



## Mentoring Session Details: *Pre- Meeting spARO Events*

Dear 2021 ARO-MidWinter Meeting attendees,

We are happy to announce the final schedule and panelists for our 2021 Mentoring Sessions. These sessions, covering a wide variety of topics, provide an excellent opportunity to learn from the experience of leaders in the field while engaging in open discussions with the group and panel of mentors.

Below you will find the times & descriptions for each of the eight sessions, which begin Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. Please pre-submit questions and RSVP—if you haven't already done so—by following the links below for any sessions that you find interesting.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Best,  
Tyler Hickman, Ph.D and Cathy Sung, Ph.D  
*spARO Steering Committee*

Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM EST  
**Mentoring Session 1: Job Search and Independence in Academia (Interview and Negotiation Skill Development)**

Becoming an independent scientist largely depends on acquired competencies and achievements from your postdoctoral training. With so few openings for tenure-track faculty positions, competition is fierce. How do you become a competitive candidate? In this session, the panelists will discuss key aspects of building a competitive postdoctoral portfolio and preparing an effective academic job application. The mentors will discuss the academic job search timeline, resources for finding academic jobs, effectively compiling your application package, and the interview process. In addition, evaluating a job offer's benefits, salary, tenure track, and other deliberations are challenging and important aspects of the job search process considered in this session, which will consist of a short presentation from a panel of leading scientists in an interactive forum for questions and discussion.



**Speakers:**

**Melissa Caras, Ph.D**

*University of Maryland*

**Aravindakshan Parthasarathy, Ph.D**

*University of Pittsburgh*

**spARO moderator:**

**Kirupa Suthakar, Ph.D**

*NIH/NIDCD*

Please pre-submit questions and RSVP here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZTCGPFW>

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**Wednesday, Feb. 10, 4 PM - 6 PM EST**  
**Mentoring Session 2: Research and Teaching with Undergraduates**

Teaching and researching with undergraduates provide unique and rewarding opportunities and challenges when working towards impactful research. In this session, two leading scientists will share and discuss their experiences working and publishing with undergraduates. Group participation is welcome and encouraged.



**Speakers:**

**Allison Coffin, Ph.D**

*Washington State University, Vancouver*

**Thomas Coate, Ph.D**

*Georgetown University*

**spARO moderator:**

**Tyler Hickman, Ph.D**

*Harvard University / Mass. Eye and Ear*

Please pre-submit questions and RSVP here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZTMN9RC>

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**Friday, Feb. 12, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM EST**  
**Mentoring Session 3: Clinician Scientist**

Balancing demanding research and clinical responsibilities is challenging, but also provides unique research avenues and experiences. In this session, two leading clinician-researchers will share their experiences and lead a discussion about how clinicians can successfully integrate scientific investigation into their work.



**Speakers:**

**Wade Chien, M.D., FACS**

*NIH/NIDCD/John's Hopkins University*

**Dan Lee, M.D., FACS**

*Harvard University (Mass. Eye and Ear)*

**spARO moderator:**

**Warren Bakay**

*Institut Pasteur*

Please pre-submit questions and RSVP here:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZTGVQ6C>

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Friday, Feb. 12, 2 PM - 4 PM EST  
**Mentoring Session 4: Careers in Industry:  
Interview and Negotiation Skill Development**

While there are similarities between working in academia and industry, pursuing a successful career in industry often requires a change in approach for former academics. Leaders from companies investigating phenomena related to ARO research will lead a discussion about how to successfully pivot from academic research into developing a career in industry.



**Speakers:**

Jean-Francois Lafond, BSc, DVM, MSc, DES, DACVP  
*Charles River Laboratories*  
Jonathan Whitton, Au.D, Ph.D,  
*Decibel Therapeutics*

**spARO moderator:**

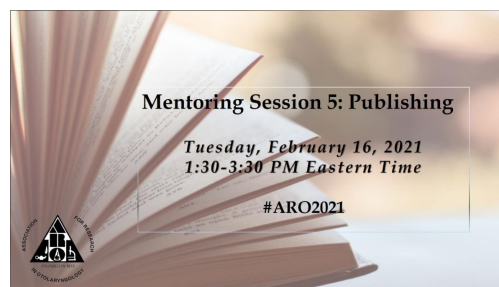
Melissa Castillo Bustamante, M.D.  
*Mass. Eye and Ear*

Please pre-submit questions and RSVP here:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZT6W98Z>

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Tuesday, Feb. 16, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM EST  
**Mentoring Session 5: Publishing**

Sharing work in a peer-reviewed publication is an exciting and rewarding conclusion to a body of work, however the journey can be daunting when deciding when data collection is complete, choosing an appropriate journal, considering impact factor, sharing elucidating negative data, and deliberating other factors. On the other end of the manuscript, peer-reviewing submissions is a gratifying way to help the field while getting a sneak peek at bleeding-edge research, yet presents challenges when balancing praise and critiques while considering your own biases. In this session, two editors at top journals will share good approaches in publishing and reviewing research, and lead an open discussion where questions and discussion are encouraged.



