

2026 DRS Main Conference Program

Thursday March 5th, 2026

7:00 - 7:55 AM	Breakfast (Provided)			
8:00 - 8:05 AM	Welcome & Program Overview President and Chair: Emily K. Plowman, Co-Chair: Ph.D. Brittany Krekeler, Ph.D.			
		Moderator(s):	Speakers:	Title:
8:05 - 9:35 AM	New Investigator Finalist Panel	Lauren Tabor Gray Ph.D. & Ali Barikroo, Ph.D.	Rahul Krishnamurthy, Ph.D.	Preliminary Insights into Brain Structural and Functional Adaptations to Short-term Swallowing Targeted Resistance Training
			Charng-Rong Pan, D.D.S.	TRPV1 is a key receptor on the swallowing initiation evoked by laryngeal heat stimulation in anesthetized rats
			Beatrice Manduchi, Ph.D.	More than one radiation-associated dysphagia (RAD) path: Four data-driven swallow phenotypes reveal hidden recovery diversity in OPC
			Nicole Schaen-Heacock, Ph.D.	Early targeted tongue exercise intervention improves functional swallow outcomes in a translational model of chemoradiation therapy
			Ching-Hsuan Peng, M.S.	Preliminary Validation of SimulScan for Assessing Pharyngeal Swallowing Mechanics
			Michael Frazure, Ph.D.	Mechanisms of swallow dysfunction when developmental and environmental stressors converge
9:35 - 10:35 AM	Scientific Presentation Session 1: Respiration	Cara Donohue, Ph.D.	Steven Angelo Maristela, M.S.	Sensorimotor reflexive and voluntary cough integrity degrade in adults following lung transplantation.
			Avery Dakin, Ph.D.	Exploring the contribution of rib cage and abdominal movement on cough airflow in healthy adults
			Jenny Bellodas Sanchez, M.D.	Respiratory Tract Infections during Neonatal ICU Stay worsens Feeding Milestones and Aerodigestive Outcomes in Premature Infants

			Jordanna Sevit, Ph.D.	Clinical impact of early dysphagia evaluation in older adults hospitalized with non-severe aspiration pneumonia: A target trial emulation study
			Lauren Michelle, M.D.	Pre-existing Dysphagia Predicts One-Year Mortality After Lung Transplantation
			Claire Mills, M.Sc.	Standardizing care through the implementation of the Leeds Post-Extubation Dysphagia Screen: a multi-center, data-enabled Quality Improvement Project
10:35 - 11:00 AM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors			
11:00 -12:00 PM	Poster Panel A Viewing Session 1			
12:15 - 1:15 PM	Lunch Break (on own)			
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Keynote Lecture	Emily K. Plowman, Ph.D.	Marc Moss, M.D. Unraveling the Pathogenesis and Significance of Aspiration: A Pulmonologists Perspective	
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Scientific Presentation Session 2: Clinical Issues in Dysphagia Assessment and Management	Corinne Jones, Ph.D	Stevie Marvin, M.S.	Comparative analysis of post-extubation dysphonia and dysphagia
			Lauren Tabor Gray, Ph.D.	Oral Health in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: Feasibility of Oral Screening and Determinants of Poor Outcomes
			Samantha Shune, Ph.D.	How do readiness and support shape dysphagia-related caregiver burden in dementia?
			Yasmeen Fleifil, M.S.	Effects of Dysphagia Diagnosis on Stroke Patient Outcome Measures
			Harsh Patel, B.A., M.B.A.	Factors associated with post-stroke gastrostomy tube placement: A systematic review
			Katherine Hutcheson, Ph.D.	The second decade: Evolution of the swallow in a 10-year longitudinal survey study of oropharyngeal cancer survivors
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors			

