

Louisa Ferrara-Gonzalez, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, CNT, CLC, NTMCT

New York State Licensed

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1. EDUCATION

- 2018 Doctor of Philosophy, Speech and Language Pathology, Adelphi University- Garden City, NY
2007 Masters of Science Degree, Speech and Language Pathology, Adelphi University- Garden City, NY
2006 Bachelors of Arts Degree, Communicative Sciences and Disorders, Adelphi University- Garden City, NY

2. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2025 – Present Sipple Care, Inc., Advisor, Riverside, CT
Serve as subject matter expert on infant feeding and swallowing development to assistance with the development of the Sipple feeding app and associated services.
Develop, coordinate and manage research-related activities.
Develop content for clinical education and marketing materials.
- 2019 – 2024 NYU Langone Hospital – Long Island, Program Manager, Neonatal Swallowing & Feeding Research, Mineola, NY
Serve as key SLP in state-of-the-art NICU Dysphagia Research Team.
Conduct research in the field of neonatal/pediatric development, care practices and feeding and swallowing disorders.
Serve a leader on interdisciplinary projects to improve standards of care for pediatric patients with dysphagia.
Design and propose grant applications for program funding.
- 2017 – 2019 NYU Winthrop Hospital, Program Manager, Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing Program, Mineola, NY
Supervise, train and direct subordinate employees within the team/program.
Evaluate clinical skills, documentation, billing, professionalism and interdisciplinary teamwork skills of team.
Design, propose, implement and maintain strategies/protocols/procedures to augment reimbursement and program growth, as well as to maintain corporate compliance and to optimize patient care.
Serve a leader on interdisciplinary projects to improve standards of care.
Conduct research in the field of neonatal/pediatric development, care and feeding and swallowing disorders.
Implement public health services and programs to improve long-term outcomes for medically complex neonates.
- 2010 – 2017 NYU Winthrop Hospital, Specialist in Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing Disorders, Mineola, NY
Perform clinical swallowing evaluations for pediatric inpatients and outpatients.
Perform and analyze swallowing function obtained from videofluoroscopic (VFSS) and fiberoptic (FEES) exams.
Develop and implement whole-child, family-centered feeding programs with infants and children.
Developed Neonatal Feeding Protocol in Level III NICU and Pediatric Protocol in PICU and medical floors.
Provide ongoing neurodevelopmental care to at risk infants and support optimal infant-parent relationships.
Collaborate with physicians and allied health professionals to ensure comprehensive patient care
Provide education and counseling to patients and family members and engage in community/public health provisions.
Supervise and mentor graduate student interns.
- 2023 – 2024 Cardinal Health, Director of Clinical Operations, Columbus, OH (Acquired Innara Health)
Coordinate and direct research-related activities and to provide leadership for oversight.
Develop and lead a Clinical Advisory Board, a Voice of Customer Event and a double-blinded Focus Group.
Develop content for clinical education materials (i.e. webinars, presentations, articles, infographics, etc.).
Support Clinical Specialists and sales/marketing teams by creating content, training sales force and assisting with customers.
Follow KPI's to ensure effectiveness in teamwork, collaboration, and success in achieving company missions.
- 2022 – 2023 Innara Health, Chief Clinical Officer, Kansas City, KS
Coordinate and direct research-related activities and to provide leadership in the development, delivery, management and oversight of research activities.
Develop and lead Innara's Clinical Advisory Council and the Innara Collaborative.
Manage Clinical Specialist team and provide ongoing education to the team for personal/professional growth.

Connect with KPI's to ensure effectiveness in teamwork, collaboration, and success in achieving our shared company missions.

