



A Program of G3ict, Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs

NeuroAbilities Advisory Council

Short Biographies

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# Charles Anderson, Ph.D.

Dr. Anderson is a Professor in the Computer Science Department with a Specialization in Machine Learning at Colorado State University. He is also a faculty member of CSU’s School of Biomedical Engineering, Graduate Degree Program in Ecology and the Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Neurosciences Program. He graduated with a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1986, advised by Andy Barto, and worked at GTE Laboratories in Waltham, MA, until he arrived at CSU in 1991. He teaches graduate courses in machine learning and undergraduate courses in programming, data structures, and graphics. His research is in machine learning with a focus on reinforcement learning, EEG pattern recognition, and neural networks. He loves the challenge of finding patterns in data for prediction, classification, and control.

# Julia Bascom

Ms. Bascom serves as Executive Director at the Autistic Self Advocacy Network. Previously, she did state-level work in her home state of New Hampshire, where she served on the DD council and co-led an inter-agency team to revitalize self-advocacy within the state. Julia edited Loud Hands: Autistic People, Speaking, an anthology of writings by autistic people, and currently serves on the advisory board of Felicity House, the board of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, and the board of Allies For Independence.

# Stephen Bauer, Ph.D.

Dr. Bauer is a Program Officer at the U.S. National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) under the Administration on Community Living. In 1992, he earned his Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from SUNY at Buffalo. He is a former co- and principle- investigator of Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers on Technology Transfer (T2RERC) and co-investigator for a Disability Rehabilitation Research Project on Knowledge Translation for Technology Transfer, all funded by NIDLRR [then NIDRR]. Steve’s professional interests include design, development, transfer, and adoption of technology (assistive, universal, information and communication); assistive technology service provision and classification frameworks, and applications of the WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health.

# Lidia Best

Lidia is a Vice-Chairman of ITU JCA-AHF (International Telecommunication Union Joint Coordination Activities on Accessibility and Human Factors) and internationally recognized accessibility expert and advocate for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. She brings unique knowledge as an expert with lived experience, as a person who is hard of hearing and a cochlear implant user since 2009. Her work has specific focus on accessibility and quality of hearing care for deaf and hard of hearing people including policy development, training, and consulting. She contributed to work on standards as a member of G3ict delegation to ITU in telecoms, captioning and assistive listening devices , having authored the ITU FSTP-RCSO “Overview of remote captioning services" and H.871“Safety requirements for wearable audio augmenting devices” the recommendation on personal sound amplifiers. After 10 years, Lidia stepped down from her position of the Vice-President of the EFHOH (European Federation of Hard of Hearing) in 2020 to concentrate on international advocacy work which includes WHO World Hearing Forum. While at EFHOH she was co-author of reports into situation of hard of hearing and deafened people in Europe in areas of employment, hearing care and accessibility. In UK, Lidia is a Chairman of the National Association of Deafened People (NADP).

# Gary Birch, O.C., O.B.C, Ph.D., P.Eng.

Dr. Birch was appointed Executive Director at the Neil Squire Society in 1994.He earned his B.A. Sc. in Electrical Engineering in 1983, and in 1988 received a Doctorate in Electrical Engineering (Biomedical Signal Processing), both from the University of British Columbia. His specific areas of expertise are assistive technologies, EEG signal processing, direct brain-computer interface, digital signal processing, human-machine interface systems, biological systems, robotic control systems, environmental control systems and service delivery programs for persons with disabilities. Dr. Birch’s current professional affiliations and contributions include: Adjunct Professor at UBC, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Adjunct Professor, SFU, Gerontology Research Program; Chair of the Minister’s National Advisory Committee for Industry Canada on Assistive Devices; Member of the Executive Technical Committee on Assistive Technologies for Persons with Disabilities for the Canadian Standards Association; Member of the Research Advisory and Review Committee for GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre; Member of the Advisory Committee for the Disabilities Health Research Network in British Columbia; Member of the Task Force representing Disability Advocacy Groups and Telecommunication Companies on Accessible Telecommunications in response to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission on Deferral Accounts; Member of the Sub-committee on Access to Technology for Council of Canadians with Disabilities; Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee on employment issues for BC Region of the Federal Government and the Provincial Government of BC.

