

American Auditory Society Scientific and Technology Meeting February 13 - 15, 2025

PODIUM PRESENTER, INVITED SPEAKER, AND TECHNOLOGY UPDATE SPEAKER BIOS

Harvey B. Abrams, PhD

Jabra Hearing, Lititz, PA

In a career spanning over 50 years, Harvey has served in a number of academic, clinical, research, administrative, and consulting capacities with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, academia, and industry to include Chief of the Audiology and Speech Pathology Service and Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development at the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, the Director of Research at the Army Audiology and Speech Center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and the Director of Audiology Research at Starkey Hearing Technologies. He currently serves as the Head of Research Audiology at Jabra Enhance.

Financial Disclosures: Harvey Abrams provides consulting services to Jabra Enhance for which he receive fees and travel support.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Harvey Abrams has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Michelle Arnold, AuD, PhD

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Michelle Arnold is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of South Florida (Tampa, FL) and a practicing audiologist in the state of Florida. Dr. Arnold engages in a variety of interdisciplinary efforts to understand the complex relationships between hearing loss, other age-related chronic health conditions, and social determinants of health. Her current work focuses on the impacts of public policy and legislation on hearing health care access and use. Her long-term goals are to improve accessibility and utilization of hearing care through targeted intervention efforts designed to address barriers to care.

Financial Disclosures: Michelle Arnold is employed by USF where she receives a salary. She receives grant support from the NIDCD and NIA.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Michelle Arnold has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Varsha Athreya, PhD

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Varsha began her academic journey with a BS in Speech and Hearing from the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) in Mysuru, India. She earned my Master's degree in Audiology in 2018, with a thesis focused on temporal processing and speech perception in noisy environments. She completed her doctoral degree in May 2024, working with Dr. Bharadwaj on age-related effects on temporal processing and speech perception, and with Dr. Heinz on the effects of peripheral hearing damage on cortical auditory responses. Currently, she is a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University with Dr. Matthew Fitzgerald, where she is developing pipelines

for handling large clinical datasets and applying machine learning to enhance clinical diagnosis and management.

Financial Disclosures: Varsha Athreya is employed by Stanford University where she receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Varsha Athreya has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Carlos Benitez-Barrera, PhD

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Dr. Carlos Benitez-Barrera is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he leads the Pediatric Auditory Experience and Brain Lab at the Waisman Center. He earned his PhD in Hearing and Speech Sciences from Vanderbilt University in 2020. His research examines how auditory environments shape language and cognitive development in children with hearing loss. This research has been funded by the ASH Foundation and the NIH. Dr. Benitez-Barrera is committed to translational research, fostering global collaboration, and promoting equitable hearing care for underserved populations.

Financial Disclosures: Carlos Benitez-Barrera is employed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Carlos Benitez-Barrera has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Hari Bharadwaj, PhD

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Hari Bharadwaj is assistant professor in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders at University of Pittsburgh. His laboratory investigates how sound information is encoded and analyzed by our ears and brains in complex/noisy environments. By understanding not only successful hearing in these settings, but also how it can be disrupted in diverse forms of hearing loss and in individuals with neuropsychiatric disorders, his lab seeks to advance precision diagnostics for hearing problems, and improve assistive devices such hearing aids and cochlear implants.

Financial Disclosures: Hari Bharadwaj is employed by the University of Pittsburgh where he receives a salary. Research support provided by NIH grants R01DC015989 and R01DC009838.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Hari Bharadwaj has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Ishan Sunilkumar Bhatt, PhD

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

I am the Director of the Audiogenomics Research Lab at the University of Iowa. My initial training was in clinical audiology. I specialized in the genomics of complex traits, focusing on how genetic factors contribute to complex health conditions during my doctoral studies. My research program focuses on creating audiogenomic tools to help healthcare providers identify individuals at risk of acquired hearing loss, tinnitus, and difficulties with speech perception difficulty at early stages. My long-term goal is to develop personalized prevention and treatment strategies that lead to better clinical results.

