

# 2024 ARO MIDWINTER MEETING

# Program Book

# ARO COUNCIL MEMBERS



**YURI ARGAWAL,  
M.D.**

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(2023-2024)*



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PH.D.**

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(2023-2024)*



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**JOHN OGHALAI,  
PH.D.**

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(2023-2024)*



**BRANDON COX,  
PH.D**

*Program Chair  
(2023-2026)*



**BARBARA CANLON,  
PH.D.**

*Communications Officer  
(2021-2024)*



**MANUEL MALMIERCA,  
M.D.,PH.D**

*Council Member  
(2021-2024)*



**AVRIL GENENE HOLT,  
PH.D.**

*Council Member  
(2022-2025)*



**RADHA KALLURI,  
PH.D.**

*Council Member  
(2023-2026)*

# WELCOME FROM THE ARO PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 2024 Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO) MidWinter Meeting! We are thrilled to welcome you to Anaheim, California!

We are grateful to our members for keeping research in otolaryngology strong the past few years. ARO had over 300 new members join us in 2023 and we are excited to see what we can accomplish together. Over the course of 2023, ARO created the new Clinician Scientist Committee, launched the new ARO Scholars program, and saw an increase in virtual learning and networking opportunities due to the vital efforts of all our committees.

This year brought 1048 abstract submissions resulting in 200 oral presentations and 860 posters. Dr. Steve Lomber, one of Pioneer in Basic Science co-awardees this year, and Dr. Brandon Cox provided leadership for ARO as the Scientific Chair and Chair of the Program Committee. Drs. Cox and Lomber and the members of the Program Committee have organized a vibrant and exciting meeting. This year you can look forward to the Presidential Symposium in two parts. The first titled 'The Clinician-Scientist Workforce in Otolaryngology: Strategies for the Future,' with talks by Drs. Aaron Remenschneider, Jennifer Stone, Alan Cheng, Marlan Hansen, and Debara Tucci, taking place on Saturday, February 3rd from 8 AM – 12 PM. The second, a Late Breaking addition to the program, titled 'Late Breaking Presidential Symposium: OTOF Gene Therapy Clinical Trial,' with talks by Drs. Laurent Desire, Emmanuel J. Simons, Vassili Valayannopoulos, Jieyu Qi, and Yilai Shu on Saturday, February 3rd from 10 AM – 12 PM. Both symposia will take place in the Platinum Salon 5.

Dr. Judy Dubno will receive the Award of Merit, the highest commendation in our society. We look forward to celebrating her accomplishments at the Award of Merit session on Monday, February 5th from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM in Platinum Salon 5. The ceremony will be followed by a reception where all attendees are welcome.

Young Investigators: spARO has curated a full schedule for you including mentorship sessions and networking! Be sure to view the schedule and plan your conference experience.

Debara Tucci, Director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) will hold a Town Hall on Monday, February 5th from 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM in the Platinum Salon 4, in conjunction with what is formerly known as the ARO Business Meeting. At the conclusion of this session, I will hand the gavel to our President-Elect, Dr. Sunil Puria, and thank Past-President, Dr. Elisabeth Olson, and Past-Past-President Dr. John Oghalai for all their help, and their outstanding service to ARO.

Again, it is my immense pleasure to welcome attendees to the 2024 MidWinter Meeting. I hope you have a wonderful time at the MidWinter Meeting!

# About ARO

## OUR HISTORY

The association was founded in 1973. It is under the direction of the ARO Council that consists of a President, a Past President, a President-Elect, a Secretary-Treasurer, a Communications Officer, a Program Committee chair, a Nomination Committee chair, and three Council Members At-Large, all of whom are elected from and by the membership. The functions of the organization are established through bylaws carried out with the help of committees and counsel from past presidents.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

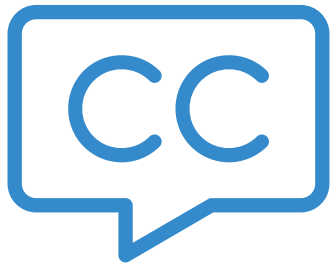
The mission of the Association shall be to encourage and promote basic and clinical research in the broad fields of Otolaryngology, hearing and balance science, and related areas. To achieve these objectives, and to foster collegial assembly and stimulate scientific collaboration among its members, the Association shall encourage year-round scientific engagement through meetings and other activities.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is to pioneer inventive excellence in pure and applied science by nurturing researchers to perform the most rigorous and exciting science in the study of hearing and balance and related otolaryngological fields. We seek to use our collective knowledge to make fundamental discoveries and develop ground-breaking treatments that improve quality of life.

## OUR CORE VALUES

- **Science:** We promote rigorous original (same as mission) basic science and clinical research that moves forward our understanding of hearing and balance sciences and related fields. We strive to provide a forum for dissemination and meaningful discussion of results.
- **Diversity:** We acknowledge and honor the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals. We are committed to maintaining an inclusive environment that removes barriers and respects diverse people, approaches, and ideas.
- **Integrity:** We maintain the highest ethical standards in the collection, sharing and dissemination of research and champion best practices in both basic and clinical experimentation.
- **Collaboration:** We believe in listening and evolving together by embracing the exchange of ideas through initiatives including, but not limited to, interdisciplinary research, education, mentorship, and professional networking.
- **Education:** We support and empower our community by providing multi-faceted educational and mentorship opportunities relevant to early career professionals and throughout the career-span.



ARO is providing **Captioning** in all sessions and recordings.



**Recording Policy:** ARO does not permit audio or photographic recording of any research data presented at the meeting—expect for individuals who may have difficulty understanding the speaker during their initial presentation.



### **Main Session Recordings**

The Symposia and Podium sessions in Platinum Ballroom 5, Platinum Ballroom 6 and Grand Ballroom F are being recorded and will be made available to all attendees after the meeting.



ARO has **Assisted Listening Devices** available. If you need assistance, please see ARO staff at the Registration Desk.




