



ABS 2026 Meeting Program

Thursday, February 26, 2026 (please note all times are in Mountain Standard Time):

7:00-8:00 AM	On-site Registration
8:00-8:10 AM	Welcome & Opening (Casey Vandervelde, AuD)
8:10-8:25 AM VEDA	VeDA Travel Grant Award Recipient: Using a Multimodal Vestibular Test Battery to Identify Patterns of Vestibular Dysfunction in Individuals with Bilateral Vestibular Hypofunction (Andrew Wagner, DPT, PhD)
8:25-8:40 AM	Predicting Persistent Dizziness: Contributions of Intolerance of Uncertainty (Colton Clayton, AuD, PhD)
8:45-9:15 AM	Featured Session: Vestibular Access Experience for Families of Pediatric Patients with Hearing Loss Speaker: Alaina Bassett, AuD, PhD
9:15-9:30 AM	The Balance Bridge: How Vascular, Cognitive, and Otolith Function Connect to Fall Risk (Somayeh Shahsavarani, PhD)
9:30-9:45 AM	BREAK
9:45-10:00 AM	Vertical Alignment Nulling Test Detects Otolith Pathway Deficits in People with Multiple Sclerosis (Sage Duggal, Undergraduate Student** ; Jorjie M. Wison, MS; Kyle M. McDowell, MBE; Hannah M. Morris, BS; Mark Shelhamer, ScD; Michael C. Schubert, PT, PhD; Colin R. Grove, PT, DPT, MS, PhD)
10:00-10:15 AM	Exploring Saccadic Peak Eye Velocity in Gaucher Disease (Chris Zalewski, PhD ; Noelle Allemang, AuD; Emory Ryan, MSN, CPNP-PC; Yonatan Serlin, MD; Ellen Sidransky, MD; Gayla Poling, PhD)
10:20-10:35AM	Vestibular Abnormalities Across Frequency Domains in Parkinsons Disease and Their Relationship to Cholinergic PET Findings (Devin McCaslin, PhD ; Stiven Roytman, BSc; Batoul Berri, AuD; Taylor Brown, BSc; Jaimie Barr, BSc; Prabesh Kanel, PhD; Giulia Carli, PhD; Kevin Kerber, MD; Nicolaas Bohnen, PhD, MD)
10:40-10:55 AM	Exhibitor Session: Interacoustics
10:55-11:10 AM	When Hearing Fails, Balance May Too: What Two Summers of Pediatric Balance Screenings Revealed (Nour El Hidek, AuD ; Elizabeth Pahiyanis Vass, AuD; Christine Strange, AuD)
11:10-11:25 AM	Impairments in Visuospatial Learning, Dynamic Balance, and Spatial Hearing Measured with Novel Tools in Children with Cochlear Implants (Melissa Hazen, PhD, MSc, Aud(C) ; Amy Bensky, Research Student; Cole Sandler, Research Student; Rachel Lim, MEng; Gabriella Pelletier, Research Student; Carli Belanger, Research Student; Samsoor Akberzai, Research Student; Robel Alemu, PhD; Jaina Negandhi, MSc; Sharon Cushing, MD, MSc, FRCSC; Karen Gordon, PhD)

11:25-11:40 AM	Longitudinal Assessment of Vestibulo-Ocular Reflex Maturation in Infants via Rotational Chair Testing (Batoul Berri, AuD, PhD Candidate** ; Michelle Petrak, PhD; Christopher Zalewski, PhD; Anthony Cacace, PhD; Devin McCaslin, PhD)
11:45-1:15 PM	LUNCH
1:20-1:35 PM	Exhibitor Session Vestibular First
1:35-2:05 PM	Featured Session: Vestibular Ocular Reflex and Vestibular Spinal Reflex Function in Neurodegenerative Disease Speaker: Lee Dibble, PT, PhD, ATC, FAPTA
2:10-2:25 PM	Effects of Restrained Head Position on Vestibulo-Ocular Reflex Measurement (Alexander Francis, PhD ; Deidra Roth, BS**; Melissa Newell, AuD)
2:25-2:55PM	Featured Session: Vestibular Perception, Spatial Navigation, and Speech Outcomes in Children with Vestibular Loss Speaker: Jessie Patterson, AuD, PhD
2:55-3:10 PM	BREAK
3:10-3:25 PM	Impact of Galvanic Vestibular Stimulation (GVS) on Nystagmus Suppression and Motion Perception (Kathryn Makowiec, AuD; Batoul Berri, AuD, PhD Candidate** ; Jamie Bogle, AuD, PhD ; Devin McCaslin, PhD)
3:25-3:40 PM	Buzzing the Vagus: Can tVNS Improve Dizziness and Balance? (Ashley Zaleski-King, AuD, PhD ; Leah Gabay, AuD; Sheniqua Williams, AuD; Stefanie Kuchinsky, PhD; Jamie Bogle, AuD, PhD)
3:40-3:55 PM	Exhibitor Session: Inventis
4:00-5:00 PM	Poster Lightning Rounds
5:00-6:00 PM	Poster & Exhibitors