- 2020 - 2021 Innara Health, Advisory Clinical Consultant, Kansas City, KS
Responsible for directing, guiding, and advising on emerging research and use of the NTrainer System with infants born with medical complexities.
Serve as Principal Investigator for a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant application, with the goals to be awarded funds to increase device accessibility and improve clinical outcomes.
- 2009 – Present Louisa Ferrara, SLP, PC – DBA Infant Feeding Specialists, Inc., Private Practice, Nassau County, NY
Provide consultation and educational services to other health care providers.
Deliver specialized feeding, lactation and developmental care to infants who have significant medical histories and/or prior ICU admissions.
Provide parent training to improve the family's confidence, competence, and involvement in their infant's care.
- 2008 – 2013 Interactive Therapy Group, Inc., Supervisor to SLP Clinical Fellows, Jericho, NY
Provide ongoing indirect supervision to new graduates in the field of Speech and Language Pathology
Educate and support new graduates (Clinical Fellows) on difficult cases and alternate therapy approaches
Oversee and correct all progress notes, daily notes and report writing for content and form.
- 2008 – 2009 New York League for Early Learning - SLP- Feeding & Swallowing Specialist-Roosevelt Children's Center, New York, NY
Perform evaluations to preschool aged children with severe medical needs within a school setting.
Develop and implement evidence-based treatment goals and activities related to the specific needs of clients, and to identify equipment or materials to be used in treatment.
Required to hold pristine knowledge and understanding of disorders and delays in feeding, oral motor, expressive communication, and augmentative/alternative communication devices.
Coordinate with related service providers, nurse staff and parents to facilitate generalization of learned skills.
- 2008 – 2009 Kidz Therapy Services, LLC, Speech Language Pathologist, Garden City, NY
Develop and implement evidence based evaluation strategies, treatment goals and activities related to the specific needs of clients, and to identify equipment or materials to be used in treatment.
Required to hold pristine knowledge and understanding of disorders and delays in articulation, feeding, oral motor, fluency, vocabulary, syntax, pragmatics, auditory comprehension, expressive communication, listening and attention.
Coordinate with related service providers and parents to facilitate generalization of learned skills.
Caseload includes children in Early Intervention, Preschool and School-Age programs. Office based.

3. ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 2019 – 2022 Molloy College, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Rockville Centre, NY
2009 – 2010 University of Cincinnati, OH- Testing and Training International, Adjunct Professor- Communication Sciences and Disorders, Course- Phonetics. Brooklyn, NY

4. LICENSURE AND BOARD CERTIFICATIONS

- 2024 – Present Certified Lactation Consultant ALPP ID # 354424
2018 – Present Neonatal Therapy National Certification # CNT180209
2014 – Present Board Certified Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders, BCS-S
2007 – Present New York State Speech Language Pathologist License # 018732 -01

5. PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- **L. Ferrara**, A. Bidiwalla, I. Sher, et al.. Effect of Nasal Continuous Positive Airway Pressure on The Pharyngeal Swallow in Neonates. *Journal of Perinatology*. January, 2017; doi: 10.1038/jp.2016.229.
- **L. Ferrara**, R. Kamity, S. Islam, et al.. Short-term Effect of Cold Liquids on the Pharyngeal Swallowing in Preterm Infants with Dysphagia: A Pilot Study. *Dysphagia*. February, 2018; doi: 10.1007/s00455-018-9877-8.
- V. Dumpa, R. Kamity, **L. Ferrara**, M Akerman, et al., The effects of oral feeding while on nasal continuous positive airway pressure (NCPAP) in preterm infants. *Journal of Perinatology*. February, 2020. doi: 10.1038/s41372-020-0632-2