You can add the sessions you don't want to miss to your personal calendar and view the 2024 MWM abstracts in the schedule too! Visit the online schedule and select 'Abstract/Session info' for any session to see all that was submitted!

[View the Schedule](#)

# THE 47TH ANNUAL MIDWINTER MEETING

*February 3-7, 2024*



## ANAHEIM, CA



Full View ▾

Print Schedule ▾

Search by session name, submission title, speaker, co-author, or key word. All times are in Pacific Time

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 02		
<b>9<sup>AM</sup></b>	<b>ARO Council Meeting</b> Fri 9 AM - 3 PM • Orange County Salon 4	 add to calendar
<b>3<sup>PM</sup></b>	<b>ARO Registration Open</b> Fri 3 PM - 6 PM • Platinum Registration Desk	 add to calendar

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 03

**Time Format**

☒ 12 Hours

☐ 24 Hours

**Type** *select all*

☐ e-Poster

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**Apple App Store**

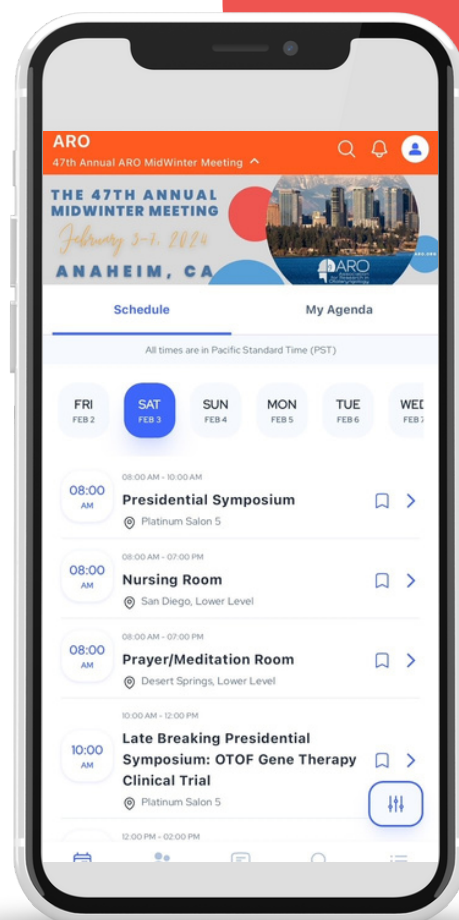
*Scan here!*



# Download the ARO Mobile App

Download the app to view  
the agenda, chat with  
fellow attendees, view  
posters, and more!

**Search**  
**"ARO 2024"**



*Scan here!*

**Google Play Store**



# **THE 2024 MIDWINTER MEETING LOCATION IS THE ANAHEIM MARRIOTT!**


ARO will own the Anaheim Marriott, a bright, modern hotel large enough for our meeting, yet easily navigable. Nearly every meeting room is located on the Lobby Level with centralized spaces for networking. The glass-walled lobby overlooks the pool with a dining terrace. Feast on California-style culinary creations with an international twist at nFuse, our onsite signature restaurant and bar. Casual food is available fast at Slice Pizza and the Market. And of course, it's waling distance to Disneyland.

**ADDRESS:** 700 W. Convention Way, Anaheim, California 92802 USA



## **AVAILABLE ACCESSIBILITY & ACCOMMODATIONS**

ARO has Assisted Listening Devices available at the registration desk should they be desired. Please come to the registration desk and speak with an ARO Staff member (wearing green) for assistance. Each meeting room has an assigned receiver for you to use for each session in that room.



## **Need to Check-In, Ask A Question, or Get Assistance?** **Find us at the ARO Registration Desk during these hours:**

- Friday, February 2, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Platinum Registration
- Saturday, February 3, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Platinum Registration
- Sunday, February 4, 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Platinum Registration
- Monday, February 5, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Platinum Registration
- Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Platinum Registration
- Wednesday, February 7, 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Platinum Registration

**Outside of registration hours, email [headquarters@aro.org](mailto:headquarters@aro.org).**

### **JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

ARO has gone social and we invite you to join the online conversation. Please be sure to follow/like the following ARO social media accounts:

**@AROMWM**

**@AROMWM**



And do not forget to use the hashtag #2024MWM if you post pictures or comments about the 2024 Meeting.

### **NURSING PARENTS**

If you are in need of using the private nursing room, please ask a member of the ARO staff at the Registration Desk(wearing green).

# POSTER PRESENTATION DETAILS

Posters are scheduled to remain on display for a duration of 24 hours. However, your assigned time slot designates when you will be presenting your poster. Outside of the designated presentation times, you are free to return to your poster at your convenience.

Schedule for assigned poster presentation sessions:

- Saturday, February 3 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (*odd numbers 1:00–2:00 PM/even numbers 2:00–3:00 PM*)
- Sunday, February 4 – 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm (*odd numbers 1:15–2:15 PM/even numbers 2:15–3:15 PM*)
- Monday, February 5 – 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm (*odd numbers 1:15–2:15 PM/even numbers 2:15–3:15 PM*)
- Tuesday, February 6 – 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm (*odd numbers 1:15–2:15 PM/even numbers 2:15–3:15 PM*)

You will mount your poster on the fiberboard with push pins (thumbtacks), which will be provided. Since your display will be held on the fiberboard with push pins, DO NOT mount your presentation materials on a heavy board because doing so may make it difficult to keep the material in position.

## E-POSTER DETAILS

Attendees will be able to view e-Posters online before, during, and after the meeting. Poster presenters are to have their poster, transcript, and audio uploaded by January 31, 2024. **[CLICK HERE](#)** for a guide on how to navigate the Poster Gallery. You must be logged in and registered for the meeting to view the posters.

- All poster presenters will have an e-Poster.
- Attendees may leave comments and questions on a poster at any time. Presenters can then answer these questions online and/or in-person if you visit their poster.

