil (always invisible) in the user's hearing aid or cochlear implant.

If you study this image a bit, it can help telecoil users give feedback when encountering a loop system that doesn't appear to be working. You can ask:

1. Is there truly a hearing loop in place, or some other assistive listening system mistakenly called a "loop"?
2. Is there sound actually coming from a microphone?
3. Is my telecoil program turned on in my hearing device?
4. Am I in the loop's field?



We can and do, of course, delve into all sorts of tech-geeky details on how each component operates, but this can be extremely confusing when first learning about loops. (You really didn't need to know all the inner workings of a car in order to learn to drive it or a stove in order to cook!)

Please try using this image to explain a loop to someone and share your feedback with me if something isn't clear. Even if you don't use loops yourself, it is empowering for you to be able to tell someone else how simple and effective a loop of any size can be!

AMC Theaters on-Screen Captioning

Bobbi Rodriguez, ABQ Chapter

I've been to several movie theaters that have captioning services. Some have the captioning device on a flexible gooseneck that fits into the drink holder. I end up holding it in place because it will not stay in the correct position. Some have an over-the-nose glasses caption device. My problem there is that it also slips out of position due to a narrow ridge and my own glasses. Both of these options required me to be looking back and forth between the device and the screen.

Then, for Mother's Day, my son sent me a gift card to AMC Theaters. The only one in Albu-

querque is near Coors and Rio Bravo—a bit of a drive for most of us. We wanted to see "Top Gun, Maverick". To my surprise, one of the options was for a showing with on-screen captioning.

This was a big bonus! It was like watching captions on TV at home! I didn't spend most of the movie messing with the cup holder and gooseneck, or end up holding the device in place. I didn't have to keep repositioning the glasses so I could read the captions. They were right there on the screen where I was focused anyway. I truly enjoyed the movie and was able to read the dialog I missed with my hearing aids.

Needless to say, AMC is now my movie theatre of choice.



A HoH man, wanting to overhear his neighbors, quietly climbed on the roof. He got too close to the edge and fell off. That's how the term "eavesdropping" originated.

Husband: That cute blond said I have the hearing of a police dog.

Wife: Not really. She said you have the ears of a police dog.

Thanks to those listed below for their generous donations.

Platinum \$400+

Albuquerque Hearing
and Balance
Rosaline Cohen
Donald Thurn
Adelaide Zabriskie

Gold \$200 - \$399

Stephen O. Frazier
Michael Lieberman
Erin H. Luhan
Ginevra Ralph

Silver \$100 - \$199

Ben Curret
Yukie Ebara

Gloria Inlow
Mike & Barbara
Langner
John Simmons
Tim Taylor

Bronze \$50 - \$99

Barbara Armstrong
Carol Emerson
Kim Granzow
Bette Jean Ingui
James & Sharen Koch
Fran Neil
Ira J. Rimson
Rod & Bobbi
Rodríguez
Marge Weitzel

Friends - up to \$49

Gail S. Anastasio
Margie Collins
Don Degasper
Carol Emerson
Elisabeth Endean
Shirley Furen
Andrew "Bo" Gamboa
Sophie Garvanian
Patricia Gonzáles
Linnea Hendrickson
Roy & Helen Johnson
Richard Johnson
Ralph & Barbara
Kaplan
Barbara Kerr
Richard & Pushpa
Knottenbelt
Victoria L. Magown
Deanna & Bob McMain
Barbara Pierce

Mary J. Raje
Harriet S. Smith
Tan Va
Richard Tuschhoff

Special

Smith's Community
Rewards
Amazon Smiles
Frontstream

NM HLAA chapters are 501(c)3 nonprofits and all donations are tax deductible.

Support the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). Become a member TODAY!

The Hearing Loss Association of America is a volunteer association of Hard of Hearing people, their relatives and friends. It is a non-profit, non-sectarian educational organization devoted to the welfare and interest of those who cannot hear well. Membership in the national organization is by annual dues, which are separate from the annual Chapter fee paid to your local chapter. National membership includes a subscription to the bi-monthly publication Hearing Life.



Albuquerque Chapter Membership

- New
- Renew

Name: Date:

Address: Please mail Newsletter rather than email.

City: State: Zip:

Email: Phone(s):
voice? text? VP? caption?

