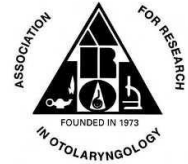


# ARO COMMITTEE UPDATES

Committee Name: spARO



1. **Our committee is currently working on the following:**
  - a. Ongoing Initiatives
    - i. JARO Research News – Trainees volunteer to write an editorial style highlight of an article recently published in JARO which is published on the JARO and ARO webpages
    - ii. Mentorship Program - Connect spARO mentees with individually matched mentors from the greater ARO community
    - iii. ARO/spARO Virtual Learning Taskforce - Initiated by outgoing ARO President, Ruth Litovsky, to establish ARO sponsored virtual learning and development events
  - b. MidWinter Meeting Events
    - i. spARO presents Kathy Buckley – A quick update from spARO followed by entertainment by “America’s Favorite Hearing Impaired Comedienne”
    - ii. Diversity & Minority Affairs Roundtable - Structured format workshop to facilitate discussion on topics affecting minority ARO members such as dealing with harassment and microaggressions, and bystander training
    - iii. Women & Allies Roundtable - Structured format workshop to facilitate discussion on topics specific to women, women-identified and allies in science
    - iv. Science Communication Workshop - This workshop is designed to raise awareness of good strategies for communicating science to other scientists
    - v. Mentoring Sessions – Small, moderated group discussion sessions on targeted topics of interest led by 2-3 invited faculty/clinical/industry leaders
2. **Our top five action items for the previous year were:**
  - a. Provide members with a greater breadth of content and opportunities to improve their training experience
  - b. Increasing our social media presence
  - c. Improving international representation within spARO
  - d. Implementing year round activities to engage our member base outside of the MWM
  - e. Adapting existing spARO events to the ‘virtual’ format
3. **Outcomes for 2020**
  - a. Successfully adapt spARO MWM events to the virtual space
  - b. Maintain constant engagement with members year round
  - c. Improve visibility of spARO and ARO both locally and internationally