[Access the e-Poster Gallery!](#)

# NAME BADGES

**Below are descriptions of the items you can add to your name badge.  
Take any that you desire!**



- **Rainbow/Ally Sticker** – This sticker aims to support LGBTQ+ inclusion and equality in the meeting place. An Ally aims to raise knowledge, create understanding, and equip people not part of the LGBTQ+ community to be an ally for colleagues who are identifying as LGBTQ+.



- **Name Badge Ribbons** – Badge ribbons are a way to recognize & identify the roles of some attendees during the conference! Add those that apply to you!

## JOB BOARD

ARO has a job board where interested parties can post their open positions and those open to new opportunities can share their resumes. Linked below is access to this job board. You must be logged in and registered for the meeting to view the job board.

[Access the job board!](#)

Onsite meeting attendees will be able to indicate if they have an open position or if they are interested in learning about job opportunities by wearing a cyan or yellow round sticker on their name badge.



Cyan Dot – I am interested in learning about job opportunities!



Yellow Dot – Ask me about job opportunities!

# 2023–2024 Program Committee

## Program Committee Chair

Brandon Cox, Ph.D.

## Scientific Program Chair

Steve Lomber, Ph.D.

## Committee Members

Aynur Aliyeva, M.D.

Hela Azaiez, Ph.D.

Karen Banai, Ph.D.

Olivia Bermingham-McDonogh, Ph.D.

George William S. Burwood, Ph.D.

Divya A Chari, M.D.

Steven Eliades, M.D., Ph.D.

Katharine A. Fernandez, Ph.D.

Jeffrey R. Holt, Ph.D.

Artur Indzhykulian, M.D., Ph.D.

Zsuzsanna Kocsis, Ph.D.

Jennifer Krizman, Ph.D.

Dhasakumar Navaratnam, M.D., Ph.D.

Suhrud Rajguru, Ph.D.

Rob Raphael, Ph.D.

Anthony J Ricci, Ph.D.

Regie Lyn Santos-Cortez, M.D., Ph.D.

William Slattery, M.D.

Clark Elliott Strimbu, Ph.D.

Ruili Xie, Ph.D.

# Presidential Symposium

## *'The Clinician–Scientist Workforce in Otolaryngology: Strategies for the Future'*

### Chair:

**Yuri Agrawal, Ph.D.**

University of Colorado

### Presenters:

**Aaron Remenschneider, Ph.D.**

Boston Children's Hospital

*Background and Overview of Clinician–Scientists in Otolaryngology*

**Jennifer Stone, Ph.D.**

University of Washington, Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Resource Center

*Mentoring and Supporting Clinician–Scientists in Diverse Otolaryngology*

*Departments: A PhD's Perspective*

**Alan Cheng, Ph.D.**

Stanford University

*How Should We Train the Next Generation of Physician–Scientists?*

**Marlan Hansen, Ph.D.**

UIHC

*Role of the Department Chair in Supporting Clinician–Scientists*

**Debara Tucci, M.D., M.S., M.B.A.**

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders/NIH

*Global Impact of Hearing Loss, and Efforts to Improve Accessibility Worldwide*

# Late Breaking – Presidential Symposia

## 'OTOF Gene Therapy Clinical Trial'

### Chair:

**Yuri Agrawal**, *University of Colorado*

### Co-Chair:

**Zhengyi Chen**, *Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary*

**Wade Chien**, *Johns Hopkins School of Medicine*

### Presenters:

**Laurent Desire, Ph.D.**

Sensorion

*SENS-501 Gene Therapy for Autosomal Recessive Non-Syndromic Deafness 9 (DFNB9)*

**Emmanuel J. Simons, Ph.D., M.B.A.**

Akouos, Inc.

*Clinical Development of AK-OTOF Gene Therapy for OTOF-Mediated Hearing Loss*

**Vassili Valayannopoulos, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.**

Regeneron

*CHORD: A Phase 1/2 Open-Label, Multicenter Trial to Evaluate Intracochlear Administration of Db-Oto Gene Therapy in Pediatric Patients With Profound Sensorineural Hearing Loss due to Biallelic Otoferlin Mutations*

