ARO Clinician Scientist Committee Meeting
May 12, 2026, 12:30 PM EDT
Attendees: Kristin Johnson, Allison Johnson, Seiji Shibata, Samira Anderson, Aaron K. Remenschneider, Megan Arnold, Iram Ahmad, Ronna Hertzano

1. Upcoming Clinician-Scientist Webinar

Summary: The Committee discussed logistics for the upcoming webinar scheduled for June 10, 2026, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM EDT, which will focus on audiologists balancing administration, clinic, and research. It was noted that one final bio and headshot were pending. The Executive Office clarified that partial submissions are acceptable via the new marketing form and that placeholders can be utilized to prevent launch delays.

- **Decisions Made:**
  - The Committee agreed to circulate a near-final list of questions to the panelists prior to the webinar to allow for adequate preparation.
- **Action Items:**
  - Samira Anderson: Update the marketing form with the final speaker bio and headshot for the June 10 webinar.

2. Future Webinar Planning and Networking Outreach

Summary: The Committee reviewed its long-term educational programming strategy. A proposed future topic included navigating the current funding environment and exploring alternative funding sources, noted as highly relevant for junior faculty. To promote the June webinar, the Committee discussed utilizing the contact list from the previous networking event, pending confirmation that those individuals opted into headquarters communications.

- **Decisions Made:**
  - The Committee reaffirmed a desired cadence of three webinars per year, targeting late spring/early summer, fall, and winter prior to the MidWinter Meeting.
- **Action Items:**
  - Kristin Johnson / Executive Office: Cross-reference the previous networking event attendee list to verify email opt-in status prior to distributing marketing materials.

3. 2027 ARO MidWinter Meeting Symposium Planning

- **Summary:** The Committee focused heavily on proposing a two-hour "Special Session" on gene therapy for the 2027 ARO MidWinter Meeting. The session aims to highlight the intersection of clinical trials and basic science, positioning ARO as a premier venue for reporting clinical trial results. The proposed structure features patient outcomes from existing OTOF trials (e.g., Regeneron, Eli Lilly) in the first hour, and emerging trials/clinical trial design (e.g., GJB2) in the second hour. The Executive Office confirmed that funding is available for non-member speakers in both symposia and special sessions, provided the proposal is accepted. The Program

Committee will determine funding allocations based on the budget request included in the session submission.

- **Decisions Made:**
  - The Committee agreed to submit a Special Session proposal focused on gene therapy for the 2027 ARO MidWinter Meeting.
  - The Committee agreed to hold a follow-up meeting on May 28, 2026, at 4:00 PM EDT to finalize the symposium speaker list and proposal details ahead of the June 9 submission deadline.
- **Action Items:**
  - Aaron K. Remenschneider: Circulate a preliminary list of potential gene therapy speakers and investigators to the Committee for feedback.
  - Clinician Scientist Committee: Conduct outreach to industry partners and key investigators to gauge interest in participating in the gene therapy special session.

4. 2026 MWM Survey Data

Summary: The Committee noted that a specific question regarding desired future webinar topics appeared to be missing from the 2026 MidWinter Meeting post-event survey summary provided to them.

- **Decisions Made:**
  - None.
- **Action Items:**
  - Kristin Johnson / Executive Office: Review the raw 2026 MWM post-meeting survey data to determine if the question was captured and provide any responses to the Committee.

Meeting Summary

- The Clinician Scientist Committee met on May 12, 2026, to advance several key initiatives, focusing heavily on educational programming and strategic planning for upcoming ARO events. A primary focus of the discussion centered on finalizing logistics for the June 10, 2026, webinar concerning the balance of clinical, administrative, and research responsibilities. The Committee also reaffirmed its long-term strategy of hosting three webinars annually to maintain steady engagement with the membership.
- In addition to immediate webinar planning, the Committee dedicated significant time to strategizing a high-impact Special Session on gene therapy for the 2027 ARO MidWinter Meeting. Recognizing the rapid advancements in clinical trials, the Committee agreed that positioning ARO as a premier venue for clinical trial outcomes is a major strategic priority. Preparation for this proposal will require coordinated outreach to industry partners and key investigators ahead of the June 9 submission deadline. Finally, the Committee addressed data collection gaps from the 2026 MWM survey to ensure future programming aligns with member interests.

Decisions Made (Consolidated)

- The Committee agreed to circulate a near-final list of questions to panelists prior to the June 10 webinar.
- The Committee reaffirmed a desired cadence of three webinars per year (late spring/early summer, fall, and winter).
- The Committee agreed to submit a Special Session proposal focused on gene therapy for the 2027 ARO MidWinter Meeting.

- The Committee co-chairs agreed to hold a follow-up meeting on May 28, 2026, at 4:00 PM EDT to finalize the symposium proposal.

Action Items (Consolidated)

Kristin Johnson / Executive Office

- Cross-reference the previous networking event attendee list to verify email opt-in status for webinar marketing distribution.
- Review the raw 2026 MWM post-meeting survey data for responses regarding future webinar topics.

Samira Anderson

- Update the marketing form with the final speaker bio and headshot for the June 10 webinar.

Aaron K. Remenschneider

- Circulate a preliminary list of potential gene therapy speakers and investigators to the Committee for feedback.

Clinician Scientist Committee

- Conduct outreach to industry partners and key investigators to gauge interest in participating in the gene therapy special session.