Friday, February 27, 2026

7:30-8:00 AM	Registration
8:00-8:05 AM	Welcome (Casey Vandervelde, AuD)
8:05-9:40 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Rethinking Meniere's: Why Repair – Not Pressure – is Central to the Disease, and What it Means for Diagnosis & Care Speaker: Andreas Eckhard, MD <i>Affiliations: Otopathology Laboratory, Department of Otolaryngology, Massachusetts Eye and Ear, MA, USA Eaton-Peabody Laboratories, Massachusetts Eye and Ear, Boston, MA, USA Department of Otolaryngology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA</i>
9:40-9:55 AM	BREAK
9:55-10:10 AM	Exhibitor Session: Natus
10:10-10:25 AM	Dizziness Presentation in Patients with Clinically Significant Chronic Respiratory Alkalosis (CSCRA): A Comparison of Cases (Hailey Kingsbury, AuD, PhD Student** ; Sarah Kingsbury, AuD, PhD Student** ; Gaurav Pradhan, PhD; Jamie Bogle, AuD, PhD; Christopher Bechtel, AuD; Michael Cevette, PhD; Jan Stepanek, MD, MPH)

10:25-10:40 AM	Development of Vestibular Explant Model to Study the Role of LRP2 in Transport of Aminoglycosides (Vignesh RA, PhD Student** ; Valentin Tallandier, PhD; Prakash Shrestha, MD; Justine Renauld, PhD; Peter Steyger, PhD)
10:40-10:55 AM	It's Not All in Your Head: Advanced Testing—Don't Forget to Check the Neck (Michelle Petrak, PhD ; Sarah Jagger, AuD, PhD, BC-VA; Steven Spinks, DPT, PhD, OCS, COMT, FAAOMPT; Liz Fuemmeler, AuD)
10:55-11:10 AM	Vestibular Migraine and SSRI Withdrawal: A Case Presentation (Grace Fairchild, BS** ; Sarah Redding, AuD; Ashley Flagge, AuD, PhD)
11:10-11:25 AM	Case study: Improvement of Cognitive, Vestibular, and Neurological Function Following a Targeted Neurorehabilitation Program in a 63-year-old Male with Traumatic Brain Injury (Katherine Afzal, DC, DACNB, FABBIR)
11:25-11:40 AM	Exhibitor Session: Spryson
11:40 AM -1:00 PM	LUNCH
1:00-1:20 PM	BUSINESS MEETING
1:25-1:55 PM	Featured Session: Interdisciplinary Pathways in Vestibular Care: Audiology – PT Referral Patterns Speakers: Evalena Behr, AuD, and Mikayla Massa, AuD
2:00-2:15 PM	The Vestibular Diagnostics Guide: A Clinical Resource for Diagnosis, Interpretation, & Intervention of Vestibular Disorders (Collin Sexton, AuD Student** ; Melissa Newell, AuD; Elizabeth Strickland, PhD; Shannon Van Hyfte, AuD)
2:15-2:30 PM	Kinematics as a Novel Test for Small Changes in Vestibular Function (Timothy Hullar, MD ; Michelle Hungerford, AuD; Sachyea Spackman, BS; Laurie King, PhD; Angela Garinis, PhD)
2:30-2:45 PM	BREAK
2:45-3:00 PM	Remote Assessment and Management of Dizziness Related to Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: Preliminary Findings (Stephanie Panoncillo, AuD; Kara Stressman, AuD ; Kristal Riska, PhD; Karen Skop, DPT; Sheryl Flynn, PhD; Jemy Delikat, MOT; Samantha Michael, DPT; Alexandra Nelson, DPT; Caitlin Cook, DPT; Courtney Hall, PhD)
3:00-3:15 PM	Sleep Apnea and Vestibular Dysfunction (Jaqueline Tallino, AuD Student**)
3:20-3:35 PM	Beyond Audition: Cognitive Function and Fall-Related Outcomes as Mediators of Balance Dysfunction in Adults with Age-Related Hearing Loss (Avery Evans, BS** ; Razan Alfakir, MD, AuD, PhD ; Piper Hasenburg, BS)
3:35-3:50 PM	Fall Risk in Underserved Populations (Jesus Gomez, AuD, PhD Student** ; Erin Piker, AuD, PhD)
4:00-4:20 PM	Wrap up & Adjourn

