Hearing Evaluation beyond the audiogram and its association with language
PANEL ORGANISER & AFFILIATION
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European APD Study Group with international experts on APD

Background
There is a well-known link between hearing and language acquisition. Current definitions of hearing loss may limit recognised auditory deficits. This may possibly result in mis-evaluating an individual as having normal hearing. Auditory processing is a specific type of hearing impairment that may remain unrecognised and untreated. The disorder should be differentially diagnosed from Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) and other developmental disorders.

Purpose
This panel aims to raise awareness of different types of auditory perceptual deficits that may remain undiagnosed with a focus on Auditory Processing Disorder. It is known that auditory perceptual deficits may negatively impact on language development. The degree may vary based on relative time of onset with language acquisition level and time that the auditory deficits are left untreated.

Method
Presentation of scientifically based evidence on the diagnosis and treatment of Auditory Processing Disorder from members of the European APD Study Group as well as international experts. APD across the lifespan and co-occurring with different disorders will be presented. APD diagnosis is largely based on speech tests as speech stimuli are highly more complex than simple sounds (non-verbal stimuli).

Results
Evaluation and treatment options of auditory deficits extending beyond the ones documented on the audiogram will be presented. Techniques on how to minimise linguistic and cognitive confounds will be part of this panel's contribution.

Conclusions
Current published data provide indication and evidence that using pure tone audiogram to rule out hearing deficits is leading to missing out on auditory deficits that may influence language acquisition.

SPEAKERS ON THE PANEL AND THEIR AFFILIATION
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