
Outcomes of the Meeting and the Challenge for the Future

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Outcomes



Learning new things about cognition...

- Peripherally induced central changes = changes to the peripheral auditory system can lead to changes in the central auditory system and to changes in the brain
 - The brain helps the ears out and vice versa - untreated hearing loss can put people at risk for cognitive decline
 - Compensation strategies a key to successful aging – ‘use it or lose it’
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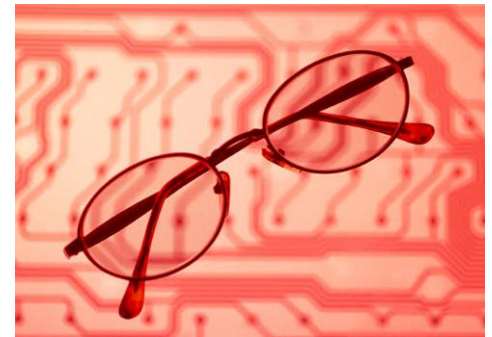
Outcomes



Learning new things about change with age...

- Speed of processing, episodic memory, PTA and speech perception decrease with age but there are **very large inter individual differences** – beware of stereotypes
 - Listening is more effortful for older people – they benefit greatly from context but it takes a lot of brain power to do this
 - The implications of a mismatch between input and output – hearing impairment associated with decreased long term memory
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- Speech and language changes common in older adults (dementia, aphasia, Parkinsons disease). Need to provide visual information to augment auditory to optimize comprehension
 - Outstanding benefits of lipreading even with poor vision



Outcomes



Learning new things about interventions...

- Older people are waiting 10 years to take action. Average age in UK for first action is 74 years but this may decrease with the baby boom generation
- Hearing aids benefit older people including those with dementia but the 'extra' benefits of higher level technology not clear
- Careful consideration is being given to designing hearing aids and earmoulds for the older population





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- The importance of focusing on communication rather than on hearing alone – remembering the context of older people’s lives (UD)
 - Older adults need intervention options – communication training, hearing aids, FM systems, information.....
 - Need for assertiveness training that is situation specific and include writing in preparation for assertiveness
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Challenges



Screening of older adults - what form should it take?

CAP assessment of older adults – what form should it take? What are the implications for rehab?

Developing better measures eg everyday conversation abilities, readiness for intervention?

Clear need for interdisciplinary collaboration – how can it be achieved?

Some fun...

Binasal hearing aids

The Big Pineapple

Mice with golden ears

Navel-lint test

Techno-granny

How do you get a pure-tone audiogram
from a gerbil?

Thank You

- Phonak Switzerland and Phonak US
 - Audiovisual team
 - Session moderators
 - Speakers
 - Poster presenters
 - Steering Committee – Kathy Pichora-Fuller, Sophia Kramer, Ulrike Lemke, Chris Lind & Larry Humes
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