- R. Kamity, **L. Ferrara**, V. Dumpa, J. Reynolds, S. Islam, et al.: Simultaneous Videofluoroscopy and Endoscopy for Dysphagia Evaluation in Preterm Infants-A Pilot Study. *Frontiers in Pediatrics*. September, 2020. Doi: 0.3389/fped.2020.00537
- R. Pineda, J. Lisle, **L. Ferrara**, K. Knudsen, R. Kumar, A. Fernandez-Fernandez. Neonatal therapy staffing in the United States and relationships to NICU type and location, level of acuity, and population factors. *American Journal of Perinatology*. October 2021. Doi 10.1055/a-1678-0002
- **L. Ferrara**, R. Kamity, Z. Htun, Z., V. Dumpa, V., Islam S., & Hanna, N. From Warm to Cold: Feeding Cold Milk in Preterm Infants with Uncoordinated Oral Feeding Patterns. *Nutrients*, 2025; 17(9):1457.
- N. Bromberg Bar-Yam, M. Fisher, C. Godcharles, E. Filipovich, C. Gliniak, **L. Ferrara**, A. Popkowska, V. Adewale, M. Shogan & D. Spatz. Interdisciplinary Guidelines and Recommendations for Promotion, Support, and Achievement of Optimal Infant Feeding in the Postpartum Period. National Perinatal Association. *Journal of Perinatology*, In Press.
- Fernandez-Fernandez, A., Gibbs, D., Miller, M., Knudsen, K., **Ferrara-Gonzalez, L.**, Pineda, R. An Evolving Role in the NICU: A Study of the Tasks, Knowledge, Skills, and Practice Demographics of the Neonatal Therapist. *American Journal of Perinatology*. In Review

6. AWARDED GRANTS, HONORS, PRESS RECOGNITION

- Cold Milk as a Novel Therapy for Dysphagia in Preterm Infants. Sponsored by NIH R21 Grant HD100653-01. \$422,400
- Excellence in Research Award, Peer Nominated, National Association of Neonatal Therapists, 2021
- Long Island (NY) Business News Health Care Hero, 2025

7. PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

- Apneas, Bradycardia and Desaturations During Oral Feedings in Growing Preemies: Nature vs Nurture, presented at Perinatal Nursing Conference hosted by Winthrop University Hospital. Nassau County, NY (May 2015)
- Swallowing and Breathing Coordination in Neonates: Should We Orally Feed While on nCPAP?, presented to Neonatologists, Neonatal nurses and neonatal therapists. Regional Neonatology/Perinatal Symposium. Garden City, NY (March 2017)
- “Open, Shut Them, Open, Shut Them...” Oral Feedings on Respiratory Devices: Picking Apart the Controversy, presented at the 9th Annual Conference for National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT), Phoenix, AZ (April 2019)
- *Feeding the Preterm Infant: A Closer Look at Neurodevelopment, Physiologic Stability and Cue-Based Feedings*, presented at the Northern Virginia Adult and Pediatric Clinical Nutrition Conference, Inova Fairfax, VA (May 2019)
- Oral Feedings on Respiratory Devices in the NICU: Picking Apart the Controversy, presented at the NICU Developmental Care Symposium, Sponsored by UCLA Health, Las Angeles, CA (September 2019)
- *Feeding the Preterm Infant: A Closer Look at Neurodevelopment, Physiologic Stability and Cue-Based Feedings*, presented at the Delaware Valley Association of Neonatal Nurses (DVANN) Fall 2019 Conference at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), PA (November 2019)
- “Preventing Oral Aversions in Medically Complex Infants” co-presenter: Karthik Balakrishnan. Presented at the SENTAC and Endo Days Annual Conference, Sponsored by University of California-San Diego University Centers, La Jolla, CA (December 2019)
- Oral Feedings on Respiratory Devices in the NICU: Picking Apart the Controversy, presented at the 7th International Pediatric Feeding Disorder Conference (IPFDC), FeedingMatters.org, Virtual (January 2020)
- Oral Feedings on Respiratory Devices in the NICU: Picking Apart the Controversy, presented to respiratory therapists at the Respiratory Care 2020 Annual Conference. Nassau County, NY (January 2020).
- Be Up-To-Date: NICU Feeding Case Studies Supported by the Evidence, co-presented Jenny Reynolds. Presented at the 10th Annual Conference for National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT), Cincinnati, OH (April 2020)
- The Use of Cold Liquids to Treat Neonatal Dysphagia: What the New Research is Saying, presented at the 10th Annual Conference for National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT), Cincinnati, OH (April 2020)