**Jieyu Qi, Ph.D.**

Southeast University

*AAV-Mediated Gene Therapy Restores Hearing in Patients With DFNB9 Deafness*

**Yilai Shu, M.D., Ph.D.**

ENT Institute, Eye and ENT Hospital, State Key Laboratory of Medical

Neurobiology and MOE Frontiers Center for Brain Science, Fudan University

*AAVI-HOTOF Gene Therapy for Children With Autosomal Recessive Deafness*

# 2024 AWARD OF MERIT

**Judy R. Dubno, Ph.D.**

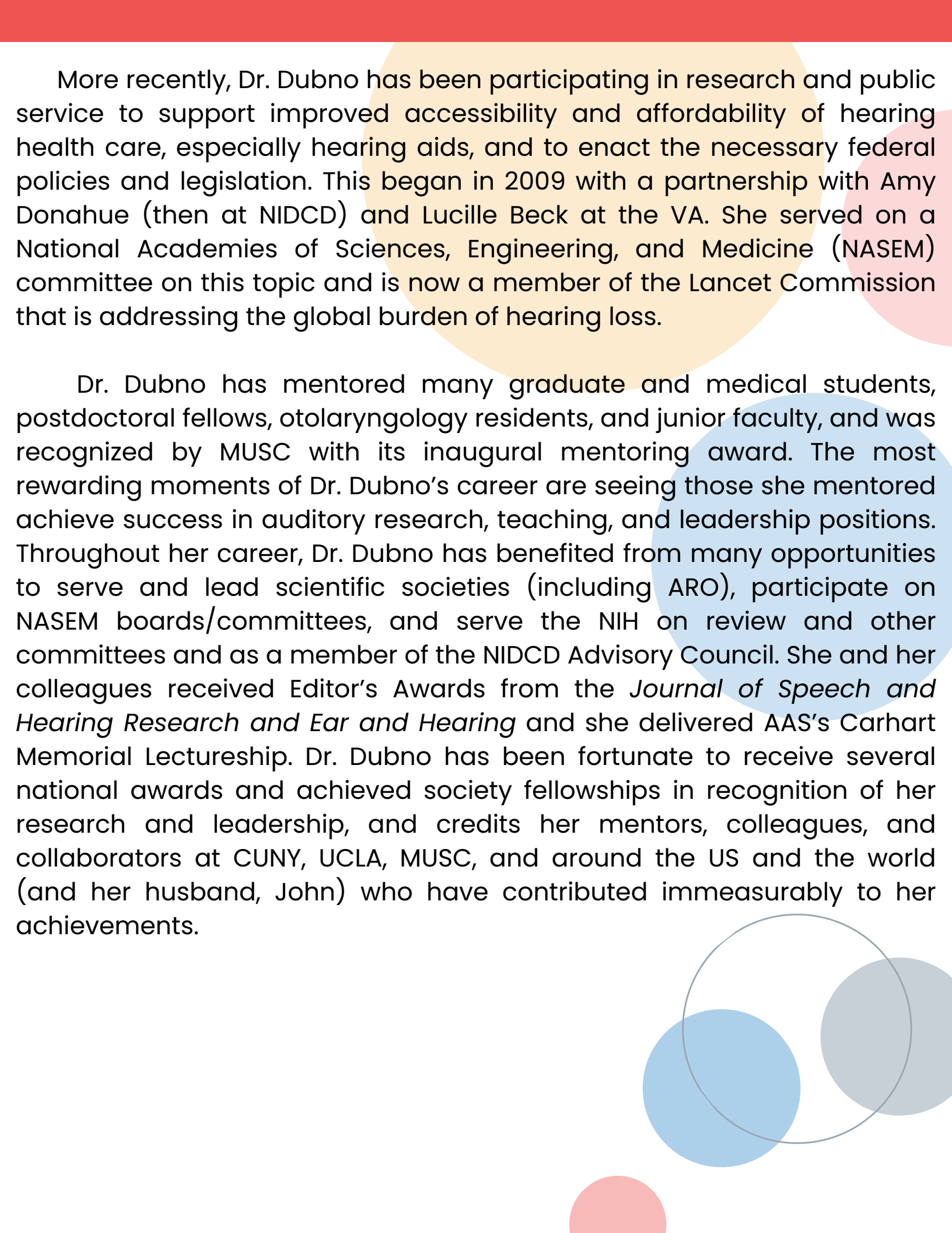
*Medical University of South Carolina*



Judy R. Dubno grew up in Manhattan (New York City), attended the very competitive Bronx High School of Science, and later earned a PhD from the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School and University Center, where her major advisor was Harry Levitt and Gerald Studebaker was a principal mentor. Her dissertation research involved

predicting consonant confusions by individuals with normal and impaired hearing from acoustic analyses of consonants. She was also heavily involved in the development, recording, and analysis of the CUNY Nonsense Syllable Test, which was among the first closed-set tests that generated consonant confusion matrices (from paper and pencil responses) and is still in use today. Her doctoral research was part of a large, National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded project to develop and evaluate methods for the automated selection of hearing-aid specifications using a wearable master hearing aid, one of the first in the analog era, using an early form of a multivariate adaptive testing strategy. Following the PhD, Dr. Dubno became an NIH-funded postdoctoral fellow at the UCLA School of Medicine and then joined the faculty at UCLA, where she mentored students, postdocs, and otolaryngology residents, and conducted collaborative research until 1991 when she moved to MUSC.

Dr. Dubno's research at MUSC focuses primarily on understanding the pathophysiology of presbycusis and its consequences for communication. A particularly important contribution has been her leadership of a 35-year longitudinal cohort study of age-related hearing loss alongside an exceptional, multidisciplinary, and international team of research colleagues, including program co-founders Jack Mills, Rick Schmiedt, and Brad Schulte. Her research has been funded continuously by NIH and other awards since 1981.



More recently, Dr. Dubno has been participating in research and public service to support improved accessibility and affordability of hearing health care, especially hearing aids, and to enact the necessary federal policies and legislation. This began in 2009 with a partnership with Amy Donahue (then at NIDCD) and Lucille Beck at the VA. She served on a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) committee on this topic and is now a member of the Lancet Commission that is addressing the global burden of hearing loss.

Dr. Dubno has mentored many graduate and medical students, postdoctoral fellows, otolaryngology residents, and junior faculty, and was recognized by MUSC with its inaugural mentoring award. The most rewarding moments of Dr. Dubno's career are seeing those she mentored achieve success in auditory research, teaching, and leadership positions. Throughout her career, Dr. Dubno has benefited from many opportunities to serve and lead scientific societies (including ARO), participate on NASEM boards/committees, and serve the NIH on review and other committees and as a member of the NIDCD Advisory Council. She and her colleagues received Editor's Awards from the *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research* and *Ear and Hearing* and she delivered AAS's Carhart Memorial Lectureship. Dr. Dubno has been fortunate to receive several national awards and achieved society fellowships in recognition of her research and leadership, and credits her mentors, colleagues, and collaborators at CUNY, UCLA, MUSC, and around the US and the world (and her husband, John) who have contributed immeasurably to her achievements.

