

Annual Report 2021-2022 of the CHHA Vancouver Branch

CHHA Vancouver is a self-help, consumer group which provides advocacy, support and educational activities for successful living with a hearing loss. While the COVID pandemic has impacted our in-person activities, we remain actively engaged in hearing loss issues at national and local levels and continue to reach out to our membership.

Walk2Hear

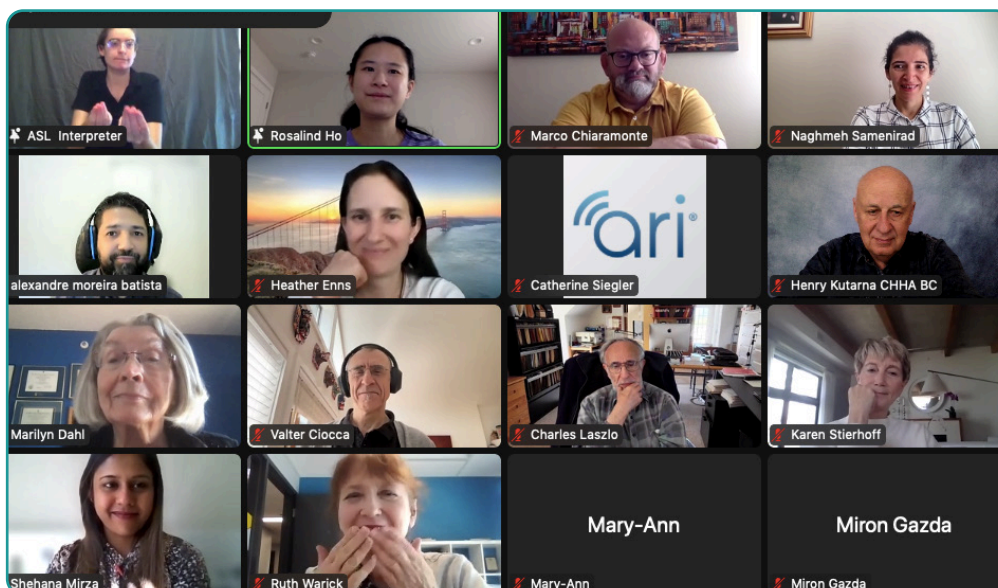
For the third year in a row, CHHA Vancouver had an entirely virtual Walk2Hear campaign due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. This is the 12th annual Walk2Hear, and the sixth year that we have used the CanadaHelps fundraising platform. The fundraising campaign closed on October 31, 2022 with \$2,200.00 raised.

Marilyn Dahl was the top individual fundraiser. Wavefront Centre for Communications Accessibility was the top fundraising team.

The fundraising campaign culminated in a virtual gathering of 18 participants on Sunday, September 18, 2022 over Zoom. Participants played humorous trivia games to celebrate the beautiful city and weird country that we live in. Marilyn Dahl edged out all other participants as the most knowledgeable person to win the Vancouver Landmarks trivia game. Ruth Warick was the winner of the Canada's Strange Laws trivia game.

After the trivia games, participants were invited to connect with each other by sharing stories about their hearing journeys.

The Virtual Walk2Hear event was made accessible with CART and ASL interpreting.



Educational Programs

CHHA Vancouver and CHHA-BC jointly hosted a series of monthly webinars, held online via Zoom. All webinars were made accessible with CART and ASL interpreting.

Mental Health and Interpersonal Relationship Skills Setting Emotional Boundaries and Practicing Self Care in the age of COVID

On February 11, 2022, Felicia D'Amato presented on how to set emotional boundaries and practice self-care in the age of COVID. Felicia explained the different types of boundaries, how they change as people learn and grow, and how to set emotional boundaries. Self-care is important, akin to putting on one's own oxygen mask first. Felicia also explained various self-care methods, including how to deal with the negative aspects of social media. COVID has had a large impact on boundaries and self-care, and the effects of the pandemic are still being revealed by research studies.



Felicia D'Amato



World Hearing Day 2022

CHHA Vancouver partnered with Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility and CHHA-BC to host a webinar to celebrate World Hearing Day on March 3, 2022. The workshop was moderated by Dr. Ruth Warick, who is the Director of Programs and Services at Wavefront.

An international and local panel of speakers shared their clinical or personal knowledge and experiences on safe listening:

- Masahito Kawamori (Japan)
- Amarilis Melendez (Panamá)
- Hugh McCormack (Wavefront)
- Connor Stewart (Wavefront)



During the session, the speakers discussed the latest developments concerning safe listening standards and practices, and also shared specific strategies for individuals to protect their hearing.

