

## **Best Practices for Inclusion of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Scientists at Conferences**

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YouTube: <https://youtu.be/TRIRAKz6FF4>

*Abstract:* Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (Deaf/HoH) scientists use a very broad range of communication modes: some use American Sign Language while others use Signed English, and still others use spoken English. A series of interviews were conducted with Deaf/HoH scientists about their experiences in attending national scientific conferences. These scientists are highly visual in their communication and they provided some great insights on adjustments at conferences that would dramatically improve the experiences of all scientists at conferences. These suggestions included specific approaches to conference planning and preparation, making arrangements for interpreters with discipline-specific training, seating arrangements, captioning and interpreting services for plenary sessions, and the availability of floating interpreters that would enable Deaf/HoH scientists to more spontaneously and fully participate in poster sessions and conversations with vendors. It should be noted that these adjustments for Deaf/HoH attendees usually benefit other attendees as well – for example live captioning benefits people who aren't native English speakers and people whose hearing is declining as they age. In addition to best practices for Deaf/HoH participation at conferences, some specific comments from the scientists will be shared to add depth and perspective to these practices.

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