

Editorial and Contents

Editor

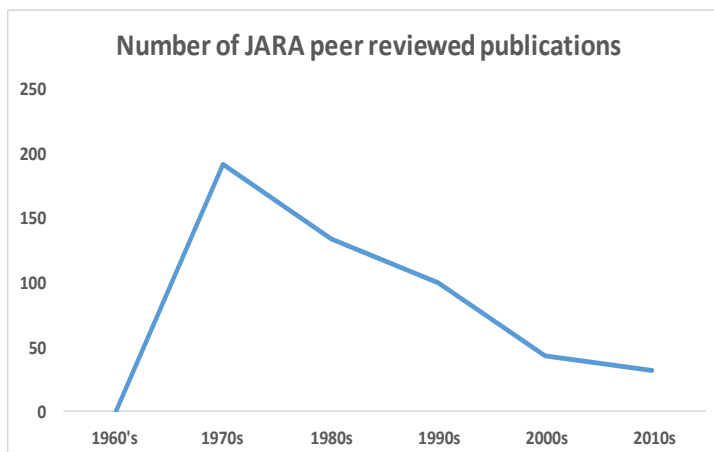
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JARA's final journal publication

The Journal of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology (JARA) has been publishing articles focused on aural rehabilitation across the lifespan since 1967. Since then almost 500 peer reviewed articles have appeared with dozens more conference proceedings, minutes, editorials, and newsletters. All have informed our discussions, clinical practices and research to promote better outcomes for persons with hearing loss. All of these are available on our website and will remain archived. The ARA board has watched a steady decline in the number of submissions (see below) and decided in 2019 to end this publication. The primary reason is that despite numerous efforts JARA has been unable to secure indexing through PubMed. This results in fewer quality manuscript submissions as authors have many other options where they can publish.

While we are disappointed that JARA will come to an end, we recognize that everything changes and this is a good opportunity for us to explore other avenues for encouraging the publication of AR focused manuscripts. Additionally, we will be building a new tool for our website that incorporates case studies that illustrate a specific AR intervention or concept.

In this final issue we have two compelling pieces to ponder. First are the thoughts about what Ray Hull, professor at Wichita State University has learned over the past 38 years in Aural Rehabilitation. In this reflection, he discusses what AR is within the context of six AR principles. The second article by Scott Bally and Claire Bernstein is *Humor and Hearing Loss*, (part I and part II). This is also a thought piece but reviews much of the research on humor as it applies to hearing loss. To introduce this article, we are sharing a letter that Pat Kricos sent to Drs. Bally and Bernstein upon reading an earlier draft of this manuscript. Her feedback is thoughtful and reflects the value she saw in a novel approach for us to consider in AR. Her words remain and continue to inspire.



Dear Colleagues,

Just finished reading your Humor & Hearing Loss article and I loved every minute of it! I like the way you offered a very wonderful set of various types of research information, as well as so many ways of approaching so many systems to model from all of the biopsychosocial issues. The research info you found and explained was fascinating to me, and I am sure that a great deal of fellow audiologists will be very interested in what you have explained.

The fact that you discussed group therapy was wonderful, given that not only audiologists will learn about Humor and Hearing Loss, they also might FINALLY realize that group therapy programs offer tremendous help for patients and their loved ones, rather than just one on one approaches to help folks with hearing loss. You have offered so many types of information to make people aware of hearing loss not only regarding hearing loss but also for helping folks realized that are not the only ones and there are other ways than thinking "all is sad once you have hearing loss".

I agree 100% with you that the use of cartoons can be a HUGE way to help folks change their stigma. I love the cartoons you have included, such as Helga and Hagar the Horrible. The approaches you have discussed seem to me to be one of the best ways to really get folks to realize that hearing loss does not mean that life is going down south because of hearing difficulties affecting those with hearing loss, as well as family, friends, and people they run into, such as physicians, grocery stores, etc. The approach you have provided made me realize how so many folks could benefit from the use of humor, not just "I'll tell you what you need to do" approaches from audiologists, but to also have the client feel happier and far more likely to appreciate how the audiologist helps them. I know some audiology folks who have wonderful humor, but unfortunately so many focus on hearing aids period, for the most part.

Your discussions and suggestions were so thorough and fascinating and I will be excited to learn later what you have further achieved. I am so amazed with the way you have approached the role of humor. It's the last thing I would have thought about for clinical practice, but having carefully read your work, I am so happy you have taken on this idea and you put it to work! I very much appreciated the excellent ideas you have suggested, and the great start you have already made for guidelines, which will be a huge help for audiologists.

Keep up the good work! :)

Pat

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