# Cathy Bodine, Ph.D., CCC, SLP

Dr. Bodine, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Colorado at Denver and AT Advisor to the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities. Dr. Bodine has served as the Principal Investigator for a number training grants, is the PI for the Colorado AT Act (P.L. 105-394) and has served as the PI for a number of research and development projects leading to new designs in AT devices. She is Co-PI on two NIDRR funded development projects for the recently awarded Rehabilitation and Engineering Center for Recreational Technologies hosted at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Dr. Bodine serves on the Board of Directors of RESNA and is Vice-Chair of the ALS Association Board. She is a highly valued member of the AT manufacturing community, a powerful liaison with the commercial manufacturing community, and a nationally recognized leader in the field of AT.

# Peter Brunner, M.S., Ph.D.

Peter Brunner is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Neurology and Neuroscience at Albany Medical College. He is currently transitioning to Washington University in St. Louis, where he will have appointments as an Associate Professor in the Departments of Neurosurgery, Neurology, and Biomedical Engineering. Peter obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from Graz University of Technology in Austria, graduating summa cum laude. He received his graduate and postdoctoral training at the Wadsworth Center and Albany Medical College. Peter is the principal investigator on two large NIH-funded software development and dissemination projects, and serves as the Deputy Director of the NIH-funded National Center for Adaptive Neurotechnologies. Over the past decade, he has been involved in several multi-center studies to investigate electrocorticographic signals recorded from the surface of the brain. His primary research goals are directed towards understanding the large-scale cortical electrophysiology that governs uniquely human behavior and cognition. The long-term goal of his research is to develop this understanding into devices that interact with these signals and thereby realize entirely new diagnostic or treatment options for people affected by nervous system injury or disease. To pursue this goal, his research spans the entire range from basic research, technology development, and translational research to clinical dissemination and commercialization.

# Jennifer Collinger, Ph.D.

Dr. Collinger is a Research Biomedical Engineer at the VA R&D Center of Excellence and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Collinger received her PhD in Bioengineering from the University of Pittsburgh in April 2009. Her doctoral work focused on the prevention of upper limb injuries in manual wheelchair users. Dr. Collinger’s research interests are related to the use of neuroprosthetics to restore function for individuals with upper limb paralysis or loss. She is developing intracortical brain-computer interface technology for individuals with tetraplegia. Her work also includes non-invasive imaging for measuring neuroplasticity after spinal cord injury or amputation. Dr. Collinger’s research is conducted at the Rehab Neural Engineering Labs.

# Bob Cunningham

Mr. Cunningham is the Vice President of Product and Development at Tobii Dynavox. He came to DynaVox in 1993 as the Director of software development. He later became Chief Technology Officer in May 2009. Prior to joining DynaVox, Bob was a senior software engineer at Vertex Software and vice president of research and development for the Guidance Corporation. He began his career as a research programmer at the University of Pittsburgh’s Learning Research and Development Center. Bob has worked as an independent computer-programming consultant on long-term projects for Xerox, Inc. and the U.S. Air Force. Bob graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

# Mike Ellis

As former Global VP of Accessibility at Sprint, and now Head of Accessibility for the New T-Mobile Mr. Ellis has been a part of the nation’s largest Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) and accessibility initiatives for 28 years. Now combined, the new T-Mobile currently provides accessibility services within a global

framework and relay services in 38 states, the U.S. Federal Government, as well as in New Zealand. Under Mr. Ellis’ leadership, the New T-Mobile is committed to ensuring equal access with a wide variety of wireless and wireline accessible products and services for customers with disabilities. Through his work, Mr. Ellis helps to shape the evolution of telecommunication products and services for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Speech disabled and Blind/low vision communities. As a subject matter expert on accessibility, disability and inclusion

in the workplace and society, Mr. Ellis has testified before various government officials, including political members and committees of respective U.S. Senate, State government agencies and Public Utility and/or Commerce Commissions across the country and in New Zealand. His work and affiliation with governing boards, state associations and consumer advocacy organizations has helped to create positive change in the quality of life for all.

