**Name: Michael T. Roberts, PhD**

**Location:** Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

**Title:** Associate Professor, Kresge Hearing Research Institute, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, University of Michigan

**Education:**

2000: BA, Biology, University of Chicago
2005: PhD, Cell and Molecular Biology, University of Texas at Austin

**Postdoctoral Training:**

2006-2009: Larry Trussell's lab, Vollum Institute, Oregon Health and Science University
2009-2015: Nace Golding's lab, University of Texas at Austin

**Prior service to ARO:**

2016-2019: Member, External Relations Committee
2020-2023: Chair, Finance and Investment Committee
2023-present: Faculty sponsor for spARO, the student, postdoc, resident, and fellow chapter of ARO

**Bio**

I am an Associate Professor in the Kresge Hearing Research Institute and the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Michigan. My lab investigates how neural circuits in the auditory midbrain support sound processing in health and disease. My graduate work focused on structure-function studies of ion channels. I then made a life-changing move to the auditory field, completing two postdoctoral fellowships focused on the function of auditory brainstem circuits: the first with Larry Trussell at Oregon Health & Science University and the second with Nace Golding at the University of Texas at Austin. I was fortunate to join ARO as a postdoc in 2006, and I will never forget the warm welcome I received – I have been a proud ARO member ever since (almost 20 years!). In addition to my research, I am passionate about training the next generation of hearing and balance scientists. I currently pursue this passion through my lab, my role as Director and PI of the Hearing, Balance and Chemical Senses T32 training program at Michigan, and my role as faculty sponsor of the student, postdoc, resident and fellow chapter of ARO (spARO).

**Statement of Goals**

As a member of the ARO Nominating Committee, I will work hard to ensure that the candidates put forward for ARO elections have compelling visions for advancing hearing and balance research and for fostering community, collaboration, and support networks among ARO members. In addition, I believe it is more important than ever that ARO leadership reflects and advances the diversity of our membership and that leaders seek new ways to expand ARO's impact into more communities. Finally, ARO plays a key role in facilitating interactions between clinicians and scientists in our field, and it is essential that future leadership continues to advance this mission.

Over the past several years, I have been fortunate to serve ARO in several capacities. These roles have helped me understand ARO from diverse vantage points, and I believe this has prepared me well to serve on the Nominating Committee. These experiences include chairing the Finance and Investment Committee, serving as faculty sponsor for spARO, and serving as a member of the External Relations Committee.