

In memoriam: Susan Small



It is with deep sadness that we share the news that our dear colleague and esteemed scholar, Dr. Susan Small, passed away on January 11, 2022. On behalf of the School of Audiology and Speech Sciences, I wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to Susan's beloved family, friends, students, and colleagues at this difficult time.

At the School, Susan was an Associate Professor and Hamber Professor in Clinical Audiology since 2014, and an Assistant Professor from 2007 to 2014. Prior to her professorial appointment at UBC, Susan was a Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Psychology at UBC (2007) and completed her Doctoral degree in the School with Professor David Stapells (2001-2007). During her doctoral studies, Susan served in various instructional capacities, including Teaching Assistant, Lab Instructor, and Sessional Instructor. Preceding her doctoral training, Susan completed a B.Sc. Honours degree in Zoology at UBC (1986), an M.Sc. degree in Biological Sciences from SFU (1988), and a Masters degree in Audiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1991). Susan then practiced as an audiologist in the lower mainland from 1993-2006 at Sonus-Fraserview Hearing Clinics, and British Columbia Children's Hospital. As a practicing audiologist she was a valuable clinical educator for a number of audiology students in the School.

Susan's teaching and research in the School focused on pediatric audiology. She advanced students' and colleagues' understanding of the maturation of hearing through her work on peripheral and central auditory processing in infancy and early childhood. Susan was particularly interested in early assessment of hearing loss using brainstem auditory evoked potentials and behavioural measures to air- and bone-conducted stimuli. She also investigated ways to assess discrimination of speech sounds at the level of the auditory cortex using physiological measures. Susan's vigorous research program received continuous federal funding from NSERC over the years. As a mentor, Susan enjoyed working with many undergraduate, masters and doctoral students throughout her years at the School. She was also committed to providing students with interprofessional training opportunities, both through her leadership role in UBC Health's Health Care Team Challenge and Health Mentor's Program, and by collaborating with other School faculty in developing virtual cases that bridged audiology and speech-language pathology practice.

In recognition of Susan's substantial scholarly contributions to hearing science and audiology, she was invited to present her research findings and provide workshops at numerous local, national, and international meetings and venues. She also shared her pediatric audiology expertise with the British Columbia Early Hearing Program since its inception in 2005, was a Board member and research collaborator with the BC Family Hearing Resource Society since 2014, and served as Council Member and Treasurer for the International Evoked Response Audiometry Study Group (from 2009).

Susan's sharp intellect and passion for research and her dedication to training students and serving the School and professional communities have left a lasting legacy at the School. On a personal level, the ease, kindness and warmth with which Susan welcomed others into conversation will be profoundly missed by all who knew her. Susan gifted us with a few favourite memories of her time at the School during our School's 50th Anniversary in 2019: <https://audiospeech.ubc.ca/susan-small-from-sass-phd-student-to-associate-professor/>

We welcome everyone to contribute your memories and celebration of Susan's life and work by posting here:
<https://audiospeech.ubc.ca/in-memoriam-susan-small/>