While at Sprint, Mike was the founder and Executive Sponsor of the REAL DEAL Employee Resource Group (ERG) that focuses on creating resources, raising awareness and empowering employees with disabilities. He now serves as the Executive Sponsor for the ADN/REALDEAL at the new T-Mobile. He has received numerous prestigious recognitions, including Sprint’s “Diamond” Award, the Sprint “Legend” Award for Diversity Leadership, was recognized as “Employee of the Year” by CAREERS and the disABLED magazine, as well as the highly coveted U.S. White House’s Champion of Change for Disability Advocacy Across Generations. Mr. Ellis earned his B.A. from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas and an M.A. from Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. In 2017, he became a certified professional in accessibility core competencies (CPACC) as sanctioned by the International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP) and currently sits on their Global Leadership Council. He also serves on various boards for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology, Telecommunications for the Deaf Inc. (TDI) and Gallaudet University. An avid outdoorsman, golfer, and motorcycle enthusiast, Mr. Ellis lives in Broomfield, Colorado with his wife of 33 years; having raised three children and a plethora of pets.

# Melanie Fried-Oken, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Dr. Fried-Oken is a certified speech-language pathologist and a leading international clinician and researcher in the field of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) where she provides expertise about assistive technology for persons with acquired disabilities who cannot use speech or writing for expression. Dr. Fried-Oken leads a number of federal grants related to research communication technology for persons with Locked-In Syndrome, Primary Progressive Aphasia, Alzheimer's disease, ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases. She was a partner in the NIDILRR funded Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (RERC on AAC). She leads a translational research team in the development and evaluation of brain-computer interfaces that is based on a strong Participatory Action Research perspective. Dr. Fried-Oken’s greatest passion is to identify challenges of people with complex communication needs that are not being met by current AAC practices, and to develop technologies or intervention strategies that help people participate to their greatest potential.

# Deborah Gilden, Ph.D.

Dr. Gilden is Senior Scientist Emerita at The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute in San Francisco. She has a BS in Speech Therapy from the University of Illinois, an M.Ed in Peripatology (orientation and mobility for the blind [O&M]) from Boston College, and a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from Washington University. In early work at Smith-Kettlewell Debby developed multisensory educational toys for blind and deaf-blind children. One was awarded a patent and sold commercially. In the early 1980s she introduced her then-colleague, Dr. Erich Sutter, to the use of the crude e-tran board for people with locked-in syndrome. This was the springboard for his developing an electroencephalographic communication system. Debby spearheaded the development of a robotic fingerspelling hand for deaf-blind people in collaboration with Stanford, California Polytechnical Institute, the VA, and a private company. Working with virtual reality pioneer Dr. Myron Krueger, she conducted research on his non-tactile audio maps for blind people, which she named “KnowWare.” Dr. Gilden has developed and given international seminars on low vision computer access.

# Martin Gould, Ed.D.

Martin Gould, Ed.D. serves as Director of Research at G3ict. He has spent over 35 years working in the field of human services in a variety of roles, including as a: Manager at the Department of Treasury on the Affordable Care Act; Director of Research and Technology at the National Council on Disability; Director of Outcomes Research at the Council on Leadership; and, Assistant Superintendent for Family and Student Services at the Baltimore City Public Schools. He joined G3ict in December 2006 and has worked on a number of projects related to the CRPD and the 2030 Action Agenda for Sustainable Development. Other volunteer work, over the last 35 years, includes serving as: an Health Disparities Advisory Board Member for PCORI, a national independent research entity; a research advisor to the National Finance Institute at Acción International; a member of the Scientific Research Advisory Board for the Zero Project and World Futures Council; and a member of the Treasury Department/IRS National Leave Bank Board. He took his doctorate in education and behavioral research from The Johns Hopkins University in 1985.

