**ARO Awards Committee Meeting Minutes**
**Date:** August 4, 2025

**Attendees:** Katie Kindt (co-chair), Lania Rubio (co-chair), Elisabeth Glowatzki, Wei Dong, Joel Snyder, Hainan Lang, Victoria Bajo, Daniel Sun, Alain (council liaison), Rhiannon McNeely (executive office)

**Review of Top Candidates:**

The committee chairs led a discussion on the top candidates for the 2026 ARO Award of Merit. The committee debated whether to focus on the top four candidates or narrow the list to the top two. After reaching consensus, the committee ultimately decided to proceed with consideration of the top two candidates.

**Candidate Summaries and Discussion:**

Dr. Kindt presented a summary of Dr. Alfred Nuttall's contributions, highlighting his work in cochlear mechanics and physiology, cochlear blood flow studies, and the development of OCT techniques. Dr. Rubio presented a summary of Dr. Larry Trussell's accomplishments, emphasizing his research on synaptic transmission, plasticity, and his impact as a mentor. The committee briefly discussed each candidate, with members noting the strengths and merits that make both individuals deserving of the Award of Merit.

**Voting and Results Summary:**

Each committee member submitted an anonymous vote for one of the top two candidates to the Executive Office during the call. Dr. Alfred Nuttall was named the 2026 ARO Award of Merit recipient.