

FULBRIGHT



MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
PLOVDIV

Participants in the round table Fulbright and Health: New Perspectives

Prof. Harris Pastides,

Chair of the Fulbright Scholar Advisory Board (CIES), USA

Angela Rodel,

Executive Director at Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission

Prof. Robert F. Orlikoff,

East Carolina University, USA (U.S. Fulbright scholar)

Prof. J. Scott Yaruss,

Michigan State University, USA (U.S. Fulbright scholar)

Prof. Dimitar Deliyski,

Michigan State University, USA

Prof. Jeff Searl,

Michigan State University, USA

Prof. Blasé C. Billack,

St. John's Catholic University, New York, USA (U.S. Fulbright scholar)

Prof. Maria Ellen Powell,

Vanderbilt University Medical Center (U.S. Fulbright scholar)

Prof. Dobrinka Georgieva,

Medical University of Plovdiv (BG Fulbright scholar)

May 11, 2024, Medical University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria



MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
PLOVDIV

FULBRIGHT

Participants in the round table Fulbright and Health: New Perspectives



Prof. Harris Pastides

May 11, 2024

Medical
University of Plovdiv,
Bulgaria

Harris Pastides served as 28th president of the University of South Carolina (USC). During his eleven-year tenure of this flagship system comprised of eight institutions and over 50,000 students, the Honors College, undergraduate and graduate international business, public health, engineering, and nursing programs were top ranked. Research funding increased and a \$1 billion capital campaign goal was surpassed.

Pastides is a recipient of one of seven inaugural Fulbright Global Changemaker Awards and the 2017 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Current chair of the US Fulbright Advisory Council, Pastides serves on the board of the Institute for International Education. He is the only non-physician member of the American Medical Association Board and is on the national Uber Safety Board. While USC president, Pastides chaired the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and the Southeastern Conference.

In 1998, Pastides arrived at USC as Arnold School of Public Health dean, and later served as USC's vice president for Research and Health Sciences. Prior to his arrival at USC, he was professor and chairman of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he served as an advisor to the WHO Global Program in Environmental Health.

Pastides' undergraduate degree is from SUNY Albany and he holds two masters' degrees and a PhD from Yale University.



MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
PLOVDIV

FULBRIGHT

Participants in the round table Fulbright and Health: New Perspectives



Angela Rodel

May 11, 2024

Medical
University of Plovdiv,
Bulgaria

Angela Rodel is executive director of the Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission.

She graduated from Yale University in 1996 with a BA in linguistics. Her experience performing in the Yale Slavic Chorus sparked a lifelong interest in Bulgarian music, language and culture. She is a two-time Fulbright Scholar, who first came to Bulgaria as a US Student Researcher in 1996 to linguistics and folk music at Sofia University. Her studies gave her a solid grasp of Bulgarian language and culture, an experience which deeply informed her graduate studies in linguistics and ethnomusicology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Since moving permanently to Bulgaria in 2005, Angela has become the leading literary translator from Bulgarian to English, with eight novels published in the US and UK, with several others in the works. Her translation of Georgi Gospodinov's *Time Shelter* (Liveright) won the 2023 Booker International Prize. She has been awarded National Endowment of the Arts Translation Grants and PEN Translation Grant for her work. In 2014 she was awarded Bulgarian citizenship in recognition of her contribution to popularizing Bulgarian literature and culture abroad. In 2015, Angela became the executive director of the Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission, where she works to expand educational and cultural exchanges between her two "home countries."



**MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
PLOVDIV**

FULBRIGHT

Participants in the round table

Fulbright and Health: New Perspectives



Prof. Robert F. Orlikoff

May 11, 2024

Medical
University of Plovdiv,
Bulgaria

Robert F. Orlikoff became the 5th dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences at East Carolina University in 2016. Previously, he was at West Virginia University where he had served as chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Education and Human Services.

Earning his Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Rutgers University, Professor Orlikoff went on to earn his Master of Science in speech-language pathology and Doctor of Philosophy in speech and voice physiology from Columbia University in New York. In addition to his faculty and administrative positions at ECU and WVU, he has held full-time appointments at the University of Memphis, Hunter College, Seton Hall University, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. As an academic, practitioner, researcher, and administrator, Dr. Orlikoff has authored multiple professional publications on normal and abnormal speech and voice, as well as co-authored the popular texts *Evaluating Research in Communication Disorders* and *Clinical Measurement of Speech and Voice*.

Currently serving as the East Carolina University chapter President of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Dean Orlikoff is actively engaged in initiatives to enhance student success and service learning opportunities, promote interprofessional practice, advance health care, and support regional transformation. He is a strong proponent of diversity, equity, and inclusivity. Orlikoff serves on the boards of the Eastern Area Health Education Center and the ECU Medical and Health Sciences Foundation. He is also a member of the North Carolina Alliance for Health Professions Diversity; the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions; and is the elected chair of the Southern Association of Health Professions Deans at Academic Health Centers.