# Sandy Hanebrink, OTR/L, CLP, FAOTA

Ms. Hanebrink is the Executive Director of Touch the Future, Inc. She is an occupational therapist who has developed a practice niche in advocacy, assistive technology, disability laws compliance by state and local governments, emergency preparedness and networking individuals with disabilities and service providers to the necessary resources and funding to achieve individual life goals. She works with both assistive technology and mainstream industries to development technology for improved independence and increased employment opportunities for disabled individuals. She has launched innovative fund-raising strategies to help eliminate barriers to accessing necessary technologies like On the Spot crowdfunding, Touch the Future grants and the Walk2Walk virtual events. Ms. Hanebrink currently serves on the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Diversity Equity & Inclusion Task Force, Co-Chairs the Multicultural Diversity and Inclusion Network in OT, is on Board of OT Leaders and Legacies Society and is a Founder/Chair of the Network of Occupational Therapy Practitioners with Disabilities and Supporters (NOTPD).  She served as Strand Advisor for the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) for over ten years and facilitated the National Alliance Partnership of AOTA and ATIA. Ms. Hanebrink has also assisted the G3ict and IAAP with accessible event planning for the M-Enabling Summit and IAAP certification events. She has multiple presentations and publications at the local to international levels, including topics on effectively educating and employing individuals with disabilities, developing self-evaluation and transition plans, architectural accessibility, reasonable accommodations, disability laws, disabled sports and assistive technology. Ms. Hanebrink is a Paralympian, earning Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, American records, and World records for multiple sports. She has received many awards and recognitions for her work.

# Andrea Kübler, Ph.D.

Dr. Kübler studied biology at the Universities of Stuttgart, Würzburg and Tübingen and received his doctorate at the Institute for Medical Psychology and Behavioral Neurobiology at the University of Tübingen. In her dissertation she dealt with the topic: “Brain-computer communication - development of a brain-computer interface for locked-in patients on the basis of the psychophysiological self-regulation training of slow cortical potentials (SCP)”. After successfully completing a subsequent psychology degree, she studied the subject: "Brain-Computer Interfaces - the key for the conscious brain locked into a paralyzed body." She is a Professor at the Department of Psychology I, Biological Psychology, Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy, University of Würzburg, Germany.

# Ben Lippincott

Mr. Lippincott serves as Project Director for the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Technologies' (Wireless RERC) Industry and Consumer Outreach & Education project. Ben has been Manager of Industry Relations for the RERC for the last eight years and is based at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia. In this role, Ben serves as the primary point of contact for the RERC’s industry partners and coordinates their involvement in RERC research and development efforts. Highlights of his work in this position include co-editorship of the consumer website, mywirelessreview.com, his involvement in the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) Hearing Aid Compatibility working group, and editorship of the RERC’s monthly e-newsletter, Re:Wireless, that reaches over 400 wireless industry professionals. Previously, Ben was sales and marketing manager for International Business Machines. Ben covered the Southeast region of the US, selling Intel-based servers to small and medium-sized businesses. Ben received his BA in English and Business Management from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.

# Kristen "KR" Liu

Diagnosed with severe hearing loss at the age of three, KR has made it her life’s work to be a strong advocate and voice championing the way we connect in the world as a technology sales and marketing executive over the last two decades. KR is a passionate thought leader and advocate for disability inclusion in design, gender equality, and LGBTQ rights in technology. She was the Principal Accessibility Marketing Lead at Amazon Lab126 and is now the Head of Brand Accessibility at Google. KR has been invited to speak at the White House, the United Nations, Capitol Hill, CES, SXSW and many more to push for a more accessible and inclusive world for all through brand marketing and inclusive design in technology. She has been featured in NPR, CBS This Morning, Fast Company, Business Insider, Tech Crunch and many more for her work in accessibility inclusion and equality in tech.