# AWARD OF MERIT PAST RECIPIENTS

1978 Harold Schuknecht, M.D. \*

1979 Merle Lawrence, Ph.D. \*

1980 Juergen Tonndorf, M.D. \*

1981 Catherine Smith, Ph.D. \*

1982 Hallowell Davis, M.D. \*

1983 Ernest Glen Wever, Ph.D. \*

1984 Teruzo Konishi, M.D. \*

1985 Joseph Hawkins, Ph.D. \*

1986 Raphel Lorente de No, M.D. \*

1987 Jerzy E. Rose, M.D. \*

1988 Jozef Zwislocki, Sc.D.\*

1989 Ake Flock, Ph.D.\*

1990 Robert Kimura, Ph.D.\*

1991 William D. Neff, Ph.D.\*

1992 Jan Wersall, Ph.D.\*

1993 David Lim, M.D.\*

1994 Peter Dallos, Ph.D.

1995 Kirsten Osen, M.D.

1996 Drs. Ruediger Thalmann,  
M.D.\* & Isolde Thalmann, Ph.D.

1997 Jay Goldberg, Ph.D.\*

1998 Robert Galambos, M.D.,  
Ph.D.\*

1999 Murray B. Sachs, Ph.D.\*

2000 David M. Green, Ph.D.

2001 William S. Rhode, Ph.D.

2002 A. James Hudspeth, M.D.,  
Ph.D.

2003 Dr. David Kemp

2004 Donata Oertel, Ph.D.

2005 Edwin W Rubel, Ph.D.

2006 Robert Fettiplace, Ph.D.

2007 Eric D. Young, Ph.D.

2008 Brian C.J. Moore, Ph.D.

2009 M. Charles Liberman, Ph.D.

2010 Ian J. Russell

2011 Robert V. Shannon, Ph.D.

2012 David P. Corey, Ph.D.

2013 Karen P. Steel, Ph.D.

2014 H. Steven Colburn, Ph.D.

2015 Thomas B. Friedman, Ph.D.

2016 Geoffrey A. Manley, Ph.D.

2017 Alan Palmer, Ph.D.

2018 Christine Petit, Ph.D.

2019 Peter M. Narins, Ph.D.

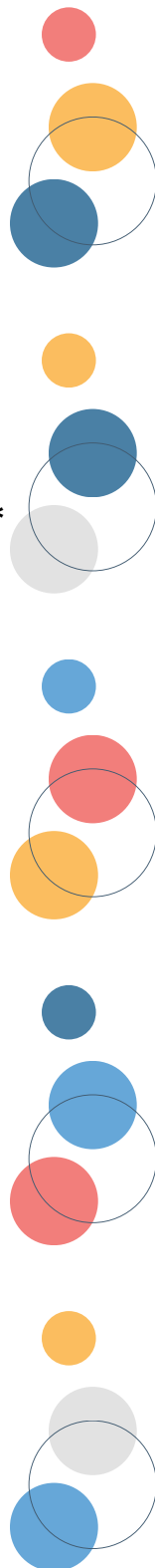
2020 Lynne A. Werner, Ph.D.

2021 Tom Yin, Ph.D.

2022 Christoph Schreiner, M.D.,  
Ph.D.

2023 Doris Wu, Ph.D.

\* Deceased



# 2024 GERALDINE DIETZ FOX YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD



**Pierre Apostolides, Ph.D.**  
*University of Michigan*

Pierre Apostolides is an assistant professor at the University of Michigan's Kresge Hearing Research Center in the Department of Otolaryngology. His lab focuses on understanding how interconnected groups of neurons ("microcircuits") give rise to behaviorally relevant activity in the central auditory system.

His lab focuses on understanding how interconnected groups of neurons ("microcircuits") give rise to behaviorally relevant activity in the central auditory system. Prior to the University of Michigan, Pierre completed a post-doc at HHMI's Janelia Research Campus (2014-2018) and a Ph.D. at Oregon Health & Science University's Vollum Institute (2008-2014).

# 2024 PIONEER AWARD IN BASIC SCIENCE



**Andrej Kral, M.D., Ph.D.**

Hanover Medical School,  
Macquarie University

Andrej Kral studied medicine in Bratislava (Comenius University, MD 1993, PhD 1998). During his PhD he developed models of neuronal networks exploring auditory frequency discrimination ability.

He subsequently moved to the Institute of Sensory Physiology, J.W.Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main (Prof. R. Klinke), where he was appointed associate professor of physiology ("Priv.-Doz.") in 2002. From 2004 to 2009 he served as Professor of Neurophysiology at the University of Hamburg School of Medicine. Since 2009 he has been appointed Chair of Auditory Neuroscience at the Clinics of Otolaryngology, Hannover Medical School (MHH). Andrej Kral heads the Dept. of Experimental Otology. Since 2018 he has been also Professor of Systems Neuroscience at Macquarie University, Sydney. In 2017 he has been elected a member of the German National Academy of Science and in 2018 of the Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum (CORLAS). A. Kral is specialized to auditory neurophysiology in animals (rodents, cats) and humans (EEG), his research interests include hearing loss, central effects of deafness, brain development and plasticity, neuroscience of cochlear implants and technology of neuroprosthetics (website: [www.neuroprostheses.com](http://www.neuroprostheses.com)).

With H.Maier and F.Aplin he published a textbook on neuroprosthetics ("Prostheses for the Brain: Introduction to Neuroprosthetics", 2021, Academic Press) and with A.N.Popper and R.R.Fay edited the volume on Deafness (vol. 47, 2013) of the Springer Handbook of Auditory Research. His lab received funding, among others, from German Research Society (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, including Cluster of Excellence Hearing4All), National Science Foundation (USA), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), European Union, Oticon Foundation and cochlear implant industry.

# 2024 PIONEER AWARD IN BASIC SCIENCE



**Stephen G. Lomber, Ph.D.**

McGill University

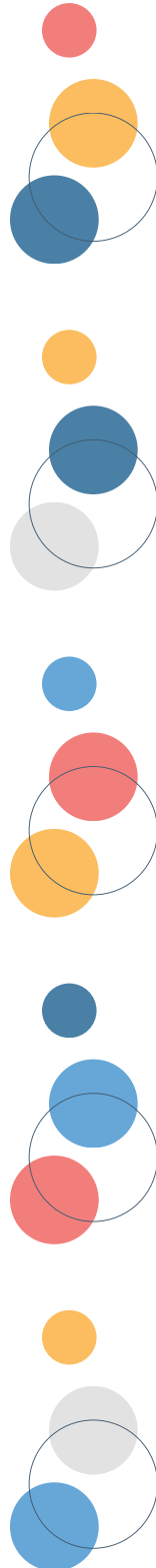
Stephen G. Lomber, Ph.D. is a Professor of Physiology, Psychology, Neurology and Neurosurgery, and Biomedical Engineering at McGill University where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Brain Plasticity and Development.

