



Northwestern
University

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NUCASLL News

Monthly updates from the Northwestern University Center for Audiology, Speech, Language, and Learning

Research, Innovation, and Community Engagement

April brings a focus on voice, expression, and connection, highlighting the important role voice plays in communication, identity, and overall well-being. At NUCASLL, we are proud to collaborate with colleagues across Northwestern Medicine who specialize in voice and upper airway disorders, strengthening the connection between clinical care, research, and student education.

Expanding Voice Training & Education



This year marks an exciting milestone as we welcome our first Clinical Fellow in Voice, **Diego Melendez, SLP.**

This role represents continued growth in specialized voice care and strengthens training opportunities for students pursuing careers in speech-language pathology.

World Voice Day

In recognition of World Voice Day, we highlighted the important role voice plays in communication, connection, and overall quality of life. Voice concerns such as strain, fatigue, or changes after illness are more common than many realize and can impact daily interactions.

At NUCASLL, we support individuals experiencing a range of voice and upper airway conditions through personalized, evidence-based care, including vocal fold lesions, muscle tension dysphonia, neurogenic voice disorders, and chronic cough.

Your voice matters, and it deserves attention.

Clinical & Community Engagement

On **April 17th**, our team conducted voice and hearing screenings for music theater and MFA graduate students. This screening is offered twice a year and provides students with information on vocal health, a free laryngeal exam, acoustic assessment, and a hearing screening, all aimed at promoting long-term voice and hearing health.

These screenings support individuals who rely heavily on their voices by helping identify potential concerns early and providing education on vocal health and care.

We also continue to see the impact of community-based work led by our clinicians, including support for individuals navigating voice changes related to medical conditions such as head and neck cancer and total laryngectomy. In addition to voice care, the team provides swallowing evaluation and rehabilitation, further supporting patients across a range of communication and medical needs.



Research Spotlight in Voice

Our voice team continues to contribute to the advancement of clinical knowledge through research. A recent **publication** explored outcomes related to direct vocal fold testosterone injections, expanding understanding of treatment approaches for voice changes.

Research in this area supports more personalized and effective care, while also contributing to broader conversations in voice science and clinical practice. Through collaboration between NUCASLL and Northwestern Medicine, our work in voice continues to grow across clinical care, research, and education. We look forward to expanding these efforts and continuing to support individuals whose voices are essential to how they connect, perform, and express themselves.



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