



Hello from ASHA Professional Development!

Welcome to the first installment of the ASHA Professional Development podcast. We hope you enjoy this segment. In it, we'll be introducing you to what Professional Development is, who is on the team, and how you can get in touch with us.

What is ASHA Professional Development?

ASHA Professional Development (APD for short) is a team of eight people at ASHA that works to offer live and self-study programs in a wide variety of formats and subject matter.

Find us on the ASHA Web site at www.asha.org/profdev.

ASHA Professional Development is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology.

While we share the same office with Continuing Education (the accrediting team at ASHA and steward of the ASHA CEU), we are a different team.

Who is ASHA Professional Development?

In 2007, our team of 8 includes 6 full time staff and 2 job-sharing staff.

Karen Niles (ext. 4127, e-mail: kniles@asha.org): Karen is the leader of our team and director of ASHA Professional Development. She has more than 25 years of experience in the design, delivery, and administration of adult education and professional development programs. Karen holds a BA in philosophy from the College of William and Mary, and an MPhil from Oxford University.

Matthew Cutter (ext. 4381, e-mail: mcutter@asha.org): Matthew Cutter is Managing Editor for ASHA Professional Development. In addition to producing monthly journal self-studies, Matt oversees program renewals and revisions, and the editing all of Professional Development's output—be it on the Web or in print. When not at work he's with his family, his rock band, or working on various freelance writing/editing projects. Favorite nickname: "Mac."

Michele Lash (ext. 4179, e-mail: mlash@asha.org): Michele is the Instructional Designer for ASHA Professional Development, with a focus on Web, DVD and CD projects. She works closely with instructors, staff content coordinators, and contractors to design programs using solid and effective instructional approaches that include engaging learning activities, exercises, assessments and support materials.

Parrish Swann (ext. 4189, e-mail: pswann@asha.org): Parrish works primarily with ASHA eLearning and has been a part of the team since 2002. He is responsible for creating and managing online course work and developing new media programs, such as interactive CDs.

Jack Coursen (ext. 4695, e-mail: jcoursen@asha.org): Jack is the Educational Program Manager for Professional Development and has been on the team since 2004. Jack works

directly with subject matter experts to develop programs for APD, with a focus on telephone seminars.

Ghazala Osman (ext. 4402, e-mail: gosman@asha.org): Ghazala is the Program Coordinator for Professional Development. She has worked at ASHA since 2005, but only recently joined APD in 2007. Ghazala is responsible for registering all of our programs for ASHA CEUs, and also manages the peer review and pilot test processes.

Tami Melchek (ext. 4412, e-mail: tmelchek@asha.org): Tami shares our Program Assistant position (her job-share is Irina). She grades tests, records seminar completions, and awards notice of completions for everyone that completes our courses.

Irina Plotnikova (ext. 4412, e-mail: iplotnikova@asha.org): Irina is the newest member of the team and shares our Program Assistant position with Tami. She grades tests, records seminar completions, and awards notice of completions for everyone that completes our courses.

How can you reach us?

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

- **Call us** at 1-800-498-2071, ext. 4198, to reach our team's phone line. Calls made to 4198 will ring twice at several different desks, which will greatly increase your chance of speaking to one of us.
- **E-mail us** at ashaprofdev@asha.org to reach our team e-mail box. Several staff regularly check this e-mail box, to ensure that someone gets back to you as soon as possible.
- **Fax us** at 301-897-7354, and make sure to direct your fax to the attention of ASHA Professional Development.

What can you expect from future podcasts?

We hope these podcasts will increase member awareness of who we are, what we do, and what is going on "behind the scenes" here in APD. As a subscriber, you'll get insider information on upcoming programs in the form of presenter interviews, program previews, and more.

If you have any suggestions on what you'd like to see in our podcasts, please let us know at ashaprofdev@asha.org.

Stay tuned for the next segment!