



Cognitive Decline within the Audiology Scope of Practice

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Recent literature suggests a relationship between pure-tone hearing and cognitive function as well as between some measures of auditory processing and cognitive function. Emerging data suggests other measures that fall within the audiology scope of practice may serve as useful early indicators of cognitive impairment as well. However, the clinical utility of these measures is currently unknown and guidance for practicing audiologists is minimal. As cognitive impairment is currently the most devastating and feared condition that older adults face and the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias will cost the US \$321 billion in 2022, it is critical for older adults at risk to seek treatment early. Unfortunately, most older adults only seek help when symptoms are very advanced and difficult to treat. Our referral process needs to improve.

This special issue is devoted to exploring the potential early indicators of cognitive impairment that fall within the audiology scope of practice with a goal of improving the referral process.