**Speaker:**

Elizabeth Olson, Ph.D  
*Columbia University (Editor for Hearing Research)*  
Dwight Bergles, Ph.D  
*John's Hopkins University (Editor for eLife)*

**spARO moderator:**

Sumana Ghosh, Ph.D  
*University of Mississippi Medical Center*

Please pre-submit questions and RSVP here:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMKXXB>

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Tuesday, Feb. 16, 4 PM - 6 PM EST

### **Mentoring Session 6: Careers in Academia**

Establishing yourself as a principal investigator with a new lab in an academic environment can be an exciting yet bumpy road to navigate. The panelists in this session will share their observations and experiences in establishing and funding independent research laboratories, discuss the keys for successfully applying for research support, and suggest avenues available to new or mid-career faculty members to facilitate the success of their lab. This session will consist of short presentations from a panel of leading scientists in an interactive forum for questions and discussion.



#### **Speakers:**

**Andy Groves, Ph.D**

*Baylor College of Medicine*

**M. Charles Liberman, Ph.D**

*Harvard University (Mass. Eye and Ear)*

#### **spARO moderator:**

**Sumana Ghosh, Ph.D**

*University of Mississippi Medical Center*

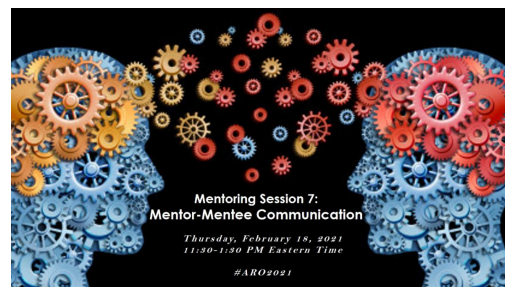
Please pre-submit questions and RSVP here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMV5TW8>

Thursday, Feb. 18, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM EST

### **Mentoring Session 7: Mentor-Mentee Communication**

Good scientific mentorship is key for the personal and professional growth of trainees in academia. An effective way to maintain a good mentor-mentee relationship is good communication between both parties. In this session, trainees will discuss effective communication techniques, strategies to manage their relationships with their mentors, and techniques to resolve communication challenges to maximize the benefit from mentoring relationships. This session will consist of a presentation from a panel of leading scientists in an interactive forum for questions and discussion.



#### **Speakers:**

**Catherine Weisz, Ph.D**

*NIH/NIDCD*

**Brandon C. Cox, Ph.D**

*Southern Illinois University*

#### **spARO moderator:**

**Kelly Jahn, Au.D, Ph.D**

*Harvard University*

Please pre-submit questions and RSVP here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMCLN3X>

Thursday, Feb. 18, 2 PM - 4 PM EST

### **Mentoring Session 8: Navigating the Grant Landscape**



This session will feature short presentations from a panel of leading scientists to introduce various grants and fellowships for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the U.S. and Europe. The session will focus on federal and private research funding sources, eligibility considerations for selected grants, the application process, and the peer review process. This session will be an interactive forum with questions and discussion.

**Speakers:**

**Stefan Heller, Ph.D**  
Stanford University  
**Gabriel Corfas, Ph.D**  
University of Michigan  
**Aziz El Amraoui, PhD**  
Institut Pasteur, Paris

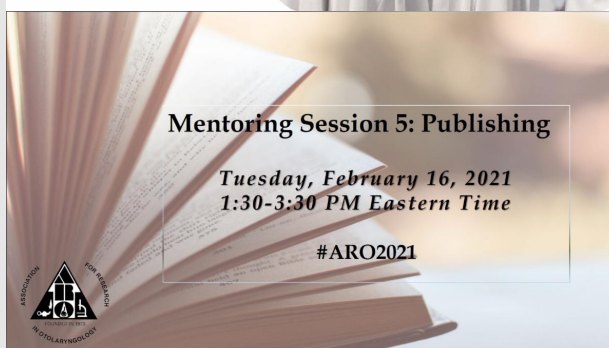
**spARO moderator:**

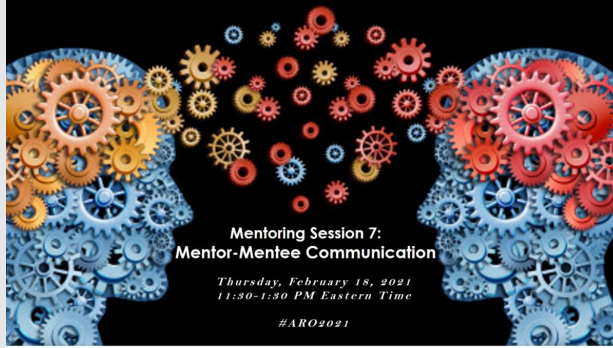
**Cathy Sung, Ph.D**  
NIH/NIDCD

Please pre-submit questions and RSVP  
here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMSDZNH>



*Feel free to share the images below with colleagues & friends!*





**Mentoring Session 7:  
Mentor-Mentee Communication**

*Thursday, February 18, 2021  
11:30-1:30 PM Eastern Time*

*#ARO2021*

**Mentoring Session 8:  
Navigating the Grant Landscape**



*Thursday, February 18, 2021  
2:00-4:00 PM Eastern Time*

*#ARO2021*

