

# SENTAC

Annual Newsletter  
November 2021

The Society for Ear, Nose, and  
Throat Advances in Children



## President's Message

Gresham Richter, MD



I am so proud to be a member of the Society for Ear, Nose, and Throat Advancement in Children (SENTAC)! We are unique, diverse, and exceptional in our multidisciplinary spirit for research, treatment, and innovation for in children with otolaryngology concerns. Like many others, my first presentation in pediatric otolaryngology was at SENTAC. So, I can't tell you what an honor, reward, and

pleasure it has been to be the president of this amazing society. As I look back, I see that we rest upon the shoulders of great leaders in pediatric speech, audiology, and otolaryngology, and are now knocking on the door of almost 50 years of SENTAC's collaboration and contributions to the health of children. The program this year, led by our wonderful and intuitive past president, Dr. Stephanie Zacharias, and developed by the many members of the program committee, will be a testament of our Society's tradition and goals to meet the educational needs of our diverse and robust membership. In this spirit, Dr. Robin Cotton, an early founder of SENTAC, will honor us as our keynote speaker. As a true innovator and thought leader in the creation of multidisciplinary teams, we are excited to hear upon his reflection on the integration of team diversity, collaboration, and careers in the management of children.

Despite the ongoing threat of a pandemic, SENTAC's board elected to return to the roots of our organization and provide opportunity for collegial in person discussions. SENTAC has always been the society where members and new attendees could feel comfortable to bring their family with the chance to meet and get closer to colleagues, friends, and leaders in a variety of fields. In the spirit of safety, we will closely follow CDC guidelines, and require vaccination for the COVID-19 so that we can smartly reinvigorate the tradition of the SENTAC gathering. I do hope you all have taken the opportunity to join us in person. However, we understand current restrictions and have provided a virtual option for those who cannot come to Phoenix.

In the past two years we've come very far in terms of societal organization and membership. I'm happy to say that we reached a milestone of 500 members this year, and had over 500 meeting attendees last year, many of whom are allied specialists and advance practice providers that represent a younger contingency.

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## Officers

### PRESIDENT

Gresham Richter, MD

### PAST PRESIDENT AND PROGRAM CHAIR

Stephanie Zacharias, PhD, CCC-SLP

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Daniela Carvalho, MD MMM

### SECRETARY AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

David Chi, MD

### TREASURER

Cecille Sulman, MD

### DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Javan Nation, MD

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Laurie Newton, APNP DNP

Barbra J. Novak, PhD, CCC-A

Evan Propst, MD

Christina A. Rapazzo, CCC-SLP  
BCS-S

Ashley Brown, CCC-SLP

Keri Colio, AuD

Sohit Kanotra, MD

### HISTORIAN

Nina Yoshpe, MD

## President's Message cont.

Many thanks to Keri Colio as our Young Members Committee Chair and Dr David Chi for his leadership and organization of our membership for making this happen. These are exciting times for the organization in terms of growth especially now that we are supported by a management team (Affinity Strategies). We have developed a more professional approach, established new partnerships, and have created a more forward-facing appearance thanks to our energetic Board and Becky Cira our executive manager.

We have restructured our bylaws under the leadership of Dr. Daniela Carvalho, your next president. This has made the process of becoming a member easier and helped reorganize and invigorated our committee structure to focus societal energy on development, young members, external communications, technology, and research and outreach to our community. Most importantly we established the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, led by Dr. Jareen Meinzen-Derr, to help us expand our reach to anyone who wants to be involved as a member or leader in SENTAC. With that in mind, this year we will name the SENTAC DEI Award after Dr. Dana Thompson, a member of our society who truly models the meaning of inclusion. She delivers the promise to future generations the direction we wish our society to up-hold.

There has also been the production of three amazing webinars (<https://sentac.org/committee/>) by Dr. Javan Nation, our first Director of Communications, and the Communications Committee. This team also helped redesign the SENTAC website and build our social network to the community. When you have a chance, please watch the "Day in the Life" series of our allied members of SENTAC. Along those lines, Dr. Stacey Ishman and the Research and Outreach committee have used the new website to provide a member, patient, and family resource page. Herein, you will find links to site, manuscripts, guidelines and other resources on topics such as tracheostomy and SNHL (<https://sentac.org/pediatrictracheostomy/>). As the committee bridges new ideas look for more resources in this well-designed approach.

