

**Los Angeles County Administrators of Special Education  
(LACASE)  
Mediscan Staffing Services**



**63<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Speech/Language Study Conference**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2018**

at  
The Centre at Sycamore Plaza  
5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90712

**Skeptical Thinking: Evaluating  
Science/Pseudoscience and Arguments Against  
NSOME  
(Non Speech Oral Motor Exercises)**

Presented by:  
**Gregory L. Lof, PhD., CCC-SLP, Professor Emeritus,  
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, ASHA Fellow**

## Course Objectives/Summary/Description

As clinicians, we frequently encounter new therapy procedures and products that appear to be more effective than the ones we currently use. Often the promoters promise remarkable successes through use of their materials and interventions. How do we determine if these procedures and products are actually based on science, or if they are pseudoscience? How do we remain appropriately skeptical so we don't fall for quackery? This presentation will help participants learn how to evaluate claims being made about products and procedures, search for evidence, select only methods that are evidence and science based, and deeply analyze the use of nonspeech oral motor exercises (NSOME) for changing speech sound productions.

## Learner Outcomes

- Learners will be able to discuss the differences between procedures that are based on science and those based on pseudoscience.
- Learners will be able to effectively use “tools for skeptical thinking” to help make therapeutic decisions.
- Learners will be able to demonstrate their abilities to search for information on controversial procedures, evaluate it, and make appropriate decisions regarding the appropriateness of the procedure.
- Learners will be able to appraise the logic, theory, and evidence on why NSOME are not an effective therapy technique for speech sound disorders.

## Our Speaker

Dr. Gregory L. Lof is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston. His research, teaching and clinical interests deal with children who have speech sound disorders and how to effectively use evidence to guide practice. Dr. Lof twice was the topic coordinator for speech sound disorders for ASHA conventions and has served on seven ASHA Convention Program Committees. He was a member on ASHA's Center for Evidence-Based Practice in Communication Disorders that conducted evidence-based systematic reviews of oral motor exercises. He just finished his terms as the treasurer for the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorder (CAPCSD) and as a member on ASHA's Scientific and Professional Education Board (SPEB). He was the Massachusetts elected representative for ASHA's Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Council and served two terms on the Massachusetts Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology. He became an ASHA Fellow in 2012.

Dr. Lof has published numerous articles and chapters, primarily on childhood speech sound disorders and evidence-based practice. He has presented over 55 peer-reviewed and 90 invited presentations/workshops at ASHA conventions, universities, school districts, state and international association conventions in 38 states and five countries. His PRAXIS study guidebook was published in 2015 with his co-author, Dr. Alex Johnson.

**Disclosure Statement:** Dr. Gregory Lof has no financial relationship but will receive an honorarium for this presentation. He has no non-financial relationship to disclose.

**PROGRAM TIMELINE:**

7:30 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to science and pseudoscience</li><li>• Current “weird science” and fad therapies in SLP</li><li>• Skepticism: What is it? Tools for skeptical thinking</li><li>• Quackery: What is it? How do we avoid being quacked?</li></ul>
10:15 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How we obtain information</li><li>• Evidence-based practice/Science-based practice</li><li>• Practice-based evidence: What is it? How do we gather it?</li><li>• Baloney detection in SLP</li></ul>
11:30 – 1:00	Lunch (on your own at one of the many restaurants in the area)
1:00 – 3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Logic, theory and evidence against the use of NSOME</li></ul>
3:00 – 3:30	Turn in Evaluations and Pick up Certificates

Workshop **Pre-Registration Fee: \$35** if received on, or before January 12, 2018  
After January 12, 2018 you will need to pay at the door (**space permitting**)  
\$60 Cash or Check ONLY, payable to LACASE

Please use this password to register:  
**LACASE01242018**



Please provide your California SLP or SLPA license number and ASHA account number when you register. Additionally, bring both your California State license number and ASHA account number to the conference to verify information for your State and ASHA CEUs.

This program is offered for (0.5) ASHA CEUs (Intermediate Level, Professional Area)

Specify ADA Accommodations if needed:



Mediscan Staffing Services is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area. ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

For questions, please email [socalseapd@gmail.com](mailto:socalseapd@gmail.com)