

Elizabeth Stegemöller



“Music is the medicine of the mind.” (John A. Logan) To date, little is known about the neural underpinnings of music and its therapeutic application. As a music therapist, Dr. has witnessed several intriguing experiences where patients with a neurological disorder have overcome a debilitating condition through music. It is these experiences that have motivated her research goals. Dr. Stegemöller earned her bachelor’s degrees in Music Therapy and Biology with a minor in Chemistry from the University of Missouri – Kansas City in 2001. Following her degrees, she worked as a clinical music therapist before returning to graduate school earning her doctoral degree in Neuroscience at Northwestern University in 2010. Following the completion of her graduate degree, Dr. Stegemöller completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Neurology and Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology at the University of Florida. Recently, she has joined Iowa State University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology. Dr. Stegemöller’s main research focus is to understand the neurophysiology associated with the therapeutic effect of music on axial impairments in persons with Parkinson’s disease. She currently has multiple projects examining the effects of music on speech, swallow, repetitive finger movements, and gait in persons with PD. Dr. Stegemöller has received funding and has over 25 publications in her young career. In addition, Dr. Stegemöller is highly active in the Parkinson’s community advocating for Parkinson’s disease research. Dr. Stegemöller is very passionate about her work and hopes that through her research and advocacy effort, she can contribute to the development of new and innovated therapies that demonstrate effectiveness at targeting PD symptoms often not improved with medication.

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