



SASLHA
South African Speech-Language-Hearing Association

E-ZINE



**MEET THE
GAME-CHANGER:**
KARIN JOUBERT AND
THE NDLOVU WITS
AUDIOLOGY CLINIC

ETHICS NOTE
Everyone is doing it!
By Alida Naude

RESEARCH
'DIGITAL TASTE SIMULATOR'
DEVELOPED

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In today's world, when confronted by accusations of misbehaviour, the "But everyone does it" defence is often voiced.

Unscientific observations suggest that a majority of drivers routinely break the speed limit. Many employees have taken pens and notepads from work on occasion. Recent surveys indicate that a lot of money is spent by employees shopping online during work hours or messaging on social networks. People occasionally park in parking spaces reserved for the disabled when in a desperate hurry. Company cars are often used for personal errands. "Everyone does it."

The world of sports has been deluged with one scandal after another exhibiting the lowest of human behaviours from child sexual abuse to self-drugging for competitive advantage to assault and battery both on and off the field to callous responses to long-term injury-related complications caused by inadequate rule enforcement and standards of gamesmanship. "Everyone does it."

In the perception of many patients, the

medical care industry, including doctors, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, insurers, diagnostic laboratories, and their legal allies are inflating healthcare costs and benefitting from patient illness by over-prescribing or mis-prescribing treatment, diagnostic tests, surgery, hospital stays, and medication. "Everyone does it."

Our civilization is in ethical crisis. Never mind the regularity of terrorist acts and crazed murders; we are unable to say no when pressured to do smaller wrongs because to do right too often means compromising our careers and,

paradoxically, "good" reputations. The "everyone does it" mentality causes suspicion of and discrimination against anyone who doesn't.

It creates a mindset within certain subcultures in our society that makes behaviour possible that in other subcultures, or in a more civil society, would be unthinkable.

What do we do and how do we do it while protecting our jobs and reputation from the inevitable backlash? Just say no? Blow the whistle?



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People get fired for that and, even with laws to protect whistle-blowers, retribution has many faces and avenues. Powerful people who want to retaliate can make your life miserable and threaten your career — often in deviously subtle but effective ways.

It is, however, important to note that not all people are bad or unethical all the time. Reading the news accounts and looking at the pictures of the Boston Marathon bombing scene, one picture stood out

and spoke the proverbial thousand words. The widely disseminated picture, taken at the moment of the blasts from behind marathoners looking towards the blasts, shows runners and bystanders running towards the blasts and the carnage to help. That scenario (and others like it in present day and throughout history), show we are capable of great courage, sacrifice, and morality. We can say “Everybody is doing it BUT I am not everybody”.



MEET THE GAME-CHANGER

KARIN JOUBERT AND THE NDLOVU WITS AUDIOLOGY CLINIC

Karin Joubert joined the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa) in 2007, where she is currently appointed as Senior Lecturer in the Audiology Division. Prior to this she gained extensive clinical experience both in the private and public health care sector as Speech Therapist and Audiologist.

Karin obtained her undergraduate degree in Speech Therapy and Audiology from the University of Pretoria in 1988. She furthered her studies at the then Rand

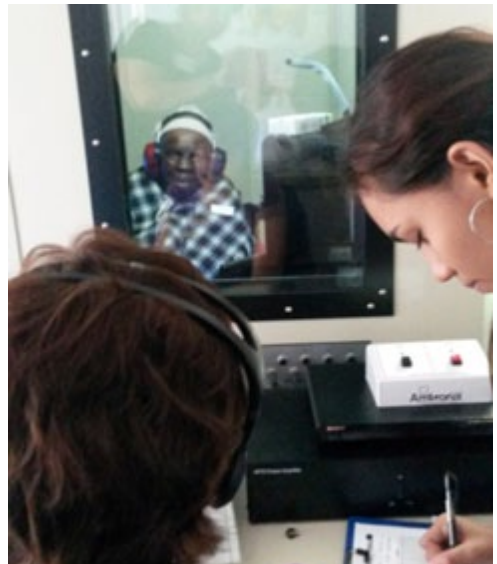
and PhD (2009) were obtained from the University of Pretoria. She also obtained a Certificate in Primary Health Care Management from the P&DM (Wits Business School).

Her passion for the public health audiology started when she successfully established and coordinated a multidisciplinary community-based rehabilitation programme in the West Rand District Health Region of Gauteng in the late 1990's. Her involvement in public health audiology continued when she joined Wits University. She chaired the Community Engagement Committee of the School of Human and Community Development from 2008 to 2010. She has



Dr. Karin Joubert

Afrikaans University by obtaining a BA (Hons) degree in Psychology. Her other post graduate degrees, M ECI (2003)



Diagnostic assessment

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also been actively involved in facilitating the academic service learning course (Audiology) at Xanthia, a rural community in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga for the past five years.

Karin tells us more about the Ndlovu Wits Audiology Clinic:

I was invited by Anglo American's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Brian Brink, to visit the clinic at the Ndlovu Care Group (NCG) in Elandsdoorn (Limpopo Province) after he heard about the outreach services provided by the Wits Speech Therapy and Audiology Department in Mpumalanga. He identified the urgent need for ear- and hearing care services in the Elandsdoorn area (near Groblersdal) after a hearing aid mission in 2012 at the NCG clinic. Although a large number of hearing aids were provided during the mission, the lack of follow-up

services was a huge concern. And thus the seed was planted for comprehensive audiology services at primary health care level.

The Ndlovu Wits Audiology (NWA) clinic became a reality when generous funding from the Oticon Foundation (Denmark) and the Anglo American Chairman's Fund were awarded for the implementation of the project. Services at the clinic officially started in January 2014 and currently employs two audiologists, Sianne Green and Khomotjo Kgare. The vision of the NWA clinic is to improve the quality of life of individuals in the rural community of Elandsdoorn and surrounds by providing comprehensive, family-centered and quality ear- and hearing health services to individuals of all ages. We use our resources and expertise to reduce the negative impact of hearing impairment on the health, lifestyle and communicative



Research study: Wits students and volunteers at the NWA clinic

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abilities of individuals with hearing loss and their families through the:

- Prevention of the onset of ear and hearing problems with regular community education programmes on ear and hearing health.
- Early identification and management of ear and hearing problems by offering universal neonatal hearing screening services (at five clinics in the Elandsdoorn area), school screening, ototoxicity monitoring of HIV/AIDS and TB patients of the NCG clinic as well as diagnostic assessments.

We invite you to come and visit the NWA clinic. It is the ideal site for student training, outreach services and to meet your corporate social responsibility (CSR)

requirements. Donating your time would be much appreciated as would donations for hearing aids. We also operate as a NPO under the Ndlovu Care Group meaning tax benefits should anyone wish to make contributions to this amazing project. For further information regarding the project,



First group of nurses trained on UNHS

Do you know of any game changers in the field? The SASLHA e-zine wants to share the amazing work that Audiologists and Seech Therapists are doing in South Africa. Email ezine@sashla.co.za to nominate an individual or organisation.

ON THE AIR

Did you hear SASLHA on SAfm on Tuesday 25 February spreading awareness about coping without speech after a laryngectomy?

SASLHA will be on SAfm (104-107) on Thursday 20 March just after the 11am news to raise awareness about Head Injury. Contact Nicole Da Rocha for more information (darocha.nicole@gmail.com).