Mail to: HLAAAbq Treasurer, P. O. Box36792, Albuquerque, NM 87176

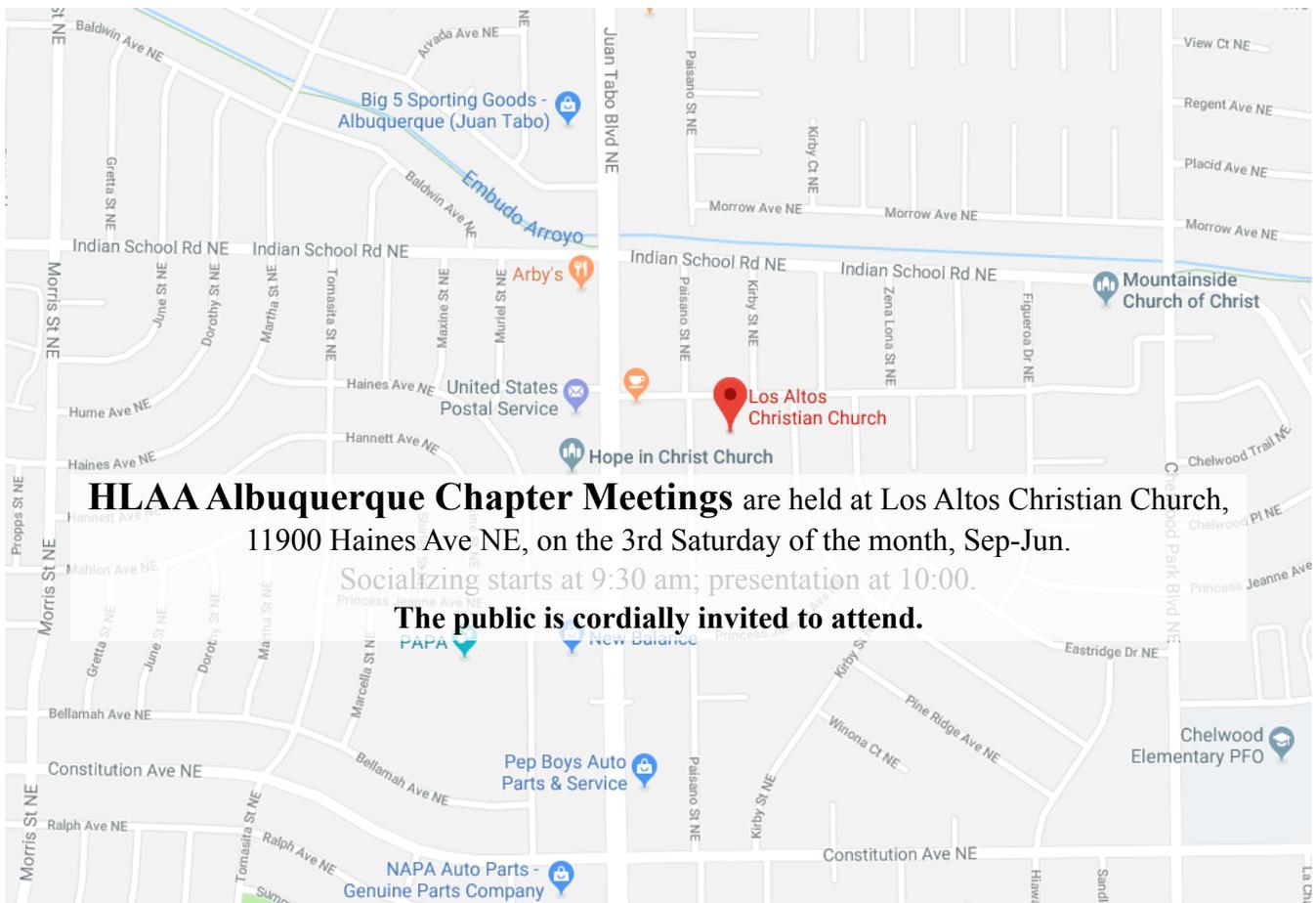
Payment: Membership amount: \$..... Donation: \$..... Total: \$.....

Dues: \$15 per household per calendar year (Includes newsletter subscription)

Online: <https://www.hearinglossabq.org/electronic-pay>



P.O.Box 36792, Albuquerque, NM 87176



HLAA Albuquerque Chapter Meetings are held at Los Altos Christian Church, 11900 Haines Ave NE, on the 3rd Saturday of the month, Sep-Jun.

Socializing starts at 9:30 am; presentation at 10:00.

The public is cordially invited to attend.