# Mohammed Ali Loutfy, Ph.D.

Dr. Loutfy is the Executive Director of Disabled People's International (DPI) and an international development professional specializing in the inclusion of persons with disabilities across a wide range of developmental programming. In Fall 2019, Mohammed earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the American University of Washington, DC. His dissertation addressed the impact of persons with disabilities’ experiences with service providers and disability advocacy organizations in Lebanon. Prior to that in 2009 and as a Fulbright Scholar, Mohammed had earned his Master’s degree in International Development, also from the American University, where his thesis focused on evaluating the commitment of the World Bank to pursuing disability inclusion in its education funded programs. Before that in 2001, Mohammed earned his degree in Public Law from the Lebanese University in Beirut, where he focused his studies on human rights and disability. Since 2016, Mohammed has been the Representative of Disabled People’s International (DPI) at the United Nations, where he co-chairs the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).Since 2014, Mohammed has also served as Executive Director of the Arab Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, where he leads the forum’s strategic planning and partnership building initiatives in addition to its organizational development and policy programming.

# Mike May

Chief Evangelist at Access Explorer, Mr. May has been an innovator of many technologies including navigation systems that improve the independence of people who are blind. In 1999, he founded Sendero Group, developers of the first accessible GPS and talking map software. Mike has been the Principal Investigator on five federally funded grants for the research and development of accessible wayfinding technology for individuals with disabilities. Now he is continuing to work on that passion with Access Explorer to develop a seamless outdoor to indoor navigation solution - and to finally solve the "final frustrating fifty feet" problem. Mike was totally blinded at age three from an explosion of calcium carbide. He grew up believing he was lucky to be blind and still alive. Mike has a profound sense of adventure. He holds the downhill speed skiing record for a totally blind person of 65 MPH. Mike has met Presidents Carter, Reagan, Clinton and Obama. A story of Mike's adventures is told in Robert Kurson's best-selling book, Crashing Through.

# Patrick McGovern

Mr. McGovern is a founding trustee of The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation, focused on neuroscience and information technology that helps humanity. From 1999 to 2005, Patrick ran SourceForge, a large and influential open source development website. During his leadership, SourceForge grew to 25 million unique visitors a month, two million daily downloads and hosted over 150,000 open source projects. In 2005, Patrick joined Splunk, the current leader in big data and log analysis (Nasdaq:SPLK). While at Splunk, he held the positions of VP of Marketing and VP of Community Development. After leaving Splunk, Patrick became the CMO of Skout, a location-based mobile community/dating website, which raised 21 million dollars from Andreessen Horowitz. Most recently Patrick was the VP of Marketing at Kenna Security and a board member of International Data Group. Patrick holds a BS in Computer Science from the University of San Francisco.

# José del R. Millán, Ph.D.

Dr. Millán is a professor and holds the Carol Cockrell Curran Chair in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. He is also a professor in the Department of Neurology at Dell Medical School. He received a PhD in computer science from the Technical University of Catalonia, Barcelona, in 1992. Prior to joining UT Austin, he was a research scientist at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in Ispra (Italy) and a senior researcher at the Idiap Research Institute in Martigny (Switzerland). He has also been a visiting scholar at the Universities of Berkeley and Stanford as well as at the International Computer Science Institute in Berkeley. Most recently, he was Defitech Foundation Chair in Brain-Machine Interface at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland (EPFL), where he helped establish the Center for Neuroprosthetics. Dr. Millán has made several seminal contributions to the field of brain-machine interfaces (BMI), especially based on electroencephalogram signals. Most of his achievements revolve around the design of brain-controlled robots. He has received several recognitions for these seminal and pioneering achievements, notably the IEEE-SMC Nobert Wiener Award in 2011, elevation to IEEE Fellow in 2017, and elected Fellow of the International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering in 2020. In addition to his work on the fundamentals of BMI and design of neuroprosthetics, Dr. Millán is prioritizing the translation of BMI to end-users suffering from motor and cognitive disabilities. In parallel, he is designing BMI technology to offer new interaction modalities for able-bodied people.

