



Presentation Abstracts and Speakers' Bios

1. English Workshop

Demystifying Symbols: An Analytical Look at Symbols in Note-Taking for Consecutive Interpretation

Johanna Parker, M.A., FCCI, CHI™-Spanish, Lead Interpreter for Education and Training, Stanford Health Care

Ellen Wingo M.A., FCCI, Court and Conference Interpreter

Abstract:

Symbols play a crucial role in effective note-taking for consecutive interpretation, enabling interpreters to capture key concepts quickly and efficiently. However, many interpreters find it challenging to come up with symbols, incorporate them into their note-taking, and apply them consistently. This session is designed to demystify the use of symbols in note-taking, offering attendees a deeper understanding of how to develop their own collections of symbols and integrate them effectively into their practice. In this interactive workshop, the presenters will share their own symbols and the systems that they use to create and connect them in their notes. They will introduce a classification method that ranks symbols by their efficiency and origin, creating families of related symbols and systematic ways to generate them that reduce the cognitive load of note-taking. This will help participants identify which symbols are most effective for their personal style.

Through hands-on exercises, attendees will experiment with various symbols and strategies, gaining insight into how symbols can streamline note-taking, extend working memory, and reduce cognitive load. By the end of the session, participants will have practical strategies for refining their note-taking systems, improving both speed and accuracy in consecutive interpretation. This language-neutral workshop is open to all interpreters seeking to enhance their understanding and use of symbols in consecutive interpretation, offering valuable tools for boosting efficiency and effectiveness in their practice.

Presenters' Bios:



Johanna Parker holds an M.A. in Translation and Interpretation (Spanish <>English) from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS) and is a federally certified court interpreter and CCHI Certified Healthcare Interpreter™-Spanish. She is Lead Interpreter for Education and Training at Stanford Health Care, a freelance conference interpreter, and a contract seminar and conference interpreter. Johanna is CCHI Vice Chair. Johanna trains interpreters around the country and is an adjunct professor at MIIS, where she teaches medical interpreting. She also educates providers on the importance of interpreter services and language access as a matter of health equity. She was awarded the California Healthcare Interpreting Association's Trainer of the Year award in 2015.



Ellen Wingo is a state and federally certified court interpreter with over seventeen years of experience working in both legal and conference settings. Based in Washington, DC, she served as a contract seminar interpreter for the U.S. Department of State for many years. Ellen is a frequent presenter at national and regional conferences, where she teaches a wide range of topics, including comparative ethics, consecutive notetaking, and textspeak in the courtroom. She holds a master's degree in translation and interpretation from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

2. Spanish Workshop

¿Qué sucede en la UCI neonatal? Lo que el intérprete médico debe saber

Veronica Escobar, CHI™-Spanish, Medical Interpreter and Translator, Education and Training Lead, Stanford Children's Health

William Giller, M.A., CHI™-Spanish, Manager of Interpreter Services, UC San Diego Health

Abstract:

What happens when the tiniest patients need the most complex care? Join us as we explore the inner workings of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) as well as the multidisciplinary team that follows these vulnerable patients and families. We will look into a typical day in the NICU, and discuss common terminology. During the session we will also share our favorite self-care strategies for healthcare interpreters facing emotionally intense sessions.

Presenters' Bios:



Veronica Escobar, a native from Quito, Ecuador, has over a decade of experience as an English-Spanish interpreter and translator in educational and medical settings. Certified by the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters since 2016, she holds credentials from the National Hispanic University and UC San Diego Extension. As lead interpreter and translator at a major US hospital, Veronica has spearheaded continuing education workshops, earning her the Trainer of the Year award from the California Healthcare Interpreters Association in 2024. Veronica, a licensed interpreter trainer, has participated as subject matter expert on state and national language access projects, advancing health equity and cultural awareness through her work.



William Giller grew up in a bilingual household and was exposed equally to English and Spanish during his formative years. He was educated in both languages and have lived, studied, and worked in both the United States and Spain. William holds a master's degree in Translation and Interpretation from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey in English, French, and Spanish. He has been Manager of Interpreter Services at UC San Diego Health since 2024, prior to that working at Stanford Medicine Children's Health as a Lead Interpreter and Translator for 5 years. As an interpreter, William has encountered every specialty under the sun and the energy and variety in his day-to-day work has solidified his passion for this field in the profession. Additionally, he sits on the Board of Directors of CCHI and the Northern California Translators Association as the Digital Content Director.