- Reframe Your Thinking about Neonatal Dysphagia: Discover the Possibility of Cold Liquids. Proposal Number: 11887. Proposal accepted at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, San Diego, CA (Convention canceled). 2020
- Be Up-To-Date: NICU Feeding Case Studies Supported by the Evidence. Co-Presenter Jenny Reynolds. Proposal Number: 11938. Proposal accepted at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, San Diego, CA (Convention canceled). 2020
- Advanced Interpretation of MBS & FEES Across the Lifespan: Functional Anatomy and Implications for Treatment Planning, 2-Hour Seminar. Co-Presenters Katlyn McGrattan, Claire Miller, Tessa Goldsmith, & Jessica Pisegna. Proposal Number: 20076. Proposal accepted at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, San Diego, CA (Convention canceled). 2020
- Oral Feedings on Respiratory Devices in the NICU: Picking Apart the Controversy, Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists (RCSLT), Neonatal Clinical Excellence Network (CEN), Hot Topics Conference, London, UK (Virtual - December, 2020)
- Oral Feedings on Respiratory Devices: Picking Apart the Controversy (2-hr), presented to SLPs at the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA) Annual Convention, TX (Virtual – April 2021)
- Be Up-To-Date: NICU Feeding Case Studies Supported by the Evidence. Co-Presenter Jenny Reynolds. Proposal Number: 10264, presented at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Washington D.C. (November 2021)
- Oral Feedings on Respiratory Devices: Picking Apart the Controversy (15-min lecture; 30-min live Q&A Panel Discussion. Presented at United Kingdom's Swallowing Research Group (UKSRG) 9th Annual Conference, London, UK (Virtual – February 2022)
- Skills & Drills: Interactive FEES Case Studies to Propel you Towards Excellence (1hr). Co-Presenter with Jenny Reynolds. Presented at the 12th Annual Conference for National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT), Cincinnati, OH (April 2022)
- The Road to Excellence is Paved with Wrong Turns: Improving the Way we Honor our Bedside Mistakes (1hr). Presented at the 12th Annual Conference for National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT), Cincinnati, OH (April 2022)
- Feeding the Preterm Infant: A Closer Look at Neurodevelopment, Physiologic Stability and Cue-Based Feedings, presented at the First Coastal Neonatal Symposium, St. Augustine, FL (April 2022)
- The Road to Excellence is Paved with Wrong Turns: Improving the Way we Honor our Bedside Mistakes presented at the NICU Developmental Care Symposium, Sponsored by UCLA Health, Las Angeles, CA (September 2022)
- Moving from Therapist to Pathologist: Reframing Your Thinking and Clinical Practice in the NICU, Co-Presenter Jenny Reynolds & Ramya Kumar. Proposal Number: 12262. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, New Orleans, LA. (November 2022)
- Oral Feedings on Respiratory Devices in the NICU: Picking Apart the Controversy, Proposal Number: 12280. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, New Orleans, LA. (November 2022)
- Thinking Outside the Box: Should we infants on positive pressure? Co-presented with Kimberly Morris at ASHA's Rethinking Pediatric Feeding and Swallowing online conference. (March, 2023)
- Promoting Parent Confidence and Competence in the NICU: A Qualitative Multi-Site Parent Survey. Presented at the 10th International Pediatric Feeding Disorder Conference (IPFDC), FeedingMatters.org, Virtual (April 2023)
- Promoting Parent Confidence and Competence in the NICU: Panel Discussion. Presented at the 13th Annual Conference for National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT), Tuscon, AZ (April 2023)
- The Fragile Infant. Co-Present with Jenny Reynolds at the India Conclave, Virtual Conference (April 2023)