# John Morris, Ph.D.

Dr. Morris is a Research Scientist and Program Manager for the Wireless RERC and the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Government from the University of Texas at Austin. John works on Wireless RERC's R1 (Survey of User Needs/Consumer Advisory Network) and R2 (Customer-Driven Usability) projects. His research focuses on consumer insights, design and usability, and accessibility of technology for people with all types of physical, sensory and cognitive limitations. Previously, John served as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Connecticut and Brown University. He also worked for the Oracle Corporation as a senior product development manager for the company's support services division.

# Emily Mugler, Ph.D.

Neural Engineering Manager at Facebook

# Debra Ruh

Ms. Ruh is an advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and founder of a Ruh Global Communications. The firm focuses on Global Disability Inclusion, EmployAbility, ICT Accessibility, Human Rights, Social Media Marketing and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). She has provided global leadership to governments, corporations, NGOs and DPO’s (Disability Persons Organizations) supporting research projects, DPO outreach, policy and standards initiatives with the public and private sector. Proud to work with United Nations agencies and countries to help implement the CRPD. She founded TecAccess in 2001 and merged it with another firm in 2011. TecAccess was an IT consulting firm that employed persons with disabilities and helped businesses create accessible technologies for people with disabilities. Co-Founder of www.AXSChat.com a twitter chat about accessibility and disability inclusion.Debra is active on social media and blogging with over 150,000 followers on all mediums. Named as “Top 10% of Social Media Users” and “Top 0.1% of people talking about Accessibility” by KLOUT. She is a Thought Leader and Blogger on ICT Accessibility and Disability Inclusion on social media channels.

# Marcia Scherer, Ph.D., MPH

Dr. Scherer received her doctorate from the University of Rochester in the areas of Counseling, Family and Worklife Studies. She has a master’s degree in Public Health from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. She is the Director for the Institute for Matching Person and Technology. She is also the Sr. Research Associate for the International Center for Hearing and Speech Research (a joint program of the University of Rochester and National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology). Dr. Scherer is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association in Rehabilitation Psychology, Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology and in Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics. She is also a Fellow of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and a member of the editorial board of the journal Disability and Rehabilitation, official journal of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine.

# Will Scott, Ph.D.

Dr. Scott is a Software Architect, artificial intelligence subject matter expert, and certified IBM Watson Application Developer in IBM Design, working with the Accessibility Technology & Innovation team. Will has led delivery of award-winning A.I. technologies that have been recognized by Forbes, MIT Technology Review, and the Federal Communications Commission. His areas of focus is architecting and developing solutions related to natural language processing, and cognitive computing (machine learning and artificial intelligence) specifically drawing from his expertise and cross-domain knowledge in Cloud, Mobile, and Web-based technologies.

# Roger O. Smith, Ph.D.

Dr. Roger O. Smith is Professor in the Department of Occupational Sciences & Technology and Director of the R2D2 Center (Rehabilitation Research Design & Disability) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Smith is widely published and has presented on accessibility, universal design, assistive technology, and outcome measurement across the nation and globe. He has directed more than 35 funded projects supporting research, demonstration & training initiatives created new measures and devising new interventions related to disability and rehabilitation with a focus on assistive technology and accessibility. Dr. Smith is Past-President of RESNA (the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America). He has served on the National Advisory Board on Medical Rehabilitation Research in the National Institutes of Health and the advisory panels of several federally funded research centers with technology and health foci. He is a Fellow of RESNA and the American Occupational Therapy Association and an inducted member of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation Academy of Research.

