

Curriculum Vitae
Leslie A. Mahler, PhD, CCC-SLP, MBA

Position Title: Associate Professor, Department of Communicative Disorders
Director, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program (2017-2020)

Personal Information:

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ASHA CCC-SLP 00661207

PA Licensure SL-004494-L
NY Licensure 012566
RI Licensure SP00928
NC Licensure 9584

Education:

2000-2006	PhD	University of Colorado Boulder, CO	Speech Language & Hearing Sciences/Neuroscience
Dual Doctorate			
1985-1987	MBA	Drake University Des Moines, IA	Strategic Marketing
1976-1977	MA	University of the Pacific Stockton, CA	Communication Disorders
1972-1975	BA	University of Colorado Boulder, CO	Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

Honors and Scholarships:

2019	Dean's Award	Health Sciences College - RI
2018	Outstanding Service Award	Health Sciences College - RI
2015	Honored at Optimism Race, Walk, & Roll	American Parkinson Disease Assoc - RI
2015	Outstanding Scholarship Award	College of Human Science & Services-URI
2014	The Belvin Award for Volunteerism	American Parkinson Disease Assoc - RI
2001	SLHS Faculty of the Year	NSSHLA – CU Chapter
1994	ACE Continuing Education Award	ASHA
	& 2004 & 2009 & 2014	
1993	Staff Member of the Month	Rusk Rehabilitation Center
1987	Outstanding MBA Student Award	Drake University – Faculty
1985	Business School Scholarship	Drake University
1976	Graduate School Scholarship	University of the Pacific

Research and Other Scholarly Activity:

My main focus of research is to rigorously evaluate clinical treatments for specific neurological diagnoses and translate those findings to clinical practice. My publications are in the areas of assessment and treatment of motor speech disorders/dysarthria and cognitive-linguistic abilities to improve quality of life for adults with neurological diagnoses. My research investigates how principles of motor learning can be translated to the treatment of individuals with neurological diagnoses to drive activity dependent changes in neural plasticity with long-term benefits that generalize to improved functional communication. My research includes populations I treated during my 25 years as a hospital-based SLP such as Parkinson's disease, brain injury, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy. I am also interested in evaluating the impact of deep brain stimulation on speech and swallowing abilities in people with Parkinson disease. In addition, I am collaborating with faculty in the departments of Kinesiology and Food & Nutrition Services to examine the role of cognition in diet and exercise for older obese women and longitudinal research of adults with Parkinson disease and acquired brain injuries. I am co-inventor of technology with Kunal Mankodiya, a faculty member from engineering, to acquire speech data outside of the clinical environment with the goal of improving and maintaining treatment outcomes. More recently, I have combined my expertise in voice and treatment efficacy research to investigate outcomes of a training program for transgender women. Many of my publications reflect the collaborative nature of my work and the inclusion of graduate and undergraduate students from multiple disciplines.

Inventions: Clinical Application of Wearable Telehealth IOT Systems for Speech Processing (2016). Ser. No. 62/242,731.

Publications in chronological order:

Peer-Reviewed Journals:

- Spielman, J., Ramig, L.O., **Mahler, L.**, Halpern, A., & Gavin, W.J. (2007) Effects of an extended version of the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment on voice and speech in Parkinson's disease. *American Journal of Speech, Language Pathology*, 16, 95-107.
- Mahler, L.**, Ramig, L.O., Fox, C. (2009). Intensive voice treatment (LSVT® LOUD) for dysarthria secondary to stroke. *Journal of Medical Speech-Language Pathology*, 17(4), 165-182.
- Spielman, J., **Mahler, L.**, Halpern, A., Gilley, P., Klepitskaya, O., and Ramig, L. (2011). Intensive Voice Treatment (LSVT®LOUD) for Parkinson's disease following Deep Brain Stimulation of the Subthalamic Nucleus. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 44, 688-700.
- Mahler, L.** & Jones, H.N. (2012). Intensive treatment of dysarthria in two adults with Down syndrome. *Developmental Neurorehabilitation*, 15, 44-53.
- Mahler, L.** & Ramig, L.O. (2012). Intensive voice treatment of dysarthria secondary to stroke. *Journal of Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics*, 26, 681-694.
- Jones, H. N., Crisp, K.D., Moss, T., Strollo, K., Robey, R., Sank, J., Canfield, M., Case, L.E., **Mahler, L. A.**, Kravitz, R., & Kishnani, P.S. (2014). Effects of respiratory muscle training (RMT) in children with infantile-onset Pompe disease and respiratory muscle weakness.