Bold indicates primary presenter(s)

** indicates student presenter

Posters:

Comprehensive Perceptual Testing Reveals Unique Patterns of Vestibular Impairment in Individuals with Bilateral Vestibular Hypofunction

Presenters: **Paige Day, PT, DPT**; Andrew Wagner, DPT, PhD

Prevalence of Chronic Respiratory Alkalosis in the Vestibular Laboratory

Presenters: **Sarah Bayer, BS****; Hailey Kingsbury, AuD; Jamie Bogle, AuD, PhD; Jan Stepanek, MD, MPH

A Practical Measure of Balance, Gait, and Muscular Power in a Pulmonary Rehabilitation Setting: The Short Physical Performance Battery

Presenters: **Macy Wright, Exercise Physiologist**; Robert Scales, PhD

Vestibular and Cognitive Influences on Caloric-Induced Alpha Suppression

Presenters: **Claire Mitchell, BS****; Danielle Clay, AuD; Daniel Romero, AuD, PhD; Richard Roberts, PhD

Analyzing Access to Vestibular Care Across Nebraska

Presenters: **Allison Durnal, MS****; Tessa Boesinger, AuD

Review of the Role of Narrative Medicine in Chronic Illness

Presenters: **Casey Vandervelde, AuD**; Erin Piker, AuD, PhD; Brandy Hollins, AuD, PhD Candidate

Validation of the Spatial and Temporal Memory Subscales of the Neuropsychological Vertigo Index – English Language (NVle) in Adults with Chronic Moderate-Severe Traumatic Brain Injury

Presenters: **Jana Al Jurdi, Audiology Student****; Jessica Feller, PhD; H. Schwarb, PhD; Melissa Duff, PhD; Richard Roberts, PhD; Gary Jacobson, PhD; Daniel Romero, AuD, PhD

Balance Performance Subtypes in Acute Concussion: Insights for Rehabilitation

Presenters: **Alexandra Stone, BS****; Jamie Bogle, AuD, PhD

Validating Hearing Aid IMU Gait Metrics for Passive Fall-Risk Classification

Presenter: **Jwala Rejimon, AuD**; Matthew Fitzgerald, PhD; Robert Jackler, MD; Varsha Mysore Athreya, PhD; Nitzan Borstein; Andy Lin, Meng, MEM; Achintya Bhowmik, PhD; Majd Srour; David Fabry, PhD; Kristen Steenerson, MD

Assessing Voluntary Postural Control: Validity of Limits of Stability and Rhythmic Weight-Shift Metrics on CDP and Portable Force Plate Systems

Presenters: **Kristinn Heinrichs, PT, PhD**; Kiara Barrett, PhD; Neha Kapoor, MBBS, MD, DNB

Trauma-1 Center Mandated Fall Reduction Outreach

Presenters: **John Tuitele, PT, DPT**; Crystal Geer, PT, DPT, CSCS

A Mapping Framework for Motor and Balance Changes in Welders Compared with PD Staging

Presenters: **Amani Alkinani, Pre-Med Student****; Sabarish Narayanan, PT; Santhakumar Ramesh, Graduate Student; Murugaraj Thiyagarajan; Vijaya Prakash Krishnan Muthaiah, PT, PhD, MPH

Exploring Vestibular Practice Patterns in Pediatric Cochlear Implant Centers

Presenters: **Analiесе Cox, AuD Student****; Jessie Patterson, AuD, PhD; Kristen Janky, AuD, PhD; Alaina Bassett, AuD, PhD

The Relation Between Biological, Sociodemographic, and Health Access Factors on Self-Reported Dizziness Symptoms

Presenters: **Sarah Rogoz, BS****; Michelle Hughes, PhD; Heather Weinreich, MD, MPH; Amanda Chiao, AuD, PhD