Of course, none of this could have succeeded without the strength and engagement of our Development Committee and their chair Dr. Soham Roy who have reenergized our sponsors to support our mission. In the process we are trying exciting new ways to build the resources so that SENTAC may continue for another 50 years. And thanks to Dr. Cecille Sulman who, with her astute accounting and vision, has stabilized our finances as a smart and prudent Treasurer. As a result, we have been able to support 10 travel grants to students this year.

Finally, I just want to thank all the past presidents for the foundation of a great society and our current board members for their time and energy to keep the mission alive and energetic. This has been a wonderful year and I thank you all (the membership) for the opportunity and pride to have been your president. Looking forward to a 50-year celebration next year in Philadelphia!

**Gresham T. Richter, MD FACS FAAP**

SENTAC President

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## Program Chair's Report

**Stephanie Zacharias, PhD, CCC-SLP**



On behalf of the Program Committee, it is with great enthusiasm that I invite you to the 49th annual SENTAC meeting, December 2-4th, 2021. This year's meeting is unique in that it will be a full hybrid event. The Arizona Grand Spa and Resort in Phoenix, AZ, is the location of the 2 day in-person conference; a beautiful spot near the base of South Mountain, where there are numerous hiking trails for all levels. Phoenix Children's Hospital will host pre-conference workshops. The entire program is also available virtually.

Our Program Committee has created a program that is sure to inspire conversation and

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## Program Chair's Report cont.

collegial debate. Our 2-day meeting consists of 8 abstract sessions, 7 panels, 67 posters, a sponsored lunch presentation, 4 awards and a Keynote Address. Thursday afternoon, December 2nd, pre-conference workshops will be hosted by Phoenix Children's Hospital. Limited in-person space is available, so please check those out!

Thursday evening kicks off the conference with a Welcome Reception at The Arizona Grand Resort and Spa, where you can mingle with friends and hear from our exhibitors. The Friday program includes multidisciplinary panels addressing Diversity and Inclusion, Cleft Teams, Transitioning Care from Pediatric to Adult Providers, and Integration of Medical, Educational, and Governmental Resources for the Speech and Hearing-Impaired Child. We will hear from the Grey Award winner Tania Sih, MD, and Ruben Award winner, Margaret Kenna, MD, PhD. Friday night is a night to explore on your own, enjoy time with family, or hang with friends you have not seen in-person for a while.

The Saturday program begins with a multidisciplinary debate style panel led by Dr. Joan Arvedson on Laryngeal Cleft and Thickening/Thinning Liquids for Infants/Children. Followed by a presentation on the New Dysphagia Diagnostic code. Highly anticipated panels of the day include Telehealth Lessons Learned from a Pandemic and Optimizing Communication Through Early Intervention.

The SENTAC DEI Committee created a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity award. This year, you (SENTAC membership) nominated the award name – and thus nominated the award to be named after Dr. Dana Thompson. Dr. Thompson will be acknowledged for this well-deserved honor. The Keynote address will be given by the world-renowned Dr. Robin Cotton, known to me simply as dad. We will hear from the Stool award winner Marci Lesperance, MD, and end the conference with the always exciting Annual Academic Bowl, a fun-filled collegial multidisciplinary competition. Our dinner and Passing of the Bell will be held at Rustler's Rooste, an Arizona experience you will not want to miss. And for those who can stick around for a bit on Sunday, South Mountain, just a mile from the hotel, provides dozens of hikes for hikers of any ability. Just ask anyone from the Phoenix group about trail options!

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Becky Cira from Affinity Strategies, who handled all conference details and set this meeting up for success. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work provided by this year's Program Committee: Joan Arvedson, Joseph Dohar; Page, Nate; Barbara Novak; Katie Kubicek; Luis D Vilchez; Sharon Cushing; Valerie Wessel; Ronda Hamaker; Jennifer Casteix. On behalf of the entire group, we look forward to seeing you in Phoenix!

Sincerely,

**Stephanie RC Zacharias, PhD, CCC-SLP**

SENTAC Program Chair

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## President Elect Message

**Daniela Carvalho, MD**

Dear SENTAC members,

We are so proud of our wonderful society and excited that we will see you soon at the SENTAC meeting in Phoenix. The board and all committees have been working hard to modernize our society and grow our membership. A lot has been accomplished, and we could not have done it without the help of Becky and Affinity Strategies.