Journal of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine, 7(3), 255-265.

Maris, S., Taetzsch, A., Quintanilla, D., Letendre, J., Picard, A., **Mahler, L.** Xu, F, Lofgren, I. & Delmonico, M. (2014). The combined effects of Tai Chi, resistance training, and diet on physical function and body composition in obese older women. *Journal of Aging Research*, Article ID 657851, 2014. DOI: 10.1155/2014/657851.

Mahler, L., Ramig, L.O., & Fox, C. (2015). Evidence-based treatment of voice and speech disorders in Parkinson disease. *Current Opinion in Otolaryngology & Head and Neck Surgery*, 23, 209-215.

Taetzsch, A., Quintanilla, D., Maris, S., Letendre, J., **Mahler, L.** Xu, F, Delmonico, M. & Lofgren, I. (2015). Impact on diet quality and resilience in urban community dwelling obese women with a nutrition and physical activity intervention. *Journal of Aging: Research and Clinical Practice*, 4(2), 102-108.

Xu F, Letendre, J. Bekke, J. ,Beebe, N., **Mahler LA**, Lofgren IE, Delmonico, M. (2015). Impact of a program of Tai Chi plus behaviorally based dietary weight loss on physical functioning and coronary heart disease risk factors: A community-based study in obese older women. *Journal of Nutrition in Gerontology and Geriatrics*. 34(1), 50-65.

LoBuono, D.L., Taetzsch, A.G., Lofgren, I.E., Xu, F., Delmonico, M.J., & **Mahler, L.** (2016) Cognitive status and cardio-metabolic risk of patients with acquired brain injury and Parkinson's disease. *Disability and Health Journal*, 9(1), 134-139. DOI: 10.1016.j.dhjo.2015.06.001.

Xu F, Delmonico, MJ, Lofgren, IE, Uy, KM, Maris, SA, Quintanilla, D., Taetzsch, AG, Letendre, J, **Mahler, L.** (2017) Effect of a combined Tai Chi, resistant training and dietary intervention on cognitive function in obese older women. *Journal of Frailty & Aging*, 6(3), 167-171.

LoBuono, D., Paulin, C., Xu, F., **Mahler, L.**, Delmonico, M.J., & Lofgren, I.E. (2018). Parkinson's awareness and the role of a health care team in managing Parkinson's disease. *The Digest, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 53(2), 13-21.

Jones, H., Crisp, K., Kuchibhatla, M., **Mahler, L.**, Risoli, T., Jones, C., & Kishnani, P. (2019). Auditory-perceptual speech features in children with Down syndrome. *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 124(4), 324-338.

Manuscripts Accepted and in Press:

Dahl, K. & **Mahler, L.** (2019). Acoustic measures of transfeminine voices and perceptions of voice femininity. *Journal of Voice*.

Conference Proceedings: [Previously published and presented as Deal]

Deal, L., Deal, J.L., Wertz, R.T., Kitselman, K.P. and Dwyer, C. (1979) Statistical prediction of change in aphasia: Clinical application of multiple regression analysis. *Proceedings of the Conference on Clinical Aphasiology, Phoenix, AZ*, 95-100.