Fulbright Senior Specialist Program 2015/2016, Speech Language Pathology (Voice Disorders and Instrumental Voice Assessment), project number FSP 6884.



**MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
PLOVDIV**

FULBRIGHT

Participants in the round table

Fulbright and Health: New Perspectives



Prof. J. Scott Yaruss

May 11, 2024

Medical
University of Plovdiv,
Bulgaria

J. Scott Yaruss is a professor of Communicative Sciences and Disorders, a practicing speech-language pathologist with more than 30 years of clinical experience, and a board-certified specialist in fluency disorders. He joined the faculty of MSU in 2017, with the overarching goal helping speech-language pathologists improve their ability to provide meaningful and lasting support for people who live with stuttering.

Yaruss has published more than 115 peer-reviewed articles, as well as more than 275 other articles, chapters, and books about stuttering. He has given hundreds of continuing education workshops, seminars, and other presentations at local, national, and international conferences. He has also served in various posts for the Special Interest Group for Fluency Disorders of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and on the Board of Directors of the National Stuttering Association (NSA). He has been active in the stuttering self-help community for more 20 years, and he has been recognized with the NSA's "Speech-Language Pathologist of the Year" and "Hall of Fame" awards. In 2022, he and colleague Dr. Robert W. Quesal were recognized with the International Fluency Associations "Award for Improving the Lives of People Who Stutter" for their work on developing the Overall Assessment of the Speaker's Experience of Stuttering. Prior to coming to MSU, Yaruss was at the University of Pittsburgh and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, where he led the Stuttering Center of Western Pennsylvania. He holds a bachelor's degree in linguistics and psychology from the University of California Berkeley, and a master's and doctorate in speech-language pathology from Syracuse University. While at the University of Pittsburgh, he was recognized with the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award. Yaruss's current research focuses on the experience of stuttering from the perspective of individuals who stutter.

In 2020, he received a 5-year R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health. Fulbright Senior Specialist Program 2011/2012, "Treatment Efficacy in Stuttering Disorder", project number FSP 4907.



**MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
PLOVDIV**

FULBRIGHT

Participants in the round table

Fulbright and Health: New Perspectives



Prof. Dimitar Deliyski

May 11, 2024

Medical
University of Plovdiv,
Bulgaria

Dimitar Deliyski, a pioneer and international leader in the field of voice and speech disorders, is chair of the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders at Michigan State University (MSU). He came to MSU from the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center where he served as the Cotton Chair of Otolaryngology Research and Associate Director of the Communication Sciences Research Center. He also held academic appointments with the University of Cincinnati as a tenured Associate Professor in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and affiliated Associate Professor in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and he served as an Adjunct Professor with the Interdisciplinary Mathematics Institute at the University of South Carolina – Columbia.

A native of Bulgaria, Deliyski received his Ph.D. in Signal Processing from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1990. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Memphis in 1990-1992. Deliyski has a master's and bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Sofia Technical University, also in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Deliyski has an extensive publication record and is an international leader in laryngeal imaging and vocal analysis research. His research interests have focused on improving the clinical assessment of voice and speech disorders, refining our understanding of the mechanisms of voice production, creating new methods for computer imaging of the vocal folds and for acoustic analysis of voice and speech, and improving the methods for speech recognition.

His research in human laryngeal imaging earned him the Manuel Garcia Prize at the World Congress of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics in 2010.



**MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
PLOVDIV**

FULBRIGHT

Participants in the round table

Fulbright and Health: New Perspectives



Prof. Jeff Searl

May 11, 2024

Medical
University of Plovdiv,
Bulgaria

Jeff Searl is a professor in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders (CSD). He is the Director of the Undergraduate Program in CSD. Dr. Searl is the director of the Lip-Tongue-Larynx Lab (LTL Lab) focused on studying the impacts of cancer and other diseases on speech and voice production. The goal of his research is to identify or develop best clinical practices that preserve, rehabilitate, or optimize communication in the presence of these diseases. Dr. Searl examines voice and speech production from multiple perspectives utilizing physiological, acoustic, and auditory-perceptual methodologies. He approaches the study of communication as a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist with extensive experience treating laryngeal voice disorders, alaryngeal communication disorders (that is, after the larynx is removed), and speech and communication issues after surgical or oncological treatment of oral-pharyngeal cancer. Of particular interest over the past several years is understanding issues of effort and fatigue associated with communicating when a person has an altered speech system. Dr. Searl also has a strong interest in building a well-qualified workforce of speech-language pathologists and other healthcare providers who can provide evidence-based interventions for people with head and neck cancer. In pursuit of this goal, Dr. Searl is working to develop innovative simulation trainings in collaboration with experts in simulation training, virtual reality app development, and interprofessional education and training. Additionally, Dr. Searl works with several non-profit organizations to plan and execute training conferences for students and practicing clinicians. Dr. Searl earned his BA in Psychology from Santa Clara University followed by his MA and Ph.D. degrees in speech-language pathology from the University of Kansas.



MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
PLOVDIV

FULBRIGHT

Participants in the round table Fulbright and Health: New Perspectives



Prof. Blasé C. Billack

May 11, 2024

Medical
University of Plovdiv,
Bulgaria

Dr. Billack completed his B.S. degree in Chemistry at the University of Richmond. Under the mentorship of Professor Jeffrey Laskin, Dr. Billack earned his PhD in Toxicology from the Joint Graduate Program in Toxicology UMDNJ/Rutgers. He then pursued an additional two years of postdoctoral training in the area of molecular oncology at the Strang Cancer Prevention Center, on the campus of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, under the direction of Dr. Alvaro Monteiro where he worked on BRCA 1 mutations and hereditary breast cancer. Dr. Billack is currently a Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at St. John's University. He has taught at both the NYC campus and Rome campus through the St. John's University Discover Italy program. Dr. Billack has mentored 11 undergraduate and 16 graduate students. He has over 40 peer-reviewed publications, mostly in the area of in vitro toxicology but recently has expanded the focus of his lab towards rodent models of chemical injury. The primary goal of the ongoing research in his lab is to identify novel and effective countermeasures to chemical threats. He has been a member of the Society of Toxicology since 1999. current as of August 3, 2021.

Fulbright research grant 2024 (February 2024 – July 2024) in Medical University of Plovdiv:
"Improving Speech and Communication Disorders through Evidence – Based Pharmacology Strategies"



Participants in the round table Fulbright and Health: New Perspectives



Dr. Maria Ellen Powell

May 11, 2024

Medical
University of Plovdiv,
Bulgaria

Maria Ellen Powell is Research Assistant Professor at the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). She received her Masters of Speech Pathology from the University of South Carolina (USC) in 2009 and her Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Cincinnati (UC) in 2015 (dissertation title: Efficacy of laryngeal imaging to assess the effect of vocal fold masses on vibratory function). She completed a 3-year Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at the VUMC Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery exploring vocal fold vibratory function during development of and recovery from phonotrauma.

Dr. Powell is an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist and is currently an active member of the Tennessee Board of Communications Disorders and Science. Specifically, she taught a Masters-level course on Voice Disorders: Evaluation and Treatment (USC), a Masters-level lab on Speech and Hearing Science (UC), and a Masters/PhD-level course on Advanced Voice Instrumentation (VUMC).

Her research expertise has focused on the development and validation of clinical tools for voice assessment. Her work helped refine understanding and interpretation of electroglottography and high-speed videoendoscopy. She received an NIH-funded individual fellowship training grant (NRSA F32) to investigate the effects of phonotrauma on functional tissue outcomes and the recovery of normal laryngeal function using high-speed videoendoscopy. In 2020 she was awarded the Journal of Voice Best Clinical Paper Titled Efficacy of Videostroboscopy and High-Speed Videoendoscopy to Obtain Functional Outcomes from Perioperative Ratings in Patients with Vocal Fold Mass Lesions. She is currently the Co-PI for a clinical trial investigating a novel treatment for bilateral vocal fold paralysis using an implantable functional electrical stimulator. Her work on this project involves performing quantitative and qualitative assessments of vocal fold function. Most recently her work has focused on applying artificial intelligence approaches to assess and monitor patients with voice disorders. She is a Co-PI of the Bridge2AI: Voice as a Biomarker of Health data generation project (part of the \$96M NIH-funded Bridge2AI initiative), which is designed to create ethically sourced, accessible acoustic datasets that will support future AI-driven voice research.



MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY
PLOVDIV

FULBRIGHT

Participants in the round table Fulbright and Health: New Perspectives



Prof. Dobrinka Georgieva

May 11, 2024

Medical
University of Plovdiv,
Bulgaria

Dobrinka Georgieva is Professor in Speech–Language Pathology (SLP) at Medical University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Dr. Georgieva teaching, research, and clinical interests are in the area of Fluency and Voice disorders, as well as History of SLP and Evidence–Based Practice in SLP.

She has authored numerous research and clinical papers, chapters in books and books on evidence-based assessment and treatment of stuttering and cluttering, stuttering intervention and voice disorders. In addition, Georgieva has presented widely at national and international conferences and congresses on the topics mentioned above.

She coordinated many international and national projects and initiatives (World Bank, National Science Fund, Erasmus+ and Fulbright). Georgieva was the leading person developing the Bulgarian Speech Language Pathology's recognition and evaluation as health discipline. She is a founder and program director of the first Master degree program on Medical SLP in Bulgaria.

Specializations in USA, France, England, the Netherland, and Russia.

Fulbright research grant on Evidence-Based Practice through Acoustic and Electroglottographic Characteristics Measuring in Stuttering and Voice Disorders at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Communication Sciences and Disorders Research Center, Ohio, USA (2013): project 12–21–05/7. Member of US Department State's Global, Fulbright alumna.

Member of the IALP, IFA and other international and national professional organizations. Member of the IALP Education Committee (2007–2010 and 2010–2013). Consultant of the IALP Education Committee (2013–2016). Since 2021 member of the IFA Practice Committee.