



**American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics
69th Annual Meeting: October 30 – November 1, 2022
Omni Austin Downtown, Austin, Texas**

Program Speaker – Jana Rieger, PhD

Title

It's a Marathon, Not a Sprint: Reflections on Dysphagia through a Rehabilitative and Commercial Lens

Abstract

This presentation will cover the topic of dysphagia in the head and neck cancer population and will take the listeners on a journey that started more than two decades ago when there were few rehabilitative options available for dysphagia up to the present time, where technology can significantly change the game. Many questions remain to be explored, especially that of the changing clinical space and how we “amp up” our ability to engage more people on an ongoing basis. What happens, though, when you have ideas that could move the treatment space ahead significantly, but you’re just not sure what to do with them, or how to even broach a commercial endeavour? This presentation will offer a lived perspective on the road from clinic to commercialization.

Biography

Jana Rieger, PhD is a global leader in functional outcomes assessment related to head and neck disorders. She is a Professor in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Alberta and Director of Research at the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine. Over her 20-year career in this field, Jana has held roles as a professor, clinician, researcher, and most recently, entrepreneur. Over the course of her academic career, Jana raised \$2M to plan, set-up, and deploy an innovative health outcomes assessment program that is internationally-renowned, and functions at a director level within a health-care institution to bring together diverse groups of clinicians, researchers, and policy-makers. Jana also is CEO of True Angle, a University of Alberta spin-off that she founded. She has raised over \$6M in non-dilutive funding and angel investment to develop, test, and commercialize the Mobili-T: a novel mHealth “smart” software-based system for people with dysphagia.

**Has disclosed Affiliation/Financial Interest with the following company: True Angle*