- PPV & PO Feeding: Thinking Critically on Safety. Presented at Advances in NICU Feeding Management 3-Day Specialty Workshop. (September 2023)
- From the Cradle to the Classroom: Considerations for Pediatric Feeding & Swallowing. Co-Presenter at The New York City Dysphagia Symposium, Sponsored by Dysphagia Cafe (October 2023)
- Preterm Feeding Case Review: Pre-Feeding Interventions. Co-Presented with Emily Zimmerman and Kaitlyn McGrattan. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boston, MA. (November 2023)
- Promoting Parent Confidence and Competence in the NICU: A Qualitative Multi-Site Parent Survey. Co-Presenter. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boston, MA. (November 2023)
- Master Class: Call to Action: Filing the Research Gaps in PFD Interventions. Co-Presenter. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Boston, MA. (November 2023)
- Cells, Embryos and Fetuses OH MY! Demystifying Embryological. Presented at NANT April 2024
- Championing a New Technique in Neonatal Dysphagia: Evidence to Support the use of Cold Milk. Presented at NANT 2024
- PPV & PO Feeding: Thinking Critically on Safety. Will be presented at Brigham Woman's Advances in NICU Feeding Management 3-Day Specialty Workshop. September 12-14, 2024
- Apneas, Bradycardias, & Desaturations During Oral Feedings in Growing Preemies: Nature vs Nurture. Will be presented at University of Connecticut Health's 8th Annual Neonatal Symposium on September 19th, 2024
- Oral Feedings in the NICU: Best Practices for Success. Will be presented at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's Developmental Care Conference, October 24, 2024
- Evidence-Based & Culturally Responsive Practice in the NICU. Co-Presented at SENTAC, November 8, 2024.
- Be Up-To-Date: Pre-feeding Case Studies Supported by the Literature. Will be presented at NANT's Annual Conference, March 2025
- Neonatal Dysphagia. Will be presented at NYC Dysphagia Café's Symposium, October, 2025
- What Really Matters? Understanding the Lived Experiences of Families with Children with Feeding Disorders, Co-Presented at ASHA, November 2025

8. POSTER PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

- Bidiwala, L. Ferrara, I. Sher, et al. Effect of nasal continuous positive airway pressure on the pharyngeal swallow in neonates. Abstracts of the Annual Conference of the American Thoracic Society (ATS). San Francisco, CA. February, 2016.
- **L. Ferrara**, S. Islam, N. Hanna. Effect of cold liquids on the pharyngeal swallow mechanism in preterm infants. Abstracts of the Annual Conference of Pediatric Academic Society (PAS). Baltimore, MD. April, 2016.
- **L. Ferrara**, R. Kamity, V. Dumpa, S. Islam, F. Redstone, N. Hanna. Cold liquid feedings improve feeding coordination in preterm Infants. Abstract of the Annual Conference of Eastern Society of Pediatric Research (ESPR), Philadelphia, PA. March 2019.
- V. Dumpa, R. Kamity, **L. Ferrara**, N. Hanna. Does oral feeding while on continuous positive airway pressure increase BPD in preterm infants <32 weeks? Abstract of the Annual Conference of Eastern Society of Pediatric Research (ESPR), Philadelphia, PA. March 2019.
- **L. Ferrara**, R. Kamity, V. Dumpa, S. Islam, F. Redstone, N. Hanna. Cold liquid feedings improve feeding coordination in preterm Infants. Abstract of the Annual Conference of National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT). Phoenix, AZ. April 2019.
- **L. Ferrara**, R. Kamity, V. Dumpa, S. Islam, F. Redstone, N. Hanna. Cold liquid feedings improve feeding coordination in preterm Infants. Abstract of the Annual Conference of Pediatric Academic Society (PAS), Baltimore, MD. April 2019.
- V. Dumpa, R. Kamity, **L. Ferrara**, N. Hanna. Does oral feeding while on continuous positive airway pressure increase BPD in preterm infants <32 weeks? Abstract of the Annual Conference of Pediatric Academic Society (PAS), Baltimore, MD. April 2019.
- M. Abeles, **L. Ferrara**, K. Catapano, C. Valsamis, M. Pirzada. Dysphagia in congenital diaphragmatic hernia: More common than we think? Abstract of the Annual Conference of American Thoracic Society (ATS). New York, NY. May 2019.

