ARO Education Committee Meeting

Date: December 2, 2025

Attendees:

Jarnail Singh, Cathy Yea Won Sung, Kirupa Suthakar, Tong Shan, Sree Varshini Murali, Rhiannon McNeely (ARO Staff)

1. Welcome and Announcements

Summary:

The meeting opened with general announcements regarding committee scheduling. The committee noted that meetings would not be held in January and February due to the ARO Midwinter Meeting. Monthly meetings were expected to resume in March or April, pending confirmation from the Executive Office, at which time new committee members would also be welcomed. No additional announcements were raised.

Decisions Made:

- None

Action Items:

- None

2. ARO Seminar Series Update

Summary:

Cathy Yea Won Sung provided an update on the ARO Seminar Series. The upcoming series on **Auditory Nerve** was confirmed to begin March 25, 2026, following the ARO Midwinter Meeting. All speakers for this topic have been confirmed, including keynote and subsequent presenters scheduled through June 2026. Points of contact for each speaker were identified, and standardized email templates have already been distributed.

The committee also began planning for the next seminar topic, **Inner Ear Function**, with a preliminary list of potential speakers compiled. Subcommittee voting and outreach have not yet occurred. The Inner Ear Function series is anticipated to begin in late summer or early fall 2026.

Decisions Made:

- Confirmed Auditory Nerve seminar series schedule and speakers for Spring–Summer 2026.
- Agreed to proceed with planning for the Inner Ear Function seminar series.

Action Items:

- **Seminar Series Subcommittee:** Finalize and vote on Inner Ear Function speakers.
- **All Committee Members:** Suggest additional seminar speaker candidates to the subcommittee as appropriate.

3. JARO Special Initiative

Summary:
Kirupa Suthakar presented an in-depth update on the JARO Special Initiative. Due to limited traction under the current model, the subcommittee proposed expanding the initiative's scope to include both the Seminar Series and the Cutting Edge Techniques series. A potential rebranding (e.g., "ARO Educational Reviews") was discussed to better reflect the broader educational mission.

Additional ideas included allowing unsolicited review submissions tied to seminar topics, using topic tags, and cross-linking JARO publications with recorded educational content. Outstanding concerns included article processing fees and alignment with JARO editorial policies, which would require discussion with the Editor-in-Chief. The committee agreed the initiative should not yet be discontinued but monitored closely.

Decisions Made:

- Agreed to explore expanding the JARO initiative to include Cutting Edge Techniques content.
- Agreed to seek feedback from cutting-edge speakers before proposing structural changes to JARO leadership.

Action Items:

- **Kirupa Suthakar:** Reach out to prior Cutting Edge Techniques speakers to assess interest in submitting articles.

- **Kirupa Suthakar:** Follow up on the status of the previously submitted JARO article.
- **JARO Subcommittee:** Prepare discussion points for a potential meeting with the JARO Editor-in-Chief.

4. Cutting Edge Techniques and Models

Summary:
Tong Shan provided updates on the Cutting Edge Techniques series. The third session, focused on genetics and animal models of hearing research, was scheduled for December 11 from 1:00–2:00 PM ET. Speaker coordination, content review, and promotional materials were actively underway, with one speaker bio still pending.

Future sessions were discussed, including a proposed session on large language models in auditory research. Speaker outreach strategy was discussed to avoid overcrowding sessions. Coordination with ARO staff for advertising timelines was emphasized.

Decisions Made:

- Confirmed December 11 Cutting Edge Techniques session details.
- Agreed to initially invite two speakers for future sessions to maintain balance.

Action Items:

- **Tong Shan:** Follow up with speakers for missing bios and share Zoom links for planning meetings.
- **Tong Shan:** Provide finalized session details to ARO staff for advertising as soon as available.
- **ARO Staff (Rhiannon McNeely):** Schedule and distribute promotional materials once content is received.

5. Coffee Hour Programming

Summary:
< Person>Jarnail Singh reviewed recent and planned Coffee Hour sessions. A November session on Clinical Trial Management was noted as successful despite lower attendance. The committee outlined a tentative Coffee Hour schedule for the coming year, focusing on science policy, government careers, abstract writing, clinical trials, and medical science liaison roles.

The committee discussed holding Coffee Hours every other month to avoid overlap with other ARO programming. A key discussion focused on moderator recruitment, with consensus that moderators should be identified alongside speakers, potentially through speaker recommendations, to ensure subject-matter alignment.

Decisions Made:

- Agreed to host Coffee Hours on an alternating-month schedule.
- Agreed to formally identify moderators when inviting Coffee Hour speakers.

Action Items:

- **Coffee Hour Leads:** Incorporate moderator identification into speaker invitation process.
- **Committee Members:** Volunteer or suggest moderators and speakers for upcoming Coffee Hours.

6. Other Business

Summary:
The committee discussed advertising logistics, including linking archived recordings in promotional materials. An upcoming request for an Education Committee update to the ARO Council was also discussed, with drafting responsibilities identified.

Decisions Made:

- Agreed to include links to archived recordings in future advertisements where feasible.

Action Items:

- **Cathy Yea Won Sung:** Draft Education Committee update for the ARO Council.
- **Jarnail Singh:** Review and provide feedback on the draft prior to submission.

Summary

The Education Committee reviewed scheduling updates, confirmed progress on the ARO Seminar Series, explored strategic changes to the JARO Special Initiative, finalized details for upcoming Cutting Edge Techniques sessions, and planned future Coffee Hour programming.

Emphasis was placed on improving engagement, coordination, and visibility across all educational initiatives.

Decisions Made (Consolidated)

- Confirmed Auditory Nerve Seminar Series speakers and schedule for Spring–Summer 2026.
- Agreed to plan the Inner Ear Function Seminar Series.
- Agreed to explore expansion of the JARO initiative to include Cutting Edge Techniques.
- Confirmed December 11 Cutting Edge Techniques session.
- Agreed to limit future Cutting Edge sessions to two speakers initially.
- Agreed to hold Coffee Hours on an alternating-month schedule.
- Agreed to formally identify moderators when inviting Coffee Hour speakers.
- Agreed to include archived recording links in promotional materials.

Action Items (Consolidated)

- **Cathy Yea Won Sung:**
    - Draft Education Committee update for submission to the ARO Council.
- **Kirupa Suthakar:**
    - Assess interest from Cutting Edge speakers regarding JARO submissions.
    - Follow up on the status of the existing JARO submission.
- **Tong Shan:**
    - Finalize speaker materials and bios for Cutting Edge sessions.
    - Share planning meeting links with subcommittee members.
    - Submit finalized session details to ARO staff for advertising.
- **Jarnail Singh:**
    - Review and provide feedback on the ARO Council update draft.
- **All Committee Members:**
    - Suggest speakers and moderators for upcoming seminars and Coffee Hours.