# Walid Soussou, Ph.D.

Dr. Soussou is a neuroscientist by training and the President of the Wearable Sensing Company. He leads QUASAR’s efforts at developing commercial applications of dry-electrode EEG technology. Dr. Soussou leverages his PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Southern California (USC), expertise in Brain-Computer-Interfaces, and experience in sleep research, for developing commercial applications of wearable EEG/EOG/EMG/ECG sensors. At QUASAR, Dr. Soussou has raised several million dollars for R&D in the form of research grants from the NIH, DARPA, Army, Navy, and Air Force. In 2010, he launched the first wireless dry electrode EEG system into the market and continues to develop QUASAR’s cutting-edge sensor technology and explore their commercial applications.

# Cid Torquato

Cid Torquato is currently the Municipal Secretary for Persons with Disabilities for the city of São Paulo, Brazil. A lawyer, graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of São Paulo, Cid has been an executive at Lowe & Partners Latin America and StarMedia Networks, an advisor in Electronic Government for the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management, during the Government of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, founder of the Brazilian Chamber of Electronic Commerce, Deputy Secretary of the São Paulo State Secretariat for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and advisor to CONADE – the National Council for the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Cid authored the book “Entrepreneurship without Borders - An Excellent Path for People with Disabilities”, after becoming quadriplegic in 2007.

# Steve Tyler

Mr. Tyler currently serves as Director of Assistive Technology at Leonard Cheshire where he has responsibility for policy, support and implementation of assistive technology solutions, services and innovations inside and outside of the organisation. He has a history of innovating sustainable and life-changing products in the accessibility arena from leading the team that developed ground-breaking synthetic speech (leading to the voice of Alexa), through to accessible TV, mobile devices, payment systems and on-line web and app accessibility initiatives. He led on the development of HTML, in the early days of the web, and more recently on EPUB and publication accessibility, data transformation processes and the creation of business to business services that deliver these. He collaborates with key players in the technology market as part of the Google Accessibility Strategy Board, the Microsoft accessibility steering group, and as a programme lead for the annual M-Enabling Summit held in Washington DC. He engages with local and international government entities on policy, with UK and European standards agencies, and is active in the broader area of accessibility to everyday goods and services. At present he is working on an enabler platform through which assessment of user needs using artificial intelligence can be carried out, on innovation in the health technology sector around monitoring and safety, and advocates at parliamentary level for new processes that allow potential users to obtain assistive devices and services. He has a background in clinical psychology, an M.B.A from CAS business School, and an interest in organisational behaviour.

# Santani Teng, Ph.D.

Dr. Teng is an Associate Scientist at The Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute in San Francisco, CA, investigating auditory spatial perception, haptics, echolocation, and assisted mobility in sighted and blind persons. He received B.A. and M.A. in psychology from UC Davis and his Ph.D. in psychology from UC Berkeley in 2013, studying the behavioral mechanisms of echoacoustic perception. Thereafter, he conducted postdoctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on neural mechanisms of perception before coming to Smith-Kettlewell as a fellow in 2017, starting his PI position in January 2020. Dr. Teng's new laboratory uses a combination of psychophysical, neurophysiological, engineering, and computational tools to better understand how we perceive and interact with the world, especially when vision is unavailable. For more information about his work, please visit [Santani Teng’s profile page](https://www.ski.org/users/santani-teng).

