



National Center for Voice and Speech

A Cross-institutional consortium of voice and speech professionals

Ingo R. Titze, Executive Director

National Center for Voice and Speech

Headquartered at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah

Amazingly flexible, the human voice creates sounds as rich and complex as those of conventional musical instruments – but with much smaller equipment.

Voice is a critical asset in more than 25% of careers today. Whether you are an actor, minister, salesperson, performance artist, teacher, or elected official, it is likely that your voice dramatically impacts your ability to perform your job yet much is still unknown about how to protect, enhance, or rehabilitate voice in the event of injury. The National Center for Voice and Speech (NCVS) was created 20 years ago to serve as a multi-site consortium of researchers, clinicians, and teachers dedicated to studying the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the human voice and speech. NCVS is concerned with voice and speech disorders; seven percent of all Americans experience these disorders at some time during their lives. Its work has led to breakthroughs in voice habilitation and rehabilitation related to disease, trauma, occupational demands, genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors. Formed in 1990 with a grant from the national Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, the consortium today now partners with individuals from 25 institutions and provides research, training, and medical referrals to clients across the country and around the world.

Mission

The National Center for Voice & Speech undertakes research and provides referral services in order to help people around the world to enjoy healthy and effective vocal communication.

Vision

The National Center for Voice & Speech is recognized around the world for its leadership in understanding the complexity of voice and speech production and how to contribute to its care. The NCVS undertakes research and translates these findings into practical applications for other scientists, clinicians, voice instructors, and occupational voice users. The NCVS is dedicated to continuing to expand the dissemination of our research, create internships for future researchers and clinicians, and fund scholarships for Summer Vocology Institute participants.

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Where We Are

The National Center for Voice & Speech is headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. The University of Utah is the lead institution in the consortium. We also have an affiliate center at the University of Iowa, where its laboratories are part of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (ranked #1 in the country by U.S. News and World Reports). We also have active partners at such schools as The University of Colorado-Boulder, the University of Wisconsin, New York University, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, and Brigham Young University.

Educational Outreach

The Summer Vocology Institute was inaugurated in 2000. Offered annually, it is an intensive, efficient and innovative way for voice practitioners to embed vocology courses into graduate curricula in their own institutions. Hosted in Salt Lake City, this nine-week summer course allows participants to earn up to nine graduate credits in voice production, habilitation, instrumentation and voice training. To date, more than 100 vocologists have been trained through this program.

Service Outreach

To reach as many individuals as possible, the NCVS employs a number of group approaches and media strategies. For many years, the NCVS has hosted hands-on workshops and seminars for those interested in improving their professional speaking voices. Each spring, the NCVS commemorates World Voice Day by opening its doors to the public to put voice in the spotlight. A sampling of World Voice Day topics include: Safe Screaming, Caring for the Teaching Voice, and How the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment improves the Lives and Voices of those with Parkinson Disease and Other Neurologic Disorders. At local levels, voice workshops have been offered to voice professionals: public speakers, broadcasters, teachers, lawyers, actors, choral groups and telephone workers.

In addition, the NCVS uses traditional media as a conduit to educate the public about healthful and effective voice use. Several public service announcements have aired nationally, and research spawned by the NCVS has been featured in television, radio, newspapers, association newsletters and magazines. A small sample of this media visibility is shown at right.

The NCVS maintains a large teaching website (www.ncvs.org) with a plethora of information about voice-related topics for a variety of Web users. For young explorers, for example, voice-themed science fair exhibit ideas may be downloaded. A virtual school was created

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specifically for teachers, a profession at high risk for voice problems. For singers, on-line vocal warm-ups demonstrate exactly how to get the vocal system ready to go.

Publications

Over the years, the research affiliates of the NCVS have published approximately 500 scientific peer-reviewed articles appearing in high-ranking journals. There have been articles and columns in consumer-oriented publications such as *Scientific American*, *The New Scientist*, and the *Journal of Singing*. The NCVS has also published several books with two more to be in print in the coming year.

We have been featured in the media numerous times including the *Smithsonian Magazine* and the *National Examiner*. IN video, we have been featured in such programs as *Innovations* (WNET), *Science and Technology Today* (CNN), *Quantum* (Australian Broadcasting Corp), and most recently in a BBC documentary on the voice.

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