3:30 – 4:00 PM	Poster Panel A Viewing Session 2			
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Pediatric SIG Panel:	Jeannine Hoch, SLP.D.	Katlyn Elizabeth McGrattan, Ph.D.	Millimeters that Make a Difference: Major Functional Payoffs of Improving Mouth Opening in Spinal Muscular Atrophy
	Approaches to Pediatric Swallowing Disorders with Neurologic Causes		Taryn Townsend, SLP.D.	Feeding and Swallowing Considerations in Pediatric Disorders of Consciousness
			Ashley Brown, M.S.	Secretion Management in the Child with Cerebral Palsy
6:00 - 7:00 PM	President’s Gathering <i>(free for attendees)</i>			
Friday March 6 th , 2026				
7:00 – 7:45 AM	Breakfast (Provided)			
7:45 AM -7:50 AM	Welcome President and Chair: Emily K. Plowman, Co-Chair: Ph.D. Brittany Krekeler, Ph.D.			
7:50 AM -8:50 AM	Scientific Presentation Session 3: Pediatrics	Emily Zimmerman, Ph.D.	Jennifer Maybee Ph.D.	Understanding Dysphagia Trajectories in Children: Use of the Childhood Dysphagia Management Scale (CDMS) to Compare Time to Resolution Across Diagnoses
			Katlyn McGrattan, Ph.D.	Time to Dysphagia Resolution in Preterm Infants
			Katlyn McGrattan, Ph.D.	Prodromal Swallowing Deficits in Asymptomatic Infants with Spinal Muscular Atrophy: A Source for Suboptimal Treatment Outcomes?
			Heather Bonilha, Ph.D.	Impact of reducing pulse rate on Judgements of swallowing physiology in bottle-fed children: Preliminary findings

			Heather McGhee, Ph.D.	Bridging gaps in swallowing physiology assessment: Validation of the Modified Barium Swallow Impairment Profile (MBSImP) in children and adolescents
			Pamela Dodrill, Ph.D.	Cumulative Radiation Exposure in NICU Infants by Gestational Age: Evaluation of Four Common Radiologic Exams
8:50 - 10:40 AM	<i>Invited Panel:</i> Physiologic and Inflammatory Cascade of Aspiration and its Clinical Consequences	Martin Brodsky, Ph.D.	Physiologic and Inflammatory Cascade of Aspiration & its Clinical Consequences Mike Pulia, M.D. <i>Examination of the Cellular, Inflammatory and Physiologic Impact of Aspiration from an Infectious Disease Standpoint</i> John Ashford, Ph.D. <i>Impaired Oral Health and Development of Aspiration Pneumonia: Implications for Best Preventative Health Practices</i> Phylis Palmer, Ph.D. <i>A Holistic Clinical Decision-Making Tool: Linking the Impact of Aspiration to Host Variables using the BOLUS Framework</i>	
10:40–11:00AM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors			
11:00- 12:00 PM	Poster Panel B Viewing Session 1			
12:00 –1:00 PM	Lunch Break (on own) Optional Trainee Mentor Lunch (sign up required, ticketed event)			
1:00 – 2:00 PM			Miranda Cullins, Ph.D.	Early-stage oropharyngeal dysphagia and amyloid beta pathology in novel brainstem regions in a transgenic rat model of Alzheimer’s disease

	Scientific Platform Presentation Session 4: Preclinical Models of Dysphagia	Heidi Kletzien, Ph.D.	Gaurav Singhal, Ph.D.	Reduction in lingual activity postweaning alters swallow function in Ts65Dn Mice: Evidence for gene environment interaction in Down syndrome
			Erin Fisher, B.S.	Transition from nursing to weaning in a Down syndrome mouse model coincides with unique gene expression profiles in intrinsic tongue
			Suzanne King, Ph.D.	Identifying biomarkers of muscle injury in a rat model of chemoradiation-induced dysphagia
			Shuntaro Soejimam, M.D., Ph.D.	Time-course RNA Sequencing Analysis of the Hyoglossus Muscle in Rats Following Chemoradiation Therapy
			Nicole Schapker, Ph.D.	Validation of greyscale analyses for detection of dysphagia-related lung pathophysiology in an infant pig model
2:00 – 3:00 PM	DEI Panel	Michelle Troche, Ph.D.	From Research to Advocacy: Centering Community Stakeholders in Dysphagia Research and Action	
3:00– 3:30 PM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors			
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Poster Panel B Viewing Session 2			
400 – 5:00 PM	Scientific Platform Session 5: Measurement Scales of Dysphagia	Heather Bonilha, Ph.D.	Jilliane Lagus, Ph.D.	ASPEKT Measures with and without High-Resolution Manometry in Early Parkinson’s Disease
			Vaishnavi Krishna, M.A.	Understanding healthy swallowing mechanics across bolus conditions using Computation Analysis of Swallowing Mechanics (CASM)
			Ankita Bhutada, Ph.D.	Clinician-integrated automated clinical data registry for dysphagia research: Validated pipeline capturing 12,575 real-world cases in Parkinson's disease
			Kylie Dunne-Platero, M.A.	A FEES-Based Grading System to Improve Detection and Referral of Acute Laryngeal Injury
			Nicholas Schoenleb, B.S.	Quantitative comparisons of hyoid motion trajectories in healthy and post-stroke populations.
			Shitong Mao, Ph.D.	Toward Data-Driven Measurement of Pharyngeal Posterior Wall Thickness as a Marker of Internal Lymphedema in Head and Neck Cancer Patients