Dr. Lomber received degrees in Neurobiology from the University of Rochester (B.Sc.) and the Boston University School of Medicine (Ph.D.). Dr. Lomber's lab ([www.cerebralsystems.ca](http://www.cerebralsystems.ca)) uses an integrated approach to examine processing in the auditory cortex. His lab has pioneered the use of focal cooling to reversibly deactivate regions of the cerebrum. Throughout his training and career, the focus of Dr. Lomber's work has been on brain plasticity following either central or peripheral damage to the visual or auditory system during development.

Using a unique combination of techniques (electrophysiological recording, reversible deactivation, psychophysical testing, functional imaging, computational modelling, and connectional neuroanatomy), he has made significant advances in understanding how the brain adapts to the loss of a sense (deafness) and how the brain adapts to the initiation or reinstatement of a lost sense by examining the consequences of cochlear implants on cortical function. Dr. Lomber's research program seeks to understand the consequences of sensory loss and restoration to the relationship between altered perception and cognitive function. Steve is the recipient of numerous research and teaching awards and has previously served as an Associate Editor at Hearing Research and presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Academy of Audiology and is the Scientific Program Chair for the Association for Research in Otolaryngology.

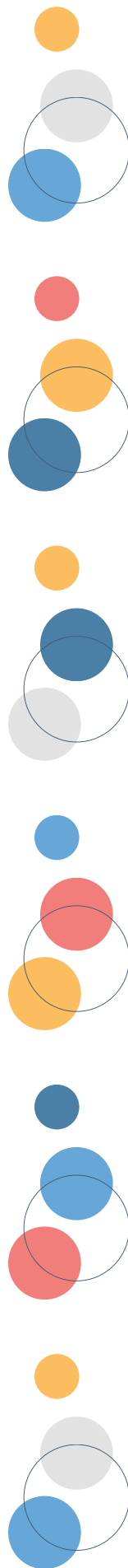
# 2024 TRAVEL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Lemira Esparza  
Haon Futamata  
Titilayo Mabogunje  
Caryl Young  
Francisco Barros  
Becker  
Antonio Bon-Nieves  
Federico Ceriani  
Amanda  
D'Espessailles  
Adam Hockley  
Adele Moatti  
Giorgia Cantisani  
Sheila Flanagan  
Amandine Jarysta  
John Lee  
Mit Bhavsar



Ippei Kishimoto  
Braulio Peguero  
Leanne Sijgers  
Eleftheria Slika  
Yuwei Sun  
Monica Trevino  
Chenou Zhang  
Anahita Alipanahi  
Martha Canto-Bustos  
Valeria Castagna  
Grace Conchas  
Dinesh Gawande  
HiJee Kang  
Nesrien Mohamed  
Nathaniel Nowak  
Jinho Park  
Kimberly Ramirez

Susanne Sasse  
Mitsuo Sato  
Christian Candler  
Jessica Landry  
Elise Ajay  
Katelyn C. Boulanger  
Weisheng Liang  
Louay Madanat  
Maryam Maghsoudi  
Shaghaghi  
Ana I. Lopez-Porras  
Chong Cui  
Hannah Oberle  
Kelly Otsuka  
Jingyun Qiu  
Ajmal Abdul Azees  
Robel Alemu  
Isabelle Arseneau-  
Bruneau  
Emily Antes



Aditi Gargeshwari  
Deborah George  
Roni Hahn  
Isabel Herb  
Estelle in 't Zandt  
Samadhi Kulasooriya  
Urikhan Sanzhaeva  
Yota Tobe  
Rebecca Whiley  
Lauren Chiriboga  
Lucas Garcia  
Camargo  
Ian Griffith  
Elli Hartig  
Aleksandra Ivanovic  
Oskar Markkula  
Ryan Panela  
Jason Putnam  
Shane Seheult  
Xiaoman Zhang

Matthew Wiefels  
Ogechukwu  
Anwaegbu

Carolina Chu

Elise De Cuyper

Garner Fincher

Miles Klimara

Amina Khan

Rebecca Revol

Dimitrios Daskalou

Maria Camila Hurtado

Jackson Graves

George Samaras

Anselm

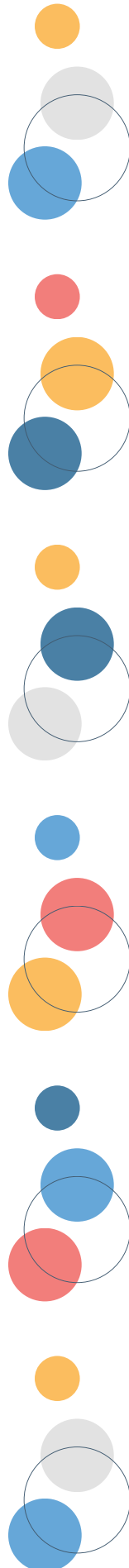
Gadenstaetter

Christian Candler

Joy Franco

Andie Felix Zang

Amy Wang





# 2024 POSTER BLITZ PARTICIPANTS

Isabel Herb  
Jazmin Sanchez Sanchez  
Emma Wawrzynek  
Ajmal Abdul Azees  
Lidea Shahidi  
Dietmar Wohlbauer  
Lemira Esparza  
Andrea Bae  
Samuel Adadey  
Mehmet Alp Demirhan  
Lingyun Zhou  
Yuwei Sun  
Urikhan Sanzhaeva  
Kristine McLellan  
Melissa Hazen  
Luoying Jiang  
Samah Ahmed  
Haon Futamata  
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Kailyn McFarlane  
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Alex Clonan  
Max Gattie



