NAME: Katie Kindt
Location: National Institutes of Health/NIDCD, Bethesda, MD

Title: Senior Investigator

Education/Training:
BS University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
PhD University of California-San Diego
Postdoc Oregon Hearing Research Center

Prior service to ARO:
2023-present spARO mentor
2023-present ARO awards co-chair
2023, 2020, 2015 ARO symposium organizer
2020-2022 ARO awards committee
2020 ARO mentor, Lab management session
2018-2019 ARO poster blitz judge

Research Interests:
Apply in vivo calcium imaging to explore how collections of sensory cells, synapses, and neurons coordinate to encode sensory information.
Investigate how sensory activity impacts circuit assembly, function, and health.
Use zebrafish genetics to identify molecules required for sensory function and synapse specificity.
Apply high resolution imaging to study hair cell biology, including ribbon synapse formation.

Personal interests:
All things outdoors–rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, camping, surfing and foraging. I am also an avid reader and love to create jewelry.

Statement of Goals:
Since joining the field of hearing and balance, I have appreciated the opportunity to learn, engage, and build a network of friends and colleagues at ARO meetings. The ARO MidWinter meetings excel at uniting clinicians and basic researchers, bridging auditory and vestibular science, human and model system studies, as well as peripheral and central research, while bringing together scientists from around the world. I have found the ARO community to be not only diverse but also incredibly welcoming and inclusive. If elected to the Nominations Committee, I will work to ensure that ARO continues to represent and include clinicians, basic researchers, and scientists from all areas of hearing and balance science, while fostering global collaboration and promoting the inclusion of experts from around the world.

BIO:
My Bio:
Dr. Kindt earned her Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from the University of California, San Diego, where she studied the function and development of mechanosensory circuits in *Caenorhabditis elegans* under the mentorship of William Schafer. During her postdoctoral fellowship with Teresa Nicolson at the Oregon Hearing Research Center, she combined scanning electron microscopy and in vivo calcium imaging to explore the role of the primary cilium in the development of hair cells.

In 2013, Dr. Kindt joined the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication

Disorders (NIDCD) where she is currently a senior investigator. She leads the Section on Sensory Cell Development and Function. Using zebrafish, which possess sensory hair cells in their lateral lines that are easily studied in vivo, her lab integrates advanced time-lapse imaging, functional imaging, and behavioral analyses to unravel the molecular and functional mechanisms that govern hair cell system assembly and function in vivo.