Welcome Address

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Welcome to the first-ever Global Summit on Higher Education in Communication Sciences and Disorders. It is just phenomenal that we are all here together today for this historic event and opportunity.

Let’s extend a major thank you to our Global Outreach Committee for thoughtfulness and effort in preparing this event. These committee members are Loraine Obler, Mike Robb, Nan Ratner, and Linda Louko. Let’s also recognize and thank Javad Anjum, Ph.D. student from Ohio University, our student volunteer for the event. And of course thanks to Frances Laven and the program planning committee, headed by Mark Deruiter, who has been extremely helpful in organizing the Global Summit. Most of all, thanks to you for being here and sharing in this event.

This Global Summit is a first major initiative resulting from the Council’s Strategic Planning process three years ago. At that time we thought that it would be important to have a global summit for sharing of information and ideas about the global nature of our field, to enhance the inclusiveness of non-US programs in the Council’s mission and work, and to encourage sharing of information about what our member programs are establishing as models for global collaboration in education, service, and research. So here we are.

We did not imagine that there would be the level of actual participation from so many colleagues from outside the US. It is particularly thrilling to see so many here representing such diverse regions of the world. Our presenters alone represent over 30 countries in terms of their origins and expertise.

Here are a few for all of us to keep in mind for our interactions and collaboration as part of the Global Summit. We ask that we all keep in mind the importance of framing our global work in a way that does not perpetuate myths of Westerners as saviors to underserved people who would otherwise flounder if it were not for us and our vital help. Let’s help one another avoid neocolonial tendencies of seeing privileged and primarily white people from the West as having the corner on the market for global solutions in our field. In case this topic is new to you, there is a tutorial poster available, and that will also be posted on the CAPCSD web site with the Global Summit proceedings.

Let’s all keep in mind, too, that whatever is global is local and whatever is local is global. Wherever we are and whatever we are doing, there is global and local relevance of what we are doing. We hope that by more sharing and more networking in all areas of what we do in in higher education in CSD we will promote more local-global synergies.

The CAPCSD Mission and vision connect to all CSD programs. If you represent a program that is not a member of the Council, we encourage you to consider joining us.