Deal, J.L., **Deal, L.**, Wertz, R.T., Kitselman, K.P., and Dwyer, C. (1979) Right hemisphere PICA percentiles: Some speculations about aphasia. *Proceedings of the Conference on Clinical Aphasiology Phoenix, AZ*, 30-37.

Dubey, H., Goldberg, J.C, Abtahi, M., **Mahler, L.**, & Mankodiya, K. (2015). EchoWear: Smartwatch technology for voice and speech treatments of patients with Parkinson's disease. *Proceedings of the Wireless Health Conference; National Institutes of Health*, Baltimore, MD. DOI:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/2811780.2811957>.

Dubey, H., Goldberg, Mankodiya, K., & **Mahler, L.**, (2015). A multi-smartwatch system for assessing speech characteristics of people with dysarthria in group settings. In proceedings of the 17th International Conference on E-health Networking, Application & Services (IEEE HealthCom), October, Boston, MA.

Monteiro, A., Dubey, H., Yang, Q., Mankodiya, K., & **Mahler, L.** (2016). Fit: A Fog computing device for speech tele-treatments. IEEE International Conference on Smart Computing (SMARTCOMP), June, Washington, DC.

Borthakur, D., Dubey, H., Constant, N., **Mahler, L.** & Mankodiya, K. (2017). Smart Fog: Fog computing framework for unsupervised clustering analytics in wearable internet of things. Proceedings of Symposium on Big Data Analytics for IoT Healthcare, November, Montreal, Canada.

Book Chapters:

Mahler, L., Ciucci, M., Ramig, L., & Fox, C. (2008). *Swallowing Problems in Parkinson's disease*. In Trail, M., Protos, E., & Lai, E. (Eds). *Neurorehabilitation in Parkinson's disease: An evidence based treatment model*. SLACK Inc. Professional Book Division, Thorofare, NJ, pp. 279-294.

Fox, C., Ramig, L., Halpern, A., Petska, J., & **Mahler, L.** (2008). *A speech therapy home program for patients with Parkinson's disease*. In Trail, M., Protos, E., & Lai, E. (Eds). *Neurorehabilitation in Parkinson's disease: An evidence based treatment model*. SLACK Inc. Professional Book Division, Thorofare, NJ, pp. 245-276.

Fox, C., Ramig, L., Sapir, S., Halpern, A., Petska, J., & **Mahler, L.**, Farley, B. (2008). *Voice and speech disorders in Parkinson's disease and their treatment*. In Trail, M., Protos, E., & Lai, E. (Eds). *Neurorehabilitation in Parkinson's disease: An evidence based treatment model*. SLACK Inc. Professional Book Division, Thorofare, NJ, pp. 297-307.

Ciucci, M., **Mahler, L.**, & McFarland, D. (2011). Swallowing disorders in Parkinson's disease. In Theodoros, D. & Ramig, L. (Eds), *Communication and swallowing in Parkinson disease* (pp. 199-223). Oxford, England: Plural Publishing.

Dubey, H., Constant, N., Monteiro, A., Abtahi, M., Borthakur, D., **Mahler, L.**, Sun, Y., Yang, Q., & Mankodiya, K. (2017). Fog computing in medical internet-of things:

Architecture, implementation, and applications. *Handbook of large-scale distributed computing in Smart Healthcare*. Springer.

Teaching Statement:

I joined the faculty at the University of Rhode Island in January 2007 after completing a dual doctorate in Speech and Hearing Sciences and Neuroscience at the University of Colorado-Boulder in December 2006 and am currently a tenured Associate Professor. My goal is to bridge research, classroom teaching, and clinical teaching by maintaining an active clinical practice for research and engage students in discussions of evidence-based care. My classes are designed to enhance the student experience in the classroom through engagement in activities to make students think and analyze new situations. I incorporate research findings from my treatment studies and the literature into classroom teaching and apply theory taught in the classroom to evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of clients in the clinic towards excellence in training future speech-language pathologists.

