ARO Education Committee Meeting

Date: May 5, 2026

1. Wikipedia Project and New Initiative Process

Summary: The committee discussed a proposal from Robert Liu to create Wikipedia pages for ARO Award of Merit recipients. The Executive Office clarified that the Council's recent directive for committees to evaluate their efforts was intended to ensure all activities align with strategic initiatives and provide member benefits, rather than strictly a mandate to "do less." As this proposed initiative is public-facing, it requires coordination with the Communications Committee and formal Council approval. The Executive Office connected the proposing member with Mike Bowl to provide a communications perspective. The committee noted that any new initiative requires at least six weeks for review by the committee chair and the ARO Council.

Decisions Made:

- The committee agreed to coordinate the Wikipedia project proposal with the Communications Committee before seeking formal Council approval.

Action Items:

- None

2. Cutting Edge Techniques and Models

Summary: The committee reviewed upcoming programming for the Cutting Edge Techniques series. The next session will focus on Large Language Models (LLMs) in auditory neuroscience. The committee targeted mid-August for this session to allow adequate preparation time and to avoid the mid-summer lull. Potential speakers identified include Dr. Nima Mesgarani and Dr. Sam Norman-Haignere as primary candidates, with Dr. Laura Williams designated as an alternate. The committee also discussed future topics, including Technovit histological techniques, inner ear organoids (Dr. Karl Kohler), and human temporal bone resources.

Decisions Made:

- The committee agreed to schedule the LLM Cutting Edge session for August 12, 2026.

Action Items:

- **Committee Members**: Reach out to Dr. Nima Mesgarani and Dr. Sam Norman-Haignere to formally invite them for the August LLM session.
- **Initiative Leads**: Provide a two-sentence summary describing the cutting-edge techniques series to the Executive Office for use in speaker recruitment materials.

3. JARO Special Edition

Summary: The committee evaluated the status of the JARO Special Edition initiative. The project has experienced low submission uptake, prompting a discussion on the difficulties of encouraging seminar speakers to submit formal papers. A suggestion was made by Council Liaison Sunil Puria to utilize LLMs

to transcribe talks and generate draft manuscripts to help overcome writing inertia. However, given the ongoing search for a new Editor-in-Chief, the committee opted to pause the project.

Decisions Made:

- The committee agreed to place the JARO Special Edition initiative on hold pending the appointment of the new Editor-in-Chief and a reassessment of member interest.
- The committee decided to cease sending manuscript submission invitation emails to seminar speakers during this hold period.

Action Items:

- None.

4. International Engagement and Speaker Recruitment

Summary: Addressing a noted decline in international meeting attendance, the committee discussed strategies to increase global engagement year-round through virtual programming. The committee plans to actively recruit international speakers for the Seminar Series and the Cutting Edge Techniques sessions. To streamline this process, the Executive Office will implement a speaker interest form on the ARO website and promoting it via social media. The committee will provide the survey drafts to the Executive Office.

Decisions Made:

- The committee agreed to implement a formal speaker interest form to assist with recruiting, specifically targeting international scientists.

Action Items:

- **Seminar Series and Cutting Edge Techniques task groups:** draft surveys for online nominations and provide to the Executive Office
- **Kristin Johnson**: Coordinate with Allison to create and deploy the speaker interest form on the ARO website and social media channels.
- **Initiative Leads**: Provide a two-sentence summary describing the seminar series to the Executive Office for inclusion in the recruitment form.

Summary of Meeting

The Education Committee met to review ongoing virtual programming and evaluate a new initiative proposal. The committee discussed the process for reviewing a new public-facing Wikipedia project, emphasizing the need for strategic alignment and Communications Committee input. Plans were finalized for an August 12 Cutting Edge Techniques session focusing on LLMs in auditory neuroscience. Additionally, the committee placed the JARO Special Edition on hold due to the ongoing Editor-in-Chief search and low submission rates. Finally, the committee outlined a new strategy to boost international engagement by launching a dedicated speaker recruitment form on the ARO website.

Decisions Made (Consolidated)

- **Wikipedia Project:** Agreed to coordinate the proposed Wikipedia initiative with the Communications Committee prior to Council review.
- **Virtual Programming:** Scheduled the LLM-focused Cutting Edge Techniques session for August 12.
- **JARO Initiative:** Placed the JARO Special Edition on hold and halted submission invitations pending the appointment of a new Editor-in-Chief.
- **Speaker Recruitment:** Approved the creation of a website form to solicit speaker interest, aimed at increasing international participation.

Action Items (Consolidated)

Kristin Johnson / Executive Office

- Finalize the committee minutes and post them to the portal within one week.
- Coordinate with Allison to build and launch the speaker interest form on the website and social media.

Committee Members & Initiative Leads

- **Committee Members**: Formally invite Dr. Nima Mesgarani and Dr. Sam Norman-Haignere to speak at the August LLM session.
- **Seminar Series and Cutting Edge Techniques task groups:** draft surveys for online nominations and provide to the Executive Office
- **Initiative Leads**: Draft a two-sentence descriptive blurb for both the Seminar Series and the Cutting Edge Techniques series to be used on the new recruitment form.