Self-Reported Balance Confidence in Activities of Daily Living on Entry to Early Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation

Presenters: **Robert Scales, PhD**; Jon Vimmerstedt, DO; Daniel Enriquez; Frank Paul, MS; Jamie Bogle, AuD, PhD; Zeyu Song, MS, CCCP; Casey Filler, MS; Katie Moore, MD, MS; Molly Tomah, MS; Regis Fernandes, MD; Mike Studer, PT, DPT; Tanvi Kelkar, MS; Bryan Taylor, PhD

Bridging the Gap: Utilizing Video-Based Resources to Enhance Vestibular Competence

Presenters: **Sanghmitra Arvindekar, AuD**; Sarah Redding, AuD; Ashley Flagge, AuD, PhD; Jayna Adams, AuD

** indicates student presenter

Special Thanks to our Exhibitors:

Interacoustics:



Interacoustics specializes in balance testing equipment that quantifies functionality of the vestibular system and produces data used to formulate rehabilitation therapies. We offer systems used in initial through advanced examinations, including systems used during functional tests and

rehabilitation. Measurements can be obtained before, during and after treatment to provide information that helps fine-tune patient treatment and therapies. More information can be found at <https://interacoustics.com>

Vestibular First:



Vestibular First aims to enhance the quality of life for those with vestibular disorders by offering innovative and cost-effective solutions. Focused on accessibility, we design products that integrate seamlessly with existing systems, suitable for researchers, healthcare providers, and educators. Our mission is to bridge gaps in knowledge and care in this field through sustainable, collaborative efforts, contributing to advancements in healthcare technology. More information can be found at vestibularfirst.com.

Natus:



Natus continues to develop balance solutions that meet clinical needs around the world. The Otosuite® Vestibular software is the next step in a long-term product journey to become the multi-disciplinary suite for all balance professionals and balance products. With ICS Impulse you can shorten the patient journey and free-up limited resources in your clinic with

this all-in-one device that includes six powerful testing modules that provide greater comprehensive testing and assess patients as you help guide them on the path to a faster diagnosis. More information can be found at <https://natus.com/sensory/balance-assessment/#>.

Inventis:



Inventis North America is your premier source for audiometric and vestibular instrumentation. Founded in 2005, Inventis has grown to be a premier manufacturer in the hearing and balance field. As a leading innovator, they provide hearing aid distributors, audiologists, and ENTs with the most advanced technical hearing products, supplies, repair parts, and business solutions. Inventis leverages in-house experts and

engineering capabilities to enable individualized hearing and balance testing for patients. More information can be found at www.inventis.it/en-na.

Spryson:



For over two decades, Neurokinetics/Neurologix (2000-2023) established itself as a leader in high-precision eye-tracking and vestibular diagnostics, serving scientists, researchers, and specialized clinicians. The company focused on developing cutting-edge diagnostic technology, setting the gold standard for scientific bench

tools and early-stage neurological assessments. In 2024, Spryson was launched to acquire the assets of these companies and expand this innovation into the broader clinical market, scaling its solutions to serve practitioners, large clinics, and healthcare networks globally. By transitioning from niche research applications to real-world clinical impact, Spryson is making AI-powered neurological diagnostics widely accessible.

VeDA Travel Grant:



VeDA supports original research that looks into outcomes of vestibular disorders as well as delivery of care models that improve clinical outcomes for vestibular patients and further VeDA's core mission. VeDA is partnering with disciplines involved in the care of the vestibular patients, including the American Balance Society, to award a transportation stipend to individuals presenting their research at professional associations meetings. Presentations are selected by the ABS committee, and applications are reviewed by members of VeDA's Medical and Scientific Advisory Board. Research summaries will be shared on VeDA's website and in their monthly e-newsletter. VeDA welcomes anyone who would like to share their research findings with the vestibular community to contact them at info@vestibular.org.

ABS Conference Committee:

Thank you to all the dedicated members of the conference committee who planned and executed this conference! Interested in joining the Conference Committee to help plan the 2027 meeting? Email ABS at americanbalsociety@gmail.com to get on the list!

Conference Committee Members:

Casey Vandervelde, AuD; Katie Makowiec, AuD; Lisa Farrell, PT, PhD; Richard Clendaniel, PT, PhD; Rachel Kansky, AuD; Colton Clayton, AuD, PhD; Cassie Cortez, AuD; Bridgett Wallace, DPT