ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Date:	July 14, 2026	**Meeting Chair:**	Jarnail Singh
Time:	4:56 PM EDT (39 min 3 sec)	**Minutes Prepared By:**	Education Committee Staff
Attendees:	**Committee Members:** Jarnail Singh (Chair), Yea Won "Kathy" Sung, Kirupa Suthakar, Pankaj Bhatia, Sunil Puria **Management / PMG:** Allison Johnson **Absences / Excused:** Tong Shan, Takushi Miyoshi, Riley Hsieh, Bri Sambash, Sumana, Jason Brandt		

1. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP & TASK ASSIGNMENTS

Jarnail Singh reviewed the updated committee task list based on the recent survey results. Three core ongoing initiatives were finalized with their respective leadership and active subcommittee members:

Initiative Title	Initiative Lead	Subcommittee Members
ARO Seminar Series	Kathy (Yea Won) Sung	Kirupa Suthakar, Pankaj Bhatia, Riley Hsieh, Jarnail Singh, Bri Sambash
Coffee Hour Sessions	Jarnail Singh	Sumana, Jason Brandt
Cutting Edge Techniques & Models	Tong Shan	Takushi Miyoshi, Jarnail Singh

Note: Members who previously served as spARO representatives but did not submit the survey are not listed on active rosters, though they remain welcome to contribute ideas and assist across initiatives.

2. ARO SEMINAR SERIES UPDATES

Current & Upcoming Sessions

- **Auditory Nerves Series:** Successfully concluded on June 24, 2026 following four completed presentations.
- **Inner Ear Function Series (August – December 2026):** Five speakers scheduled for this block:
  - **Dr. Jonathan Ashmore** (University College London) – August 26, 2026.
  - **Dr. Jonghoon Nam** (University of Rochester) – Confirmed for September 30, 2026.
  - **Dr. Barbara Canlon** – Confirmed for October 28, 2026.
  - **Dr. Gregory Frolenkov** (University of Kentucky) – Confirmed for December 16, 2026.
  - **Dr. Jonathan Bird:** Contacted for November 18, 2026. Pankaj Bhatia is managing outreach. If no response is received within a week, an alternative candidate will be sought (e.g., Joe Santos-Sacchi from Yale was suggested by Sunil Puria).
- **Inner Ear Hearing Loss & Ototoxicity Series:** Kathy Sung is currently compiling candidate speaker lists to circulate to committee members.

Logistics & Format Guidelines

- **Submission Lead Time:** Speaker Points of Contact (POCs) must submit all promotional materials (bios, headshots, and talk titles) via the seminar form **6 weeks in advance** (4 weeks absolute deadline).
- **Speaker Diversity & Time Zone Flexibility:**
  - The committee aims for a 50/50 gender balance and international representation across series blocks.
  - Discussion was held regarding international speakers (Asia, Europe, Australia/Pacific). Standard timing is 12:00 PM Eastern, but flexibility (e.g., shifting to 8:00 AM or 5:00/6:00 PM Eastern) will be explored to accommodate global speakers. Sunil Puria emphasized prioritizing top-tier speaker candidates first and adjusting timing as necessary.
- **New Member Orientation:** Kathy Sung agreed to host a brief orientation meeting for new subcommittee members to review speaker selection and outreach protocols.

3. COFFEE HOUR SESSIONS UPDATES

- **Alternative Career Path Session (Scientific Review Officer):** Planned for September 2026. Due to PMG conference coverage during the week of September 7, Allison Johnson recommended moving the session to the week of September 14, 2026 at 1:00 PM Eastern Time.
- **Illustrator Tutorial Session:** Kirupa Suthakar confirmed she will lead a revival of the Illustrator tutorial on **December 9, 2026** at 12:00 PM Eastern Time.

4. CUTTING EDGE TECHNIQUES & MODELS UPDATES

- **Large Language Models & Speech Models Session:** Rescheduled from August 12 to early September 2026.
- **Confirmed Speakers:** Features two speakers—one from the University of Rochester and Dr. Jose Macias-Navarro.

5. ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS

Task / Action Item	Assigned To	Target / Status
Follow up with Dr. Jonathan Ashmore regarding missing bio/headshot.	Kirupa Suthakar / Allison Johnson	Immediate
Follow up with Dr. Jonathan Bird for Nov 18 date confirmation; identify alternate if no response in 1 week.	Pankaj Bhatia	July 21, 2026
Compile candidate speaker list for Inner Ear Hearing Loss & Ototoxicity series.	Kathy Sung	Next Meeting
Schedule brief orientation meeting for new Seminar Series subcommittee members.	Kathy Sung	Upcoming
Finalize date and speaker confirmation for September Coffee Hour Session (SRO career path).	Jarnail Singh / Allison Johnson	Week of Sept 14
Finalize exact September date for Large Language Models & Speech Models session.	Tong Shan	August 2026