This was one of our most popular workshops with 67 participants, and was followed by a very lively Q&A session.

Latest cochlear implant technologies and models

On April 5, 2022, speakers representing the 4 different cochlear implant (CI) brands –Advanced Bionics, Cochlear, MED-EL, and Oticon – discussed their latest cochlear implant models and how clients can choose the CI that best accommodates their needs.

- Kimmi Dreifelds (Advanced Bionics)
- Raegan Bergstrom (Cochlear)
- Kim Twitchell (MED-EL)
- Daniel Lee (Oticon)



*Raegan Bergstrom
(Cochlear)*



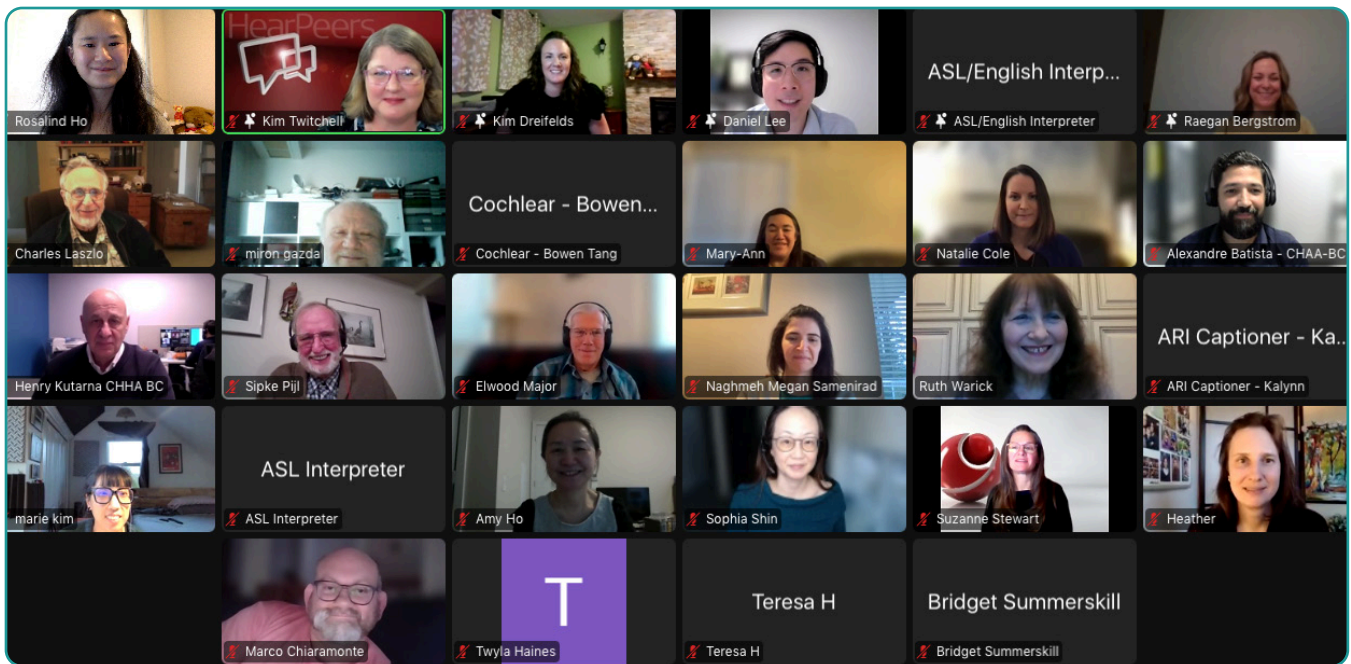
*Kim Twitchell
(MED-EL)*



*Daniel Lee
(Oticon)*



*Kimmi Dreifelds
(Advanced Bionics)*



Governance

Membership is at 23 persons. An annual report was submitted to CHHA-BC and members attended the virtual CHHA-BC AGM on May 18, 2022. Members of the CHHA Vancouver Branch Executive are:

Rosalind Ho, President
 Marco Chiamonte, Vice-President
 Naghmeh Samenirad, Secretary
 Miron Gazda, Treasurer
 Mary-Ann Livesey, Member-at-Large
 Heather Enns, Member-at-Large

Thanks go to my colleagues on the CHHA Vancouver Board for their commitment and awesome work. A special thanks to Accurate Realtime Inc. for continued excellent captioning for us.

Rosalind Ho, President, CHHA Vancouver Branch
 Report respectfully submitted on December 19, 2022