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## President Elect's Message cont.

As part of our development, several amendments to the Bylaws have been proposed and sent to the entire membership for approval, including:

- Update of the location of the corporation
- Streamlining of the admission process to membership
- Cleaning up membership categories
- Creation of new committees, such as the Credentials Committee, Young Members Committee, and Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Please let me know if you have any questions about the proposed amendments to the Bylaws.

I hope to see you all in December!

Sincerely,

**Daniela Carvalho, MD**

President Elect

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## Secretary

**David H. Chi, MD**

We have had an exciting year for membership! We have implemented several changes this year for SENTAC membership. First, instead of waiting for the annual meeting for applicants to be members, we have had new members join throughout the year. Each applicant is vetted through the membership committee and approved by the executive board. This has created an opportunity for new members to take immediate advantage of SENTAC programs such as the webinars and job board postings. Kudos to the Communications Committee for creating new educational programs for SENTAC members!



We have also created two designations for membership: Member physicians and Member non-physicians. The impetus for this is to have our advanced practice providers, audiologists, speech language pathologists, and researchers join our society as equal members with appropriate membership dues.

We have seen a robust growth of members this year. We currently have 316 physician members and 119 non-physician members. The latter diverse group consists of 43 advanced practice providers, 47 speech and language pathologists, 11 audiologists, and 6 researchers, 1 pharmacist, and 1 respiratory therapist.

We are excited for the upcoming meeting in Phoenix! We hope that everyone will see all the benefits of SENTAC and the unique interdisciplinary nature of our society that promotes the care of children with ear, nose, and throat concerns.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the membership committee consisting of Patrick Barth, MD; Erin Field, AuD; Christina Rappazzo, CCC-SLP; and Faisal Zawawi, MD.

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## Treasurer's Report

**Cecille G. Sulman, MD**



Dear SENTAC Members,

I am pleased to announce that SENTAC remains in excellent financial standing. The stability of SENTAC's financial health remains due to strong membership, sponsorship support, and generous donations from SENTAC members. Our combined virtual meeting in December 2020 in conjunction with the Aerodigestive society was highly successful. We finished the fiscal year with a positive balance.

Over the past year, SENTAC has invested in key strategies related to management, webinars, website, and technology. These investments have already begun to pay forward with development of prospectus to attract sponsorship and social media presence to increase SENTAC's visibility. We continue a fruitful relationship with

Affinity Strategies, a full service nonprofit health care association management and stakeholder engagement firm, heading in a positive direction with strategic and financial planning. Our investments with Wells Fargo remain solid and we have opened an additional checking account at Chase to provide clarity between assets and expenditures.

We welcome donations to broaden our organizational impact by educating our future leaders in audiology, speech, and otolaryngology through travel, educational and research grants. We appreciate your investment into SENTAC with donations of any amount to sustain our unique presence as a multi-disciplinary society.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting! As always, thank you for your support for our unique organization!

Sincerely,

**Cecille Sulman, MD**

SENTAC Treasurer

## Communications Committee Report

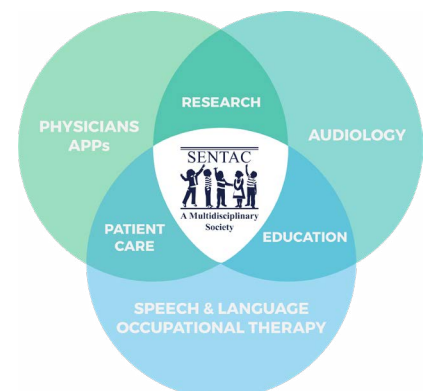
**Javan Nation, MD**



It has been my honor to serve as the communications director for SENTAC this year along with the other members of the communication committee: Michael McCormick, Julian White, Carol Liu, and Phayvanh Pecha. At the beginning of the year we collectively formed our committee charge to 1) provide a platform for SENTAC member communication and sharing of ideas, 2) Enhance the societies visibility through an active online presence, and 3) Provide year-round educational content to the membership.

The first charge of providing a platform for SENTAC member communication and sharing of ideas was done by first updating the website with the help and expertise of the team at Affinity strategies. The user experience has been improved when visiting the updated website. The other goal when updating the website was to highlight the multidisciplinary nature of our organization, so that anybody browsing the website can quickly understand who we are. This was done by placing our mission statement on the front page as well as designing a new graphic that illustrates this point.