Saturday March 7th, 2026

7:00 – 7:55 AM	Breakfast (Provided)			
7:55 - 8:00 AM	Welcome President and Chair: Emily K. Plowman, Co-Chair: Ph.D. Brittany Krekeler, Ph.D.			
8:00 -8:15 AM	40th Anniversary Dysphagia Journal Tribute Reza Shaker, M.D.			
8:15 – 9:25 AM	Scientific Presentation Session 6: Treatment	Sonja Molfenter, Ph.D.	Rosemary Martino, Ph.D.	Towards personalized implementation of PRO-ACTIVE: Targeting adherence and data-driven patient selection for therapy delivery during radiotherapy for HNC
			Nicole Rogus-Pulia, Ph.D.	Lingual Strengthening and Saliva Substitute Interventions for Dysphagia in Alzheimer’s Disease: Results from a Randomized Controlled Trial
			Jizelle Duarte	Hyolaryngeal anticipatory postural adjustments in early-stage Parkinson disease
			Christopher Mayerl	Size matters: Smaller bottle nipple dimensions improve preterm Infant feeding performance and aerodigestive function through ontogeny
			Heather Starmer, Ph.D.	The impact of manual therapy on internal lymphedema.
			Kahla Graham	Respiratory-Swallow Training: Skill Acquisition and Retention of Optimal Respiratory-Swallowing Patterns in Head and Neck Cancer Survivors with Refractory Dysphagia
			Sou'd Ebdah	Development and validation of an integrative cross-system program for radiation-associated dysphagia and dysphonia
9:25 - 10:35 AM	Scientific Presentation Session 7: Emerging Topics in Dysphagia	Alicia Vose, Ph.D.	Beatrice Manduchi, Ph.D.	How much change is real? Determining the MDADI’s Minimal Detectable Change in Head and Neck Cancer
			Claire Crossman, M.A.	Stability of High-Resolution Pharyngeal Manometry Signals Across Raters, Time, and Task in Healthy Pre-Frail Older Adults
			Megan Crawford, Ph.D.	Variations in Clinical Practice Patterns for Dysphagia Assessment and Management by Stroke Severity, Type and Location
			Janina Wilmskoetter, Ph.D.	Lesion-based neural network mapping of post-stroke dysphagia
			Heather Bonilha, Ph.D.	Fruit and vegetable intake among community-dwelling adults with and without swallowing problems

			Aroline Amanna	Swallowing Biomechanics and Neuroanatomical Differences Between Motor Phenotypes in Parkinson’s Disease
			Michael Pulia, M.D.	Oral and Swallowing Dysfunction Amongst Older Adults with Pneumonia in the Emergency Department
10:35 –11:00 AM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors			
11:0 -12:00 PM	Dodds Donner Lecture	Emily K. Plowman, Ph.D.	Dodds Donner Lecture: Bonnie Martin-Harris, Ph.D. From Patient Experience to Patient Impact: Advancing Dysphagia Research Through Translation, Clinical Integration, and Mentorship	
12:00 –1:00 PM	Annual General Meeting And Awards Ceremony			