

IHAC - International Hearing Access Committee



Webinar on The Future of Hearing Loops and New Digital Wireless Technologies for Hearing Aids

The death knell on telecoils has been rung on more than one occasion in the last decade, but are these reports credible? The telecoil has long been an essential feature of hearing aids and cochlear implants that increased hearing access and, therefore, an individual's quality of life. Today, access to the telecoil means enjoying a theatrical production, comprehending a church sermon, or understanding a receptionist when a facility offers hearing loop or FM/IR technology with neckloops or a built-in counter loop. It means hearing on the phone when the latter is hearing aid compatible.

Technological developments are moving forward and recent developments of LE Audio and HearStream, a wireless network, promises to supplant the need for the telecoil in the future, though its implementation timeframe is unknown. The International Hearing Access Committee issued a statement in 2020 recommending caution be exercised about the demise of the telecoil while supporting advances. "The rights of HA/CI users to access must be continued and maintained during this period of technological change and shall not be compromised by the promise and overly optimistic expectations of a future technology development."

In this session members of IHAC will discuss the role of the telecoil and the status of future technological developments including Bluetooth LE Audio and HearStream.

Panelists:

- Aïda Regel Poulsen, European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH)
- Avi Blau, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH)
- Dr. Juliëtte Sterkens, Hearing Loop Advocate of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)
- Dr. Rob Drullman, Secretary of the Technical Committee of the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA)
- Andrew Thomas, Chairman of IHAC and of the International Hearing Loop Manufacturers Association (IHLMA)

Moderators: Dr. Hannes Seidler, Hearing Loss Association of Germany, and Dr. Ruth Warick, IFHOH

Time: June 22, 2021 at 7 am PDT (Pacific Time), 10 am EDT (Eastern Time), 4 pm CEST (Central Europe Time)

Please register by June 18 at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4iFHqyqR2ayEOygvx83Mg

English captions will be provided. International sign language will be provided if requested by June 12.

Our thanks to the International Disability Alliance for their support for this webinar.



Aïda Regel Poulsen



Avi Blau



Dr. Juliëtte Sterkens



Dr. Rob Drullman



Andrew Thomas