My teaching includes interprofessional education collaborating with Kinesiology and Nutrition and Food Science in two groups for adults with neurological diagnoses; Loud for Life for people with Parkinson disease and the Gateway Café for people who have experienced a traumatic brain injury or stroke. The Curricular and Standards Committee recently approved a new course called, “The Real Reason for Brains”, which is an interdisciplinary perspective on the neuroscience of communication and movement. The course is a D1 (Integrated) Grand Challenge 200-level course that will meet student needs of multiple disciplines at the university.

Courses Taught at URI 2011-2019:

- CMD 273 Phonetics
- CMD 280G The Real Reason for Brains (new grand challenge course 2019)
- CMD 491/2 Undergraduate Special Problems
- CMD 560 Voice
- CMD 565 Pre-Practicum
- CMD 570 Clinic
- CMD 571 Medical Speech-Language Pathology
- CMD 581 Dysphagia
- CMD 582 Motor Speech Disorders
- CMD 583 Acquired Cognitive Disorders
- CMD 598 Graduate Special Problems
- CMD 599 MS Thesis
- NEU 101 Foundations of Neuroscience (required for proposed undergraduate major)
- NEU 210 Neuroethics and Diversity (required for proposed undergraduate major)
- NEU 503 Introduction to Neuroscience
- NEU 504 Neuroethics
- NEU 591 Special Problems
- NEU 599 MS Thesis
- NEU 699 Doctoral Thesis

Major Professor for Graduate Students:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Thesis or Non-Thesis</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>
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			or <u>Expected</u>
Octavia Miller	INP/MS	Thesis	2014
<i>An intensive total speech treatment using principles of motor learning in an individual with dysarthria.</i>			
Jaclyn Schiemer	CMD/MS	Thesis	2014
<i>Intensive treatment of dysarthria in an adult with a traumatic brain injury.</i>			
Charlotte Purcell	CMD/MS	Thesis	2015
<i>Effects of intensive speech treatment for an individual with spastic dysarthria secondary to stroke.</i>			
David Ryder	INP/PhD	Thesis	2016
<i>The impact of deep brain stimulation on speech comprehensibility and swallowing in patients with idiopathic Parkinson's disease.</i>			
Kim Dahl	CMD/MS	Thesis	2018
<i>Acoustic measures of transfeminine voices and perceptions of voice femininity.</i>			
Dennis Byrd	INP/PhD	Thesis	2019 expected
<i>Motor cortex activity in individuals with Parkinson's disease</i>			
Christine Clarkin	INP/PhD	Thesis	2019 expected
<i>LSVT BIG exercise-induced neuroplasticity in patients with Parkinson's disease</i>			
Justin Yehle	CMD/MS	Thesis	2020 expected
<i>Efficacy of transgender voice training</i>			

Major Advisor for Undergraduate Honors Projects

Casey Johnsen	May 2015
Project: <i>Dysarthria: A study of effects on communication</i>	
Julia Lafen	May 2016
Project: <i>Investigating Oral Health Disparities in Individuals with Neurological Disorders</i>	
Melody Grobin	May 2020
Project: <i>Narratives of people with TBI from the Gateway Cafe</i>	
Alexis Grosso	May 2020
Project: <i>Creating a book on "Diffability"; reimagining disability as a difference</i>	
Julia Gluck	May 2020
Project: <i>The impact of deep brain stimulation surgery on speech characteristics</i>	

Clinical Expertise:

My areas of expertise include evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of communication and swallowing deficits of adults and adolescents with degenerative neurological disorders such as Parkinson disease, multiple sclerosis, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; developmental neurological disorders such as cerebral palsy and Down syndrome; and acquired neurological

disorders such as stroke and traumatic brain injury. I also have experience in the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of voice disorders including voice misuse and abuse, neurological voice disorders such as spasmodic dysphonia and essential tremor, head and neck cancer, and transgender voice. My unique combination of experiences and expertise led to the creation of the LOUD for Life program at URI and the first transgender voice clinic.