# VIRTUAL SPARO SESSIONS PRE-MIDWINTER MEETING

*The following sessions happened virtually prior to the MWM*

## **Mentoring Session: Clinician Scientist**

Friday, January 5

10:30 AM -12:00 PM ET

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:**

**Konstantina Stankovic, M.D., Ph.D.**

Bertarelli Foundation Professor and Chair,  
Department of Otolaryngology,  
Stanford University School of Medicine

**Jay Rubinstein, M.D., Ph.D.**

Virginia Merrill Bloedel Professor,  
University of Washington



The poster for the Virtual Pre-MWM Series Mentoring Session: Clinician Scientist features the ARO logo (Association for Research in Otolaryngology) at the top left. The title '2024 VIRTUAL PRE-MWM SERIES' is prominently displayed in the top right. Below the title, the session title 'MENTORING SESSION: CLINICIAN SCIENTIST' is written. A central image shows three individuals in medical scrubs reviewing a document. To the left of this image, a red box lists the speakers: Jay Rubinstein, MD, PhD and Konstantina Stankovic, MD, PhD, each with a small circular portrait. On the right side of the poster, a blue box indicates the date and time: '05 January, 2024' from '10:30am' to '12:00pm'. At the bottom right, the registration link is provided: 'Visit to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocOGpqzwtE9dkUQRLTuu7RMKVuiCfpEQ\_'. The poster is decorated with small yellow and white plus signs and circles.

ARO  
Association  
for Research in  
Otolaryngology

2024  
VIRTUAL  
PRE-MWM  
SERIES

MENTORING SESSION:  
CLINICIAN SCIENTIST

**SPEAKERS:**

JAY RUBINSTEIN,  
MD, PHD

KONSTANTINA  
STANKOVIC, MD,  
PHD

05  
January,  
2024  
10:30am  
12:00pm

Visit to register:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocOGpqzwtE9dkUQRLTuu7RMKVuiCfpEQ\\_](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocOGpqzwtE9dkUQRLTuu7RMKVuiCfpEQ_)

## Mentoring Session: Publishing

Friday, January 5

3:00 – 5:00 PM ET

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.

### Speakers:

#### **Peter Barr-Gillespie, Ph.D.**

Professor of Otolaryngology & Chief Research Officer,  
Oregon Health and Science University

#### **Ronna Hertzano, M.D., Ph.D**

Cowan Professor of Auditory Neuroscience,  
Director, Neuroscience Institute,  
Carnegie Mellon University

**ARO**  
Association  
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Otolaryngology

**2024  
VIRTUAL  
PRE-MWM  
SERIES**

**MENTORING SESSION:  
PUBLISHING**

**SPEAKERS:**

**PETER BARR-  
GILLESPIE,  
PHD**

**RONNA  
HERTZANO,  
MD, PHD**

**05  
January,  
2024  
3:30pm  
-  
5:00pm**

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Visit to register:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qdeCvqjgtHNSNWy7UMjOPa2a-0N0dpQCt>

## Mentoring Session: Mentor-Mentee Communication

# Monday, January 8

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM ET

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:

**Teresa Mastracci, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Biology,  
Indiana University

**Monita Chatterjee, Ph.D.**

Senior Scientist and Director,  
Auditory Prostheses & Perception Laboratory,  
Boys Town National Research Hospital



## Mentoring Session: Work/Life Balance

Monday, January 8

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM ET

Research can be an overwhelming environment, with days long experiments and late night analysis sessions. The attrition of great researchers is very high, as people suffer from burnout because they didn't take proper precautions. In this session, we talk about strategies on how to create and maintain a good work-life balance and foster a long and above all healthy career in research.

### Speakers:

#### **Angela Garinis, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor and Clinical Audiologist at Oregon Health & Science University & Principal Investigator at VA National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research

#### **Melissa Caras, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Biology  
University of Maryland



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**2024  
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PRE-MWM  
SERIES**

**MENTORING SESSION:  
WORK-LIFE BALANCE**

**SPEAKERS:**

 **ANGELA  
GARINIS,  
PHD**

 **MELISSA  
CARAS,  
PHD**

**08  
January,  
2024**  
**3:30pm  
-  
5:00pm**

Visit to register:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdOCrpjMiHNZpGZ09ToGgonpng2o5Ld0Q>

# SPARO SESSIONS AT THE MIDWINTER MEETING

*The following sessions will happen during the MWM*

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

Saturday, February 3

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Platinum Salon 4

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.

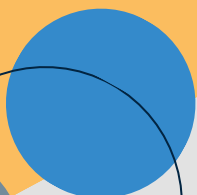
### **Speakers:**

**Basille Tarchini**

Jackson Labs

**Gabriel Corfas**

University of Michigan



## spARO Mentoring Session: Careers in Industry

Sunday, February 4

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

Platinum Salon 4

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:

**Meghan Drummond**

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

**Matthew Mullen**

Tucker Davis Technology

## spARO Session: Navigating Grant Landscape

Tuesday, February 6

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

Platinum Salon 4

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:

**Mark Warchol**

Washington University

**Tobias Moser**

Institute for Auditory Neuroscience, Gottingen

# ARO DIVERSITY & MINORITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE EVENTS AT THE MIDWINTER MEETING

## Supportive Allyship & STEM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### Speaker:

Dr. Meg Warren

*Associate Professor of Management at Western Washington University*

The Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO) is committed to fostering scientists and technical experts that welcome diverse people, approaches, and ideas. While ARO is becoming more diverse, it reflects a profile largely of Caucasian/white and male-identifying members that is characteristic of STEM fields. Thus, the ARO Diversity & Minority Affairs Committee (DMAC) is dedicated to increasing equity and inclusion within the ARO community with year-round educational programming for its members. Last year, the ARO DMAC hosted a well-attended MidWinter Meeting workshop that discussed microaggressions, allyship, and equitable mentoring focused on racial, ethnic and sexual identity minority groups. The culture of sexism, however, is still present in the STEM community. Workplace sexism is a source of stress for non-male-identifying individuals that leads to work dissatisfaction, burnout, and job departure. Allyship by male-identifying coworkers can be a powerful tool for mitigating the impact of sexism. Therefore, for the 2024 MidWinter Meeting, we propose to dive deeper into gender allyship. The main objectives of this workshop are to provide participants with a descriptive overview of allyship, help them identify situations when allyship is needed, and educate them on how to build allyship safely and supportively.

