

CAN plan for 2026 - 2028

Version April 2026

Authors: CAN EB.

Available for CAN SIG members and CAN volunteers, please feel free to add suggestions and comments. This document is a draft (*living document*) that we will use to set priorities and develop activities for the next 3 years.

The CAN Executive Board provides an annual progress report, including plans for the forthcoming year. This document is a continuation and an update to the 2024 and 2025 annual progress reports.

Priorities include operationalizing our newly established non-profit foundation to run larger projects and seeking more alliances. We will continue collaborating with existing conferences based on strategic opportunities and members' availability.

Stichting CAN (establishing a foundation)

St CAN has been established as a non-profit foundation. The Board is currently finalizing the bylaws to clarify working processes and distinguish the foundation from CAN-SIG.

Core purpose of the CAN foundation:

The foundation aims to:

- Implement innovative projects in the field of hearing healthcare and hearing technology, both nationally and internationally, in line with the mission of the Computational Audiology Network – Special Interest Group (CAN-SIG);
- Facilitate scientific publications, including piloting the Journal of Computational Audiology (JoCA) via the HOPE platform in agreement with Zurich University Open Library.
- Promote collaboration between academics, clinicians, policymakers, patients, and industry partners to advance accessible, data-driven, and AI-supported hearing healthcare globally.
- An Advisory Council committee is being established, including initial members Volker Hohmann, Deniz Baskent, and Liepollo Ntlhakana, to provide flexible support to both the SIG and the Foundation.

Membership enrollment (started February 2024, works smoothly)

Membership benefits may depend on the membership space above. We strive to negotiate reduced fees for meeting participation and offer conference discounts. Members have free access to the International Journal of Audiology. We aim to host exclusive webinars, workshops, or online courses on the latest developments. Achieving certification for professional development/continuing education credits for members who participate in networking activities would be ideal, although it may prove challenging to receive universal acceptance for Continuing Education Units (CEU).

Some membership recognition could also be easily implemented. For instance, a member spotlight feature on the website/newsletter, highlighting individual achievements and research contributions,

or creating annual awards for outstanding contributions in research innovation or service within the field of computational audiology. Please reach out to us if you have noteworthy projects or accomplishments to share!

Motivation for membership and renewal (we need to be careful not to get bots or sleeping members)

- We could follow the example of the Brazilian Academy of Audiology, which offers discounts for scientific congresses, books, and seminars exclusively for members.
- Member details (people should be able to edit and update their new job status)
- Create a "Skill Market": this can be a new way to disseminate job opportunities or a list of contacts for researchers and professionals in CA. Help to establish new collaborations.

CAN Brand

- Make a PowerPoint in CAN house style (Not yet achieved)
- Logo already available (logo available via website)
- CAN flyer at WCA2024. Nikki created a paper flyer about CAN. It was well received, and over 100 copies were shared
- Translated into Portuguese
- WCA2026 Updates?

Working groups/committees

CAN could facilitate working groups that provide deliverables on specific topics (model curation, global hearing healthcare, databases/data exchange, etc.). Several people have already volunteered; coordinating and facilitating the working groups is the executive board's task.

- **Model and Tools** (Maartje Hendrikse, Alessia Paglialonga, tentative Johan Frijns? Add EB member, no progress yet)
 - See the current overview of models on <https://computationalaudiology.com/resources/>
 - See the current overview of data collections on <https://zenodo.org/communities/computationalaudiology/records?q=&l=list&p=1&s=10&sort=newest>
- **Big data and data standards** (Mareike Buhl, tentative Charlotte Vercammen? Add EB member, first steps made)
 - At VCCA2024 Mareike and Charlotte organized special session. They collected and shared ideas. It led to a publication (currently under review). Mareike is also organizing a special session at VCCA2025 and will update us briefly during the CAN-SIG meeting.
 - See the current overview of data collections on <https://zenodo.org/communities/computationalaudiology/records?q=&l=list&p=1&s=10&sort=newest>
 - Establish the [Alan Trubot](#) scholarship? Alan our virtual chatbot wants to improve so they might be trained on an AudioHealthNet database. The scholarship will be launched in 2024 for significant contributions to AudioHealthNet (no progress yet)
- **Communication / PR** (Nikki)

- **Student & Mentor and continuous learning** (Carmen Barreira Nielsen, tentative Joyce Rodvie Sagun? Nikki, including as Liason with Lisa Hunter)
 - At VCCA2024 we organized a reviewer workshop with AAS
 - Carmen considers creating a teleaudiology course (no progress yet)
- **VCCA events** (Simone, Jan-Willem, Seba?)
 - For all announcements, updates, and detailed information regarding the Virtual Conference on Computational Audiology, please visit our official webpage: <https://computationalaudiology.com/events/vcca2026/>
- Other committees? See example from AAS: <https://www.amauditorysoc.org/committees>

Building a memberspace on the website (little progress since 2024)

The memberspace should facilitate collaboration and contact among members. Additionally, it could serve as a Collaboration Hub to connect researchers and facilitate cross-lab collaborations. As part of the computational audiology website, members could add projects or proposals seeking collaboration, e.g., for development (algorithms) or evaluation efforts (listening experiments).