The second charge of enhancing the societies visibility through an active



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## Communications Committee Report cont.

online presence was performed by taking control of previous SENTAC social media accounts as well as starting on new ones. We now have a presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Link-in, and YouTube. We have been using these social media accounts throughout the year to highlight our members, as well as advertise SENTAC events and content. One of the fun ways we have been highlighting our members has been through an Instagram takeover we are calling "A day in the life of" were a member takes us through their day at work. So far Stephanie Wong and Madison Howe have given us the honor of sharing their day with us, those videos can be seen here: <https://sentac.org/a-day-in-the-life-of/>. Stay tuned for more upcoming IG takeovers.



SENTAC board members, Daniela Carvalho, Cecille Sulman, and myself had the opportunity to interview past SENTAC presidents including Allen Seid, Joan Averdson, Anthony Magit, and Seth Pransky. Those interviews have been uploaded onto our YouTube channel as well as our website in the about us "Our SENTAC Our Legacy" section. <https://sentac.org/our-sentac-our-legacy/>.

Our third charge of providing year-round educational content to the membership was accomplished with a series of 4 webinars put on this year. The first webinar was on March 24 entitled: A multidisciplinary approach to treating children with complex sleep apnea. It was moderated by myself with presentations given by David Zopf, Andre Wineland, and Evan Propst.

Our second webinar was on May 26 entitled: Complex dysphagia: 4 studies of children with swallowing difficulties. It was moderated by Julian White with presentations given by Jeannine Hoch, Maleah Blake, Christina Rappazzo, and Ashely Brown. This was our most well attended webinar with 173 registrants, including 64 non-SENTAC member registrants.

The third webinar was on July 28th titled: Upcoming new technologies in hearing devices. It was moderated by Carol Liu with presentations given by Angela Peng, Daryl Scott, Daniela Carvalho, and Richard Rosenfeld.

Our 4th and last webinar of the year was done on September 22 entitled: Multidisciplinary Pediatric Airway Program: Patient centric and value-based healthcare delivery. This was moderated by Sohit Kanotra with presentations given by Karen Watters, Amit Agrawal, Riad Rahhal, Brandon Viet, Emily Hughes, Janine Petigout, Rebecca Maunsell, and Tammy Mock. The webinar included an international presenter, Rebececca Maunsell, from Campina Brazil, and the mother of a child with a tracheostomy, Tammy Mock.

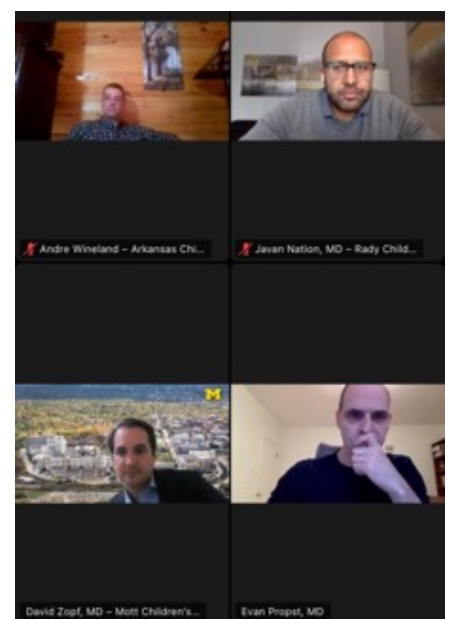
We thank all of the presenters and participants who made the 2021 webinar series a success. All of the webinars were recorded and available to view on the website at <https://sentac.org/webinars/>. We look forward to planning and presenting another series in 2022, and if any members have suggestions or ideas for a webinar topic, please don't hesitate to share your ideas with us.

In summary, we on the communications committee have enjoyed the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful organization. We look forward to bringing more content and value to the membership next year. I would like to thank Gresham Richter, SENTAC president, for his strong leadership. Gresham's amazing leadership qualities kept us all on task and momentum moving forward throughout the year. I would also like to thank Becky Cira, our executive director, for being so amazing at her job and for all of her support throughout the year.

Sincerely,

**Javan Nation, MD**

Director of Communications, Communications Committee Chair



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## Board of Directors

**Sohit Kanotra, MD**



Dear SENTAC members,

It is a matter of great honor to be associated with Society for ENT advances in children (SENTAC). SENTAC was the first meeting which I attended as a fellow in Pediatric Otolaryngology and was attracted to its mission of multidisciplinary collaboration in the care of ENT disorders in children, which epitomizes the holistic approach required to take care of complex children.

