Meeting Minutes: spARO Steering Committee
Date: October 21, 2025
Time: 4:00-5:00 PM ET

Attendees: Samantha Davis (chair), Michael Roberts, Shelby Payne, Sree Varshini Murali, Elika Fallah, Ilkim Sevgili, Austin Huang, Leslie Gonzales, George Ordiway, Audrey Drotos, Rania Sharaf, Charanjeet Kaur, Daniel Romano, Paul Krumpöck, Pankaj Bhatia, Ely Cheikh Boussaty, Estelle in 't Zandt, Ilkem Sevgili, Jessica MacLean, Leslie Gonzales, Matsya Thulasiram, Rose Rizzi, Shakila Mahmuda Fatima, Thore Schade-Mann, Rhiannon McNeely (executive office)

1. Approval of August Meeting Minutes
The meeting started with a review of the September meeting minutes, which were approved with no edits.

Decisions Made:

- September meeting minutes were approved with no edits.

Action Items:

- None.

2. Executive Council and Management Updates
The updates included a reminder of the rescheduling of the November meeting, the announcement timeline for 2026 honorific awardees, and the upcoming late-breaking abstract call.

Decisions Made:

- None

Action Items:

- Committee members to complete the time survey for November by the end of the day tomorrow, October 22nd.
- Rhiannon to send Young Investigator Awardee info to Samantha to begin luncheon planning.

3. Committee Updates

Accessibility and Accommodations:

- No updates.

Clinician Scientist Committee:

- The September webinar was successful, and another is planned for the next quarter, with a clinician-scientist meetup anticipated at the MidWinter Meeting pending council approval.

Communications Committee:

- The committee is actively reviewing mini-grant applications while continuing to develop educational PowerPoint materials on hearing loss for children and teens, with plans to finalize and distribute the slides.

Development, Mentorship, and Advancement Committee (DMAC):

- Charanjeet reminded the committee of the October Coffee Hour session titled "Finding Funding Resources from International and Global Support," and confirmed another coffee hour in December.

Education Committee:

- No Updates

Long Range Planning Committee:

- No updates.

Membership Committee:

- The committee is still working on revamping the member spotlight process and exploring ways to expand mentorship opportunities across different career stages, leading to a new nomination and voting process for the spotlight feature, and plans to further develop mentorship offerings.

Program Committee:

- The committee is in a holding pattern pending poster blitz duties, with members awaiting further communication from the program committee and preparing for upcoming responsibilities.

Travel Awards Committee:

- Application reviews have been completed and awardees notified; no further action is required until December or January, when the committee will receive a follow-up email from the chair for the year-end review.

Global Professional Outreach:

- The committee discussed a proposed global e-series to promote international collaboration, including an evening panel event with no funding needs, and plans to begin preparations for a potential 2027 special session submission.

JARO Research News:

- Journal Club materials have been prepared and sent for review, and the committee is awaiting approval to post them on the JARO and ARO websites, while also planning to send reminders for review and create a poll for November info session dates.

spARO Sessions/Advocacy:

- Three of the four spARO sessions are scheduled for January 13 and 15, with the final industry panelist confirmed, and all related materials are due to Rhiannon by November 15.

Mentorship Program:

- No update.

Buddy System:

- Pairing will begin once registration is finalized.

Young Investigator Luncheon:

- Luncheon planning will begin once honoree information is received, with the next step being to provide those details to the planning lead.

4. Virtual eSymposium Series:

Matsya Thulasiram proposed a December symposium featuring interdisciplinary speakers. Timing and structure are still under discussion.

Action Items:

- Finalize speaker list and schedule.
- Consider global time zone accessibility.