We have grown but our website has not been updated accordingly. We are looking for volunteers to help us expand and improve our website. Please email president@computationalaudiology.com if you are interested.

Platforms for communities

Open Source Infrastructure: To ensure data sovereignty and alignment with Open Source, we are adopting non-proprietary tools: Nextcloud (secure institutional storage and file sharing) and Zulip (chat and topic-based communication)

Others/References: <https://element.io/>; and <https://european-alternatives.eu/product/stackhero-mattermost>

Zenodo community:

We facilitate a [Zenodo community for computational audiology](#). The aim of this community is to share data, code and tools useful for computational audiology and related fields such as digital hearing health care and AI in health care. Resources will be integrated on the computationalaudiology.com forum in order to make the data, code and tools easier to find for researchers and clinicians. Researchers that have shared a repository or project on Zenodo can edit their repository to request to add their work to the community.

CAN in real space (quite some progress ;-).

We have started collaborations (formal and informal) with existing conferences to engage with the real world, including WCA2024 & WCA2026, AAS, Heal2026, IHCON, ARO, ISAAR, etc. We will continue to participate in different parts of the world and with different professionals, highlighting the niche of AI & Audiology. Join existing conference formats or workshops, such as Kaggle, Jupyter, Azure Notebooks (maybe better as a seminar series?), data representations, and models.

Global campaigns 2025

- [World Hearing Day \(March 3\)](#)
 - [Wiki4WorldHearingDay](#)
- [Annual International Noise Awareness Day \(April 24\)](#)

Status: CAN participated.

Alliances

- CAN has an active collaboration with ISA, AAS and RNID. We are a member of the World Hearing Forum (see <https://computationalaudiology.com/about/>)
- CAN and the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) in the UK have agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding to make progress in technology-enabled innovation in hearing healthcare. Through quarterly progress meetings, shared resources and interdisciplinary initiatives, this partnership seeks to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of researchers and clinicians in addressing the needs of individuals who are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus. By integrating lived experience and promoting collaboration, the project aims to accelerate the translation of research into practical, impactful solutions that improve hearing services and outcomes across the UK and beyond.
- CAN is member of the user-committee of the Research Project ATHENA: Automating hearing assessments for all.

Potential conferences for CAN sessions (to be uploaded)

- AAS2024 (Deniz presented)
- Heal2026 (already contacted)
- [WCA2024](#) (see special session by Tobias and JW, and informal CAN-SIG members meeting)
- WCA2026 (we will run multiple sessions)
- IHCON2024 (JW gave a keynote and participated at a panel discussion on behalf of CAN)
- STAF2025 (JW gave keynote to Swedish technical audiologist)
- [EIA](#) (May, São Paulo/Brazil, in-place/online session, directly contact via professor Deborah Ferrari with the organization)
- [COFAB](#) (August, University of São Paulo/Brazil, in-place/online session, Hector has directly contact with the organization)
- ARO - Symposium? (Seba submitted a symposium)
- ASA symposium
- Expand list

Partners to expand the computationalaudiology.com website (to be uploaded)

- InternetAudiology workgroup (Valeriy Shafiro)
- [Wikimedia Foundation](#) (possible grants)
- Wikimedian national user's groups (e.g., [WMB in Brazil](#), every country has a user group)
- [Wiki Edu](#)
- [Global Audiology Project on Wikiversity](#) (Thais Morata et al.)

Seminar series

The first CAN Seminar was held in March 2026, focusing on 'Noise reduction for hearing devices' with speakers Stefan Launer and Timo Gerkmann. A second seminar is planned for September 2026 to avoid overlap with VCCA.

Other proposals:

- AI in Audiology education (Gerard Encina Llamas, please add your name if you are interested!)
- We might start raising awareness, exchanging ideas, and lessons learned
- Maybe organize a special session on this topic at VCCA2026?
- *Other ideas?*
- *We are considering to start a seed funding project. Small grants that can make a huge impact.*