# Gregg Vanderheiden, Ph.D.

Dr. Vanderheiden is a Professor and the Director of Trace R&D Center at University of Maryland - College Park. He worked in technology and disability for over 45 years. Dr. Vanderheiden is a pioneer in Augmentative Communication (term taken from his writings) and in cross-disability access to ICT. Most of the initial access features in both Microsoft Windows and Apple Mac operating systems came/licensed royalty free from his Center. His work is also found in computers, phones, Automated Postal Stations, Amtrak ticket machines and airport terminals. Dr. Vanderheiden co-chaired both WCAG 1.0 and 2.0 working groups. He has worked with over 50 companies and numerous government advisory committees including for FCC, NSF, NIH, the US Access Board and White House. He has received over 30 awards for his work. Dr. Vanderheiden’s current work is helping create a Global Public Inclusive Infrastructure (GPII).

# Mariska J. Vansteensel, Ph.D.

Dr. Vansteensel obtained her PhD in the field of Neurophysiology in 2006 at Leiden University Medical Center, the Netherlands ([Curriculum Vitae](http://www.nick-ramsey.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/CV_MJvanSteensel_February2019_Short.pdf)). In 2007, she moved to the BCI lab of Nick Ramsey. The main research goal of Dr. Vansteensel is to use the wealth of neuroscientific knowledge directly for the benefit of people with disease or disability. She currently coordinates the research on implantable ECoG-based BCIs in the lab of Nick Ramsey and conducts research within the Utrecht NeuroProsthesis project, which aims to implement and validate implantable communication-BCIs for home use. In addition, she is the principal investigator of several projects related to clinical implementation of BCIs and pediatric neuroscience.

# Theresa Vaughan

Theresa Vaughan, BA is a research scientist with thirty years of experience focused specifically on Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) as new communication channels for people with severe motor disabilities. Her laboratory supervised the first-ever large-scale trial of independent home use of a BCI by people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). This work has become the foundation of the National Center for Adaptive Neurotechnologies (NCAN) translational service project program. She is currently the research partner on a Phase I SBIR project aimed at bringing the BCI home device to market, and most recently, she has begun to organize NeuroAbilities.

# Jonathan R. Wolpaw, MD

Dr. Wolpaw is the Director of the National Center for Adaptive Neurotechnologies at the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center. He is a neurologist who has been engaged in basic and clinical neuroscience research for more than 40 years. His research group developed operant conditioning of spinal reflexes as a model for defining the plasticity underlying learning. They showed that reflex conditioning can guide spinal cord plasticity to improve walking in animals and people with spinal cord injuries. This work has introduced a new therapeutic method – targeted neuroplasticity – that can enhance functional recovery. In addition, his group has led development of EEG-based brain-computer interface (BCI) technology. They showed that a non-invasive BCI can give movement control similar to that with implanted electrodes. They have provided basic BCI systems to severely disabled people for daily use in their homes. They are now exploring the use of BCI technology to improve rehabilitation after strokes or in other disorders. Dr. Wolpaw’s group has been funded for many years by NIH, other government agencies, and private foundations; their achievements have been recognized by numerous national and international awards.

# Debra J. Zeitlin

Ms. Zeitlin is a speech-language pathologist with a specialty in assistive technology and over 40 years of experience evaluating and providing communication solutions for people with acquired disabilities including ALS. Debra worked for 35 years at the Helen Hayes Hospital, where she most recently served as the director of the Center for Rehabilitation Technology (CRT) from 2006-2017. Debra was responsible for redesigning the CRT to include an extensive demonstration center that provides state of the art assistive technology and educational outreach to the community. Debra has worked on the issues of augmentative and alternative communication on the state and local level, including co-directing a project with the NY State Office of Health Systems Management for revision of Medicaid funding for augmentative communication devices, and developing the curriculum for the statewide dissemination/education of these guidelines. In 2007, she was instrumental in the creation of the Program for Translational Neurological Research (PTNR) at the Helen Hayes Hospital, and between 2008 and 2013, she was the Principal Investigator at the Helen Hayes Site for the NIH-sponsored project, “General Purpose Brain-Computer Interface (BCI)”. Debra has made numerous presentations and published articles on the importance, impact and potential for augmentative communication, assistive technology and BCI.