Title: Expanding the Speech Pathologist’s Role in Infant Feeding and Swallowing: Understanding the Impact of Breastfeeding on Overall Health and Development in At-Risk Babies

Abstract: This course focuses on the importance of the speech pathologist’s role in facilitating breastfeeding and providing breast milk to babies who are at-risk for feeding, health and developmental issues. Participants will understand what and why speech pathologists need to know about the process of lactation and the importance of collaboration with other health care professionals, such as board certified lactation consultants, to help families and babies establish breastfeeding. The differences between breast and bottle-feeding will be explored as well as the health benefits of breast milk for at-risk babies. Participants will also learn about how breastfeeding and other child-directed feeding approaches can impact oral structural development in babies. Feeding videos of at-risk babies will be used to demonstrate various assessment and intervention techniques. This course is designed for speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, dieticians, lactation consultants, nurses and/or any health care professional or early intervention professional working with young babies who are at-risk for health, feeding and developmental challenges.

Bio: Jill Rabin is a pediatric speech pathologist and international board certified lactation consultant. She received her Masters of Science from Boston University in Communication Disorders. She has been working primarily with the 0-3 population for 30 years. She was hospital based for 14 years, where she worked in two different Chicago hospitals as both a speech pathologist and lactation consultant. She helped pave the way for speech pathologists to be included in the job description for lactation consultant positions at two Chicagoland hospitals. At Advocate Illinois Masonic hospital in Chicago, she developed a feeding program to facilitate smooth transition to oral feedings for all babies in the special care nursery and participated as part of a weekly diagnostic team that provided developmental follow-up to preterm infants. She published a chapter in a book entitled “Substance Abuse Risk Factors and Childhood Language Disorders,” and she also wrote an article regarding risk factors in speech development for Chicago Parent. Currently, she has a private practice in the Chicagoland area where she primarily sees at-risk and special needs breastfeeding patients, children with Down syndrome and children with feeding aversion through the early intervention system. She often follows her Down syndrome patients as breastfeeding newborns until they age out of the early intervention system. She also counsels pregnant mothers of babies with a prenatal diagnosis about how to establish breastfeeding. She utilizes the Baby-Led Weaning approach in transitioning babies to solid food feedings, and has found great success in using this approach with babies with Down syndrome and feeding aversion. She has lectured nationally and internationally on topics related to breastfeeding at-risk infants, feeding aversion and the impact of Baby-Led Weaning as a method to transition to solids. She works at the New Mother New Baby lactation center in Northbrook, where she teaches classes on development as well as transitioning babies to solid foods, and formerly held an educational group called the North Shore Down Syndrome Awareness group where families and their children meet for social and educational purposes. It is her hope to build a collaborative relationship between speech pathologists and lactation consultants in hopes of increasing the possibility of successful breastfeeding, especially with at-risk infants.
In Memory of the Master: Carrying the Jeri Logemann Legacy Forward
Northwestern School of Communication
Saturday, September 10

Bonnie Martin-Harris, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Title: A New Era for Dysphagia Care: Standardization, Cross-System Considerations and Targeted Interventions

Abstract: Revolutionary scientific advances in understanding swallowing physiology and disorders of deglutition have been made and spearheaded in the clinical laboratories and teachings of Dr. Jeri Logemann at Northwestern University. Her research findings and the significant implications for patient care permeated clinics and laboratories throughout the world. Despite these advances and the devastating consequences for millions of patients suffering from dysphagia, lack of accurate and consistent documentation of dysphagia types and severity across clinics has lead to under-appreciation for the magnitude of the problem and hence, insufficient funding to investigate incidence, recovery and response to interventions. Well tested assessment methods characterized by rigor and reproducibility across clinics, hospitals and laboratories will allow clinical scientists to go from a “skim the surface” to “big data approach” demanded by payers and further our understanding of the swallowing mechanisms, severity classes of impairment and effective treatments. This course will illustrate how one standardized approach, rooted in the findings of Dr. Logemann’s physiologic study results, was tested, designed and implemented in hospitals and clinics in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Europe and Asia. In contrast to a “one size fits all” approach to dysphagia intervention, the planned pathways and progress toward implementing standardized assessment for dysphagia phenotype identification and testing phenotypic responses to targeted interventions will be outlined. Methods for combining these clinically driven methods with research methods from partner laboratories will illustrate not only new theories regarding swallowing system disorders and recovery patterns, but also disorders that stem from cross-system interactions between respiratory and swallowing impairments.

Bio: Dr. Martin-Harris is the Alice Gabrielle Twight Professor in the Roxelyn and Richard Pepper Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Communication at Northwestern University. Dr. Martin-Harris’ research interests include speech and swallowing impairment and treatment approaches for patients with head and neck cancer, neurologic and pulmonary diseases. Her program of research focuses on the cross-system interactions between respiratory and upper aerodigestive functions. She is the past chair of the Specialty Board for Board Certification in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders, and Past-President of the Dysphagia Research Society. She is Associate Editor for the Dysphagia Journal, past Associate Editor for the Journal of Speech-Language-Hearing Research, Editorial Board member of the Canadian Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, Editorial Board member for the Bulgarian Journal of Communication Disorders, and reviewer for multiple peer-reviewed journals. She is a Fellow of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), recipient of the 2016 Admiral Albert J. Baciocco Innovation Award – Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Honorary Member of the MUSC Chapter of The National Academy of Inventors, recipient of Honors from the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association (SCSHA), 2010 MUSC College of Health Professions Scholar of the Year Award and associate member of the Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and the American Head and Neck Society. She is the author and developer of the first standardized method for videofluoroscopic assessment of swallowing impairment (Modified Barium Swallowing Impairment Profile, MBSImP™), translated to research and clinical practice in the US, Canada and 13 additional countries. Her work is funded by the National Institutes on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), the Veteran’s Administration, and the Mark and Evelyn Trammell Foundation.