# The Leaky Pipeline: How Can Mentors Better Support, Advocate, and Encourage Women and Underrepresented Minorities to Remain in the Sciences?

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5 • 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM PT

## Speakers:

Dr. Cendrine Robinson

Dr. Barbara Shinn-Cunningham

Dr. Lisa Cunningham

Dr. Carolyn McClaskey

The "leaky pipeline" metaphor describes the phenomenon that leads to a progressive loss of women and underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines at each stage of the educational system. Women in academia face many barriers to workplace equality, and although they represent more than half of all doctoral recipients in biology-related fields, they only make up 27% of the STEM workforce. Correspondingly, people of color, with disabilities, LGBTQIA+, and from low socioeconomic backgrounds often encounter harassment, prejudice, stereotypes, and bias in the form of microaggressions, stereotype threats, and imposter syndrome, which might contribute to reduced career achievements. The COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified the leaky pipeline and the underrepresentation of women and minorities in STEM. Numerous studies have shown that this continuing disproportionately low representation of women and minorities impedes innovation and discovery by systematically excluding individuals with the ability to make significant contributions to the scientific enterprise. The goals of this symposium are to provide tools to promote diversity in STEM and create opportunities for women and underrepresented minorities. For this, we have invited three distinguished speakers to discuss the societal factors that contribute to the leaky pipeline phenomenon, explore strategies for fostering inclusivity and equitable opportunities within institutions, share insights on empowering marginalized communities through mentorship and support networks, and present recommendations for creating inclusive workplaces that retain diverse talent.

# OTHER WORKSHOPS AT THE MIDWINTER MEETING

## **gEAR Workshop – Introduction to gEAR**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 • 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM PLATINUM SALON 3

## **gEAR Workshop 2.0 – What's New**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 • 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM PLATINUM SALON 3

## **gEAR Workshop – Analysis Tools**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5 • 12:45 PM – 2:15 PM PLATINUM SALON 3

## **Funding Your Scientific Genius!**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5 • 1:15 PM – 2:15 PM PLATINUM SALON 4

## **Behind the Scenes with Publication!**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 • 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM PLATINUM SALON 2

## **gEAR Workshop – Using gEAR in Publications**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 • 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM PLATINUM SALON 3

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# 2025 GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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## The Grants



### Discovery Grants

- Up to 8 awards, \$50,000 each
- Grant period: Jan-Dec 2025
- Special consideration for research on Meniere's disease or Causes of Sudden Hearing loss



### Discretionary Grants

- By AHRF invitation, may be offered to select Discovery Grant applicants
- Birtman Grant - up to \$75,000
- Richard G. Muench Chairman's Grant - up to \$65,000



### Otolaryngology Resident Grants

- Up to 5 awards, \$1,000 each
- Grant period January 2025-July 2026
- For residents at Chicago universities, Washington U of St. Louis, U of Miami, and Baylor College of Medicine

## To Apply

- Funding available for research related to hearing, or hearing and balance disorders of the inner ear
- Basic or clinical studies accepted
- Deadline: August 15, 2024
- Notification: late November 2024
- Funds dispersed: January 2025

For more information, visit  
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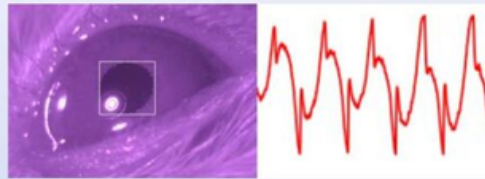
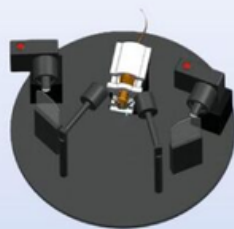
##### • Acoustic startle response (Gap detection)

#### • Zebrafish

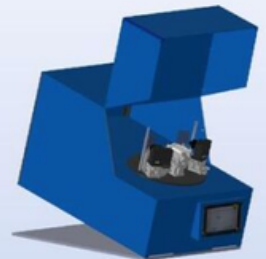
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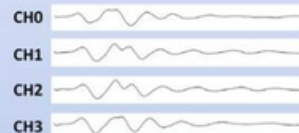
##### • Acoustic startle response



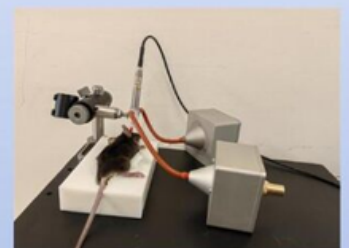
aVOR



OVAR

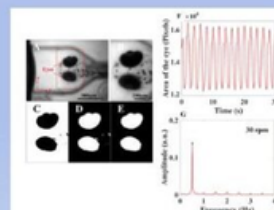


Open-field ABR

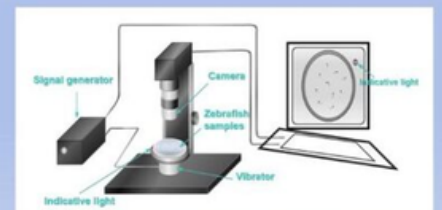


DPOAE & Closed-field ABR

60 dB  
Sound-isolation Chamber



Zebrafish VOR



Zebrafish Startle Response

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ARO 2025  
MIDWINTER  
MEETING

**FEBRUARY  
22-26, 2025**

Renaissance  
Orlando  
at SeaWorld

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**