- Z. Htun, R. Kamily, **L.Ferrara**, N. Hanna. Variation in Feeding Practices for Preterm Infants – Survey Results. Abstract for the Eastern Society of Pediatric Research Annual Meeting. March 2024.
- **L. Ferrara**. The Road to Excellence is Paved with Wrong Turns: Improving the Way we Honor our Bedside Mistakes. Abstract for Graven's Conference. Clearwater, FL. March 2024

9. SERVICE

2024 – Present	NANT Conference Committee
2023 – Present	Data Safety Monitoring Board for SOOTHE NIH Grant Funded Research
2022 – Present	ASHA Pediatric Feeding Disorders Conference Committee
2020 – 2023	Board Member Neonatal Therapist National Certification Board (NTNCB)
2019 – 2021	Advisor to Student Group – NSSLHA (National Student Speech Language Hearing Association)

10. EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2023	Guest Reviewer - Early Human Development
2020	Guest Reviewer - American Journal of Physiology-Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology
2018-2019	Guest Reviewer - Pediatric Allergy, Immunology, and Pulmonology

11. ONLINE MEDIA PRESENCE

- [LinkedIn Profile](#)
- Online Course - [Clinical Bedside Feeding Assessments in the NICU](#) via NANT
- Quarterly [Feeding Meet-Up](#) Calls via NANT
- [Podcast: Well Fed](#) via JOWMA
- [Podcast: Knowledge in Power](#) via The Feeding Pod

12. PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

- The Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale (NBAS) – Certified April 2024
- Trauma-Informed Professional (TIP) –Certified March 2022
- Neonatal Touch and Massage Certification (NTMC) –Certified January 2021
- Launch: A Revolutionary Leadership Program for Health Care Professionals – December 2020
- Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES)- Trained March 2017
- Modified Barium Swallow Impairment Profile (MBSImp)- Certified February 2014
- Neonatal Oral Motor Assessment Scale (NOMAS)- Trained March 2011
- New York State Department of Health- Approved Early Intervention Provider (2009)
- S.O.S.- Sequential Oral Sensory Approach to Feeding – December 2008 and March 2009
- PFMAI- The Posture & Fine Motor Assessment of Infants- Training in March 2009

12. PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT)
- National Perinatal Association (NPA)
- American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA)
- New York State Speech, Language, Hearing Association (NYSSLHA)
- Dysphagia Research Society (DRS)
- Society for Ear, Nose, and Throat Advancement in Children (SENTAC)
- Aerodigestive Society

13. DISSERTATION COMMITTEE WORK

- Laura McKenna, NP, University of Connecticut, DnP. Graduated 2020. Dissertation: Impact of an Education Program on NICU Nurses' Knowledge and Perceptions of an Evidence-Based Protocol for Infant-Driven Feeding.
- Kristina Karouzakis, CCC-SLP, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, SLPD. Graduated 2023. Capstone Research Question: What is the effect of using telehealth to deliver caregiver training to use non-behavioral and/or behavioral approaches to address Young children who demonstrate food overselectivity? .
- Jennifer Kirsch, MS, CCC-SLP, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, SLPD. Graduated 2023. Capstone Research Question: Oral stimulation program to improve overall oral bottle-feeding skills

14. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Full list of lecture topics, locations and audiences available upon request

- 2011 – 1
- 2012 – 5
- 2013 – 4
- 2014 – 6
- 2015 – 6
- 2016 – 5
- 2017 – 5
- 2018 – 21
- 2019 - 20
- 2020 - 20
- 2021 – 25
- 2022 – 11
- 2023 – 18
- 2024 – 12
- 2025 – 11 as of 5/2025