

ADVANCING TOWARD OBJECTIVE AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER ASSESSMENT

0.1 ASHA CEU and 1 Act 48 PDH

**SUSAN L DILLMUTH-MILLER AUD, ERIN
GRIFFIN, SARAH VICK, AND MANUSHREE
KARTHICK B.S.**

SUSAN HAS NO RELEVANT RELATIONSHIPS TO DISCLOSE.

ERIN HAS NO RELEVANT RELATIONSHIPS TO DISCLOSE.

SARAH HAS NO RELEVANT RELATIONSHIPS TO DISCLOSE.

MANUSHREE HAS NO RELEVANT RELATIONSHIPS TO DISCLOSE.

Learning Objectives:

- Explain the principles of the Frequency Following Response.
- Discuss how the FFR provides an objective assessment of auditory processing, independent of client effort, attention, or language proficiency.
- Discuss how FFR complements behavioral assessment, improves diagnostic accuracy, and provides a way to track therapeutic interventions.



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Despite the biological underpinnings of Auditory Processing Disorder, clinicians have long relied almost exclusively on behavioral test batteries to diagnose it. These traditional assessments, while valuable, are highly susceptible to confounding variables such as attention, motivation, cognitive load, language proficiency, and linguistic background. As a result, accurate identification of APD—particularly in children, individuals with attention difficulties, and non-native English speakers—has remained a longstanding challenge. Although the Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) has not been effective in distinguishing individuals with Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) from those without the disorder, recent advances in auditory electrophysiology have highlighted the Frequency Following Response (FFR) as a promising and objective measure of auditory neural processing which can be used to complement behavioral assessments and track therapeutic benefits. This presentation will introduce the FFR and illustrate its clinical value through case examples involving APD as well as APD secondary to concussion.

Speaker's Bio: Susan Dillmuth-Miller is a professor in the Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences Department and clinical audiologist at East Stroudsburg University where she diagnoses auditory processing disorder. She took a sabbatical in Fall 2023 to study frequency following response (FFR) in college students. She is a member of the International Auditory Processing Guild and Educational Audiology Association.

Erin Griffin is a senior studying the Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences at East Stroudsburg University (ESU). She completed an honors thesis with Dr. Susan Dillmuth-Miller looking at complex listening skills in a NCAA Division II soccer player pre, during, and post-concussion. She will be attending graduate school at ESU.

Sarah Vick is a senior studying Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences at East Stroudsburg University (ESU). She is completing an honors thesis with Dr. Susan Dillmuth-Miller looking at complex listening skills in those with Auditory Processing Disorder. She will be attending graduate school at ESU.

Manushree Karthik is a pre-requisite student at East Stroudsburg University taking classes in the Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences. Her goal is to pursue a doctorate in Audiology. Manu graduated from University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She has been assisting Dr. Susan Dillmuth-Miller with her research.