

**Bio:**

Ronna Hertzano, M.D., Ph.D., is surgeon-scientist, otolaryngologist, with a practice focused on otology and neurotology. In her research laboratory, her primary focus is on the prevention of hearing loss and the exploration of innovative strategies to restore hearing function. Collaborating with a dedicated team of researchers, they employ specialized multi-omic analyses to pinpoint key regulators involved in inner ear development. Additionally, they investigate pathways related to age- and noise-induced hearing loss, taking into consideration potential sex-based differences in hearing.

Dr. Hertzano's team has achieved notable breakthroughs in the identification and characterization of various transcription factors associated with the ear, including POU4F3, GFI1, ZEB1, RFX, IZKF2, and POU3F4. Her research has also shed light on potential therapeutic candidates like Metformin and Estradiol for countering acquired hearing loss. Recognizing the critical role of omics data in biological research, she established the gEAR portal (gene Expression Analysis Resource, [UMgEAR.org](http://UMgEAR.org)) to facilitate data visualization, sharing, and analysis within the hearing research community.

Dr. Hertzano places a strong emphasis on mentorship and is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of researchers, clinicians, and clinician-scientists. She also holds prominent editorial roles, serving as an associate editor in *Otology Neurotology*, a section editor in *Hearing Research*, and a member of the editorial board of *JARO*. Dr. Hertzano serves as the chair of the American Neurotology Society Research Committee and is an active member of the American Otological Society research committee. Dr. Hertzano has held multiple leadership positions at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology, including chairing the travel award committee and contributing to various other committees.

Dr. Hertzano's outstanding contributions to the field have been acknowledged with numerous awards, including the Burt Evans National Organization of Hearing Research Award (2014), the Distinction Award in Alternative/Basic Science for the Triological Society Thesis (2020), the University of Maryland Researcher of the Year Award (2021), and her membership in the American Society of Clinical Investigators (ASCI).

Dr. Hertzano earned her M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Tel Aviv University, Israel, and completed her residency training in Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery and Otology and Neurotology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) in Baltimore. In February 2023, she assumed the role of Chief of the newly established Neurotology Branch at the NIDCD. While in this leadership position, Dr. Hertzano continues to maintain a part-time clinical practice at UMSOM as an adjunct clinical professor.