The past year has seen a phenomenal growth in the membership of the society lead by the superb leadership of Gresham Richter. The addition of new committees with clearly defined goals, gave SENTAC an appropriate organization structure. The pandemic opened newer opportunities of learning which the society embraced in the

form of webinars which have become extremely popular. The influx of sponsors to the society is an indication of the influence and the interest which the society is generating. Having a professional organization like affinity strategies manage the society, has paid dividends with SENTAC having a flourishing online and social media presence. The annual academic bowl which has become such a fun event bringing out the competitive spirit in programs from all around the country while providing a learning opportunity for the residents and the fellows, was done virtually last year with the Rady's Children hospital been the winners. After a hiatus of a year, we will be back in a hybrid format in Phoenix, Arizona with different teams participating. The annual meeting promises to provide a huge earning opportunity for everyone.

The changing landscape of healthcare delivery with an emphasis on value based healthcare delivery especially in the care of a complex child makes SENTAC mission of fostering collaboration, research and teaching amongst different specialties truly relevant. With an expanding membership, increasing participation by young physicians, audiologists, speech language pathologists, and allied health care workers and an influx of sponsors for the annual meeting, SENTAC has an extremely bright future. Looking for the next year under the Leadership of Daniela Carvalho.

Sincerely,

**Sohit Kanotra, MD**

SENTAC Board of Directors

## Young Members Committee

**Keri Colio Au.D., CCC-A**



Dear SENTAC members,

On behalf of the young members' committee, I encourage you to continue to raise awareness for SENTAC. This year, we have pursued membership benefits ensuring SENTAC is valuable to allied professionals as well as physicians. While our committee's primary goal has been recruiting young professionals, we have also focused on recruiting audiologists.

We are striving to continue to build a well-rounded multidisciplinary society. To do that, we have polled professionals who are not members of SENTAC to gain insight on what SENTAC could offer to encourage membership and retention of members. The committee has done this within their own workplaces, through peer connections,

as well as on social media platforms. As always, we are hopeful to recruit young members and retain them throughout their careers in order to continue to grow SENTAC.

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## Young Members Committee cont.

We hope to see you and your colleagues at SENTAC 2021 either in-person or virtually!

Sincerely,

**Keri Colio Au.D, CCC-A**

SENTAC Young Members Committee Chair

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## SENTAC Development Committee

**Soham Roy, MD MMM FACS FAAP**



Dear SENTAC members,

Hello from the Development Committee! On behalf of our tirelessly driven committee (Kate Ammon, Matt Brigger and Jenn McLevy) we want to update you on the latest efforts to grow SENTAC's relationships with industry partners and our ever-growing community of Pediatric ENT physicians, audiologists, speech pathologists, advance practice providers and other supporters of our cause. Unlike a traditional "fundraising" platform, our Development committee aspires to be a relationship-building enterprise that will create and cement long-term relationships with our industry, community and academic partners.

To date, we have had four industry sponsors for our new educational webinars, which have proven educational and highly popular – Bracco, Airlift Tongue Suspension, Smith and Nephew, and Pentax Medical. These webinars are a new and exciting new avenue to reach our patients, families and practitioners, and we are grateful to our industry partners to push this agenda forward.

In preparation for our upcoming in-person meeting in Phoenix (have you registered? Come in person if you can, or virtually if you can't, we would love to see your smiling face either way!), we have a large number of sponsors who have committed to being physically present and sponsoring various aspects of the meeting – Bryan Medical, Becon Medical, Bracco Diagnostics, Grace Medical, Tims Medical, Smith and Nephew, Cochlear America, NeilMed, Takeda and Dr. Brown's. We are excited to see all of our industry partners and learn about their offerings while they support our 'reunion' in early December!

The Development Committee relies heavily on the engagement of all SENTAC members to continue to grow our organization and support the mission of advancing Ear, Nose and Throat care to children in a multidisciplinary, team environment. Please continue to send us (Drs. Gresham Richter, Soham Roy or Becky Cira) any contacts you have with potential industry partners who might be interested in supporting our mission – we'll do the rest.

Look forward to seeing (or "seeing", as the case may be) each of your in December!

Sincerely,

**Soham Roy, MD MMM FACS FAAP**

SENTAC Development Chair

