



American Music Therapy Association Presents

“IMPROVING ACCESS AND QUALITY: MUSIC THERAPY RESEARCH 2025”

Linthicum, MD near Baltimore/BWI Airport
July 16-18, 2015

Thursday, July 16 - 7:00 PM-10:00 PM

Welcomes

Opening Keynotes:

- Overview: Importance of Research for Improving Access and Quality — Pamela Hinds, RN, PhD, FAAN, Associate Center Director, Center for Translational Science, Children’s Research Institute; Director, Nursing Research and Quality Outcomes, Children’s National™
- Cultures of Inquiry in Music Therapy Research and the Changing Landscape of Knowledge Generation and Implementation — Sheri Robb, PhD, MT-BC and Tony Meadows, PhD, MT-BC

When viewed as a whole, music therapy research has moved through several important stages of development, characterized by differentiation and integration of philosophies and perspectives that parallel changes occurring in the broader national research community. This includes an emphasis on diverse methodologies and a more integrated approach to research. Central to advancing the science and practice of music therapy is finding ways to develop and integrate this knowledge across these research cultures, while meeting both internal and external demands for research that demonstrates improvements in quality and access to care.

- Q & As/Discussion
- Reception

Friday, July 17 - 8:00 AM-5:30 PM

Panel One: Music Therapy Research Needs

- Themes from Surveys/Interviews
 - Summary of Findings — Barbara Else, MPA, LCAT, MT-BC
 - Educators’ Perspectives — Lori Gooding, PhD, MT-BC
 - Clinicians’ Perspectives — Annette Whitehead-Pleaux, MA, MT-BC

As part of the agenda-setting process for this meeting, members of the Advisory Team surveyed and conducted informal interviews with music therapy professionals, asking a set of open-ended semi-structured questions. This panel highlights salient themes emerging from survey/interview data of perceived research needs. Educator and clinician perspectives are provided.

- Perspectives/Considerations on Theories, Methods, and “So Whats?”—Debra Burns, PhD, MT-BC and Ken Aigen, PhD, MT-BC

How does the research process grow and evolve in music therapy practice? Examples highlight the important questions, potential impact, and interplay of theory, methods, and approaches. Additional discussion focuses on bridging the interests and information needs of various audiences and the extent to which interested parties influence future research. Deb and Ken share thoughts and guidance for navigating knowledge gaps and the myriad of research interests by focusing on clinically relevant questions and corresponding theories and methods.

- Q & As/Discussion

Panel Two: Policy Imperatives

- Impact of Policy, Advocacy, Employers, and Funders on Future Research Directions — Judy Simpson, MT-BC

Government Relations Director, Judy Simpson, shares her thoughts regarding future music therapy research as it informs policy imperatives. Judy summarizes input from a variety of colleagues regarding the role and use of research in policy-making and advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels. Practical examples are used to illustrate how research and lines of research are related to and influenced by funders, decision makers, policy-makers, and employers.

- Q & As/Discussion

Panel Three: Considerations for Future Research in Selected Clinical Topics

- Autism Spectrum Disorder — Blythe LaGasse, PhD, MT-BC and respondent, John Carpentre, PhD, LCAT, MT-BC
- Alzheimer's and Related Dementias — Hanne Mette Ochsner Ridder, PhD and respondent, Alicia Clair, PhD, MT-BC
- Traumatic Brain Injury with Comorbidity — Wendy Magee, PhD, Music Therapist and respondent, Connie Tomaino, DA, LCAT, MT-BC

Three clinical subtopics were selected to highlight opportunities for future research: ASD, Alzheimer's and Related Dementias and TBI with comorbidity. These topics coincide with large segments of practicing music therapists and have been identified by policy-makers and funders as areas where research findings impact policy and funding. Each topic leader will outline considerations for future research in music therapy drawing from the literature and knowledge of trends in current music therapy practice. Respondents will add commentary and supplement remarks.

- Q & As/Discussion

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Panel Four: Research Capacity Building: Infrastructure, Education and Training

- Research Infrastructure — Joke Bradt, PhD, MT-BC
- Music Therapy Education and Training — Deanna Hanson-Abromeit, PhD, MT-BC
- Clinicians' Perspectives — Sarah Thompson, MM, CBIS, MT-BC and Christine Neugebauer, MS, LPC, MT-BC

Music therapists are invested and passionate about building research capacity. Panelists offer conceptual ideas and factors for consideration regarding research capacity building for two major topics: a) research infrastructure and b) music therapy education and training. In addition to the perspectives of educators, the perspectives of practicing clinicians and intern supervisors are represented because of their importance to the dialogue, and the unique set of challenges and needs of practicing clinician/scholars.

- Q & As/Discussion

Breakout Groups

- Breakout group participants discuss topics, respond to a set of questions, and prepare recommendations

DINNER

- PowerPoint summary slides submitted by breakout group leaders for consolidation

Saturday, July 18 - 8:30 AM-Noon

- Reports of Breakout Working Groups
- Final Respondent Panel
- Audience Interaction
- Conclusions