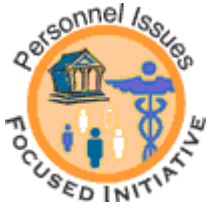


# ASHA Focused Initiatives: 2006

## Personnel Issues in Healthcare and Education



**ISSUE 1:** Acquisition of data and information on the underlying factors that lead to persistent vacancies for qualified speech-language pathologists and audiologists in educational and health care employment settings will facilitate development of actions to alleviate persistent vacancies.

**ISSUE 2:** Persistent vacancies for qualified speech-language pathologists and audiologists in education and health care employment settings result in requests to lower state certification/licensure requirements for speech-language pathologists and audiologists and employment of less qualified individuals to provide services.



## Evidence-Based Practice

**ISSUE:** A robust and actively used high quality basic, applied, and efficacy research base in communication sciences and disorders, related fields of study, and related functions for the discipline and professions is essential to provide evidence-based clinical practice and quality clinical services and is important for the future of the professions.



## Reimbursement in Health and Education

**ISSUE:** Coverage rules, reimbursement rates, and federal, state, and local funding streams are increasingly affecting access to and scope of services provided by audiologists and speech-language pathologists in health and education settings.

## PhD Shortage in Higher Education

**ISSUE 1:** There is a critical shortage and continuing attrition of PhD level faculty in higher education that will affect preparation of professionals as well as the conduct of research in communication sciences and disorders.



**ISSUE 2:** Tradition has limited the role of research instruction in all levels of the curriculum resulting in a lack of a coordinated academic culture and scientific/research personnel preparation experiences in the discipline that promote careers as teachers/researchers in higher education.

**ISSUE 3:** A coordinated data collection and dissemination system related to doctoral programs will facilitate the exchange of information on research training experiences, funding levels, scholarship activities, and on graduates who enter academia upon completing the PhD degree.

**Read the complete text at**

**[www.asha.org/about/leadership-projects/national-office/focused-initiatives/](http://www.asha.org/about/leadership-projects/national-office/focused-initiatives/)**