Financial Disclosures: Ishan Bhatt is employed by the University of Iowa. Research support provided by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Grant R21DC016704-01A1.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ishan Bhatt has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Chelsea Blankenship, AuD, PhD

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH

Chelsea Blankenship, Au.D., Ph.D., is an assistant professor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. She has a strong background in behavioral and physiologic measures of the auditory system, cochlear implants, and clinical and translational research. Her long-term career goal is to become an independent clinician-scientist using translational methods to improve the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric hearing loss. Her research interests include: (1) examine how the auditory system processes sound using novel behavioral and neurophysiological techniques, (2) improve diagnostic measures to identify hearing difficulties, and (3) develop objective tools to assess speech perception outcomes for clinical management of pediatric hearing loss.

Financial Disclosures: Chelsea Blankenship is employed by Cincinnati Children's Hospital where she receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Chelsea Blankenship has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Eric Branda, PhD

WS Audiology, Iselin, NJ

Dr. Eric Branda is an Audiologist and Director of Applied Audiological Research for WS Audiology in the USA. For over 25 years, Eric has been involved in audiological, technical and research initiatives around the globe. He specializes in investigations on new product innovations, as well as with research partners, helping WSA fulfill its goal of creating advanced hearing solutions for all types and degrees of hearing loss. Dr. Branda received his PhD from Salus University, his AuD from the Arizona School of Health Sciences and his Master's degree in Audiology from the University of Akron.

Financial Disclosures: Eric Branda is employed by WS Audiology.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Eric Branda has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Douglas Brungart, PhD

Walter Reed National Military Center, Bethesda, MD

Douglas S. Brungart, PhD, is the Chief Scientist of the National Military Audiology and Speech Pathology Center at Walter Reed. From 1993 to 2009, he was a research engineer at the Air Force Research Laboratory with research focusing on advanced auditory displays for spatial and speech information. Since 2009, he has been at Walter Reed focusing on the application of advanced technology to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss and other hearing and speech disorders. He holds a MS and PHD in Electrical Engineering from MIT and a BS in Computer Engineering from Wright State University.

Financial Disclosures: Douglas Brungart is employed by Walter Reed National Military Medical Center where he receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Douglas Brungart has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Lauren Calandrucchio, PhD, CCC-A

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

Financial Disclosures: Lauren Calandrucchio is employed by Case Western Reserve University where she receives a salary. She has an R25 grant from NIDCD (R25DC020919 and a supplement for this grant R25DC020919-02S1) which financially supports part of her salary and the IMPACT program.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Lauren Calandrucchio has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Sharon L. Cushing, MD

Professor, Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery, Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dr. Sharon Cushing is a full time paediatric otolaryngologist and the Director of the Cochlear Implant Program at The Hospital for Sick Children and a Full Professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Cushing has a clinical and surgical interest in disorders of the external, middle and inner ear, including hearing loss and vestibular dysfunction. Her research interest include vestibular and balance function and dysfunction in children, and its association with hearing loss and cochlear implantation.

Financial Disclosures: Sharon Cushing is on an Advisory Board for Cochlear Corporation, Decibel (Regeneron) and Eli Lilly (Akouos). She is on a Speaker's Bureau for Cochlear Corporation and receives royalties from Plural Publishing as a co-editor of "The manual of pediatric balance disorders".

Non-Financial Disclosures: Sharon Cushing has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Jeppe Hoey Christensen, PhD

Eriksholm Research Centre, Oticon A/S, Snekkersten, Denmark

Jeppe Christensen is a Principle Scientist at Eriksholm Research Centre, part of Oticon A/S. Jeppe has a MS.c. in Biomedical Engineering and a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Jeppe uses data logging technology and statistical modeling to investigate how real-world behavior and physiology is affected by a hearing loss.

Financial Disclosures: Jeppe Christensen is employed by Oticon.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Jeppe Christensen has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Rafael E. Delgado, PhD

Intelligent Hearing Systems Corp, Miami, FL

Dr. Delgado received his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Miami in 1993. He is currently the Director of Research and Software Development for Intelligent Hearing System Corp. and an Adjunct Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Miami. He has published extensively and developed a large number of medical products for screening and testing of hearing and vision using evoked potentials and otoacoustic emissions. He has also been the principal investigator in a large number of NIH SBIR grants for the development of these products.

Financial Disclosures: Rafael Delgado is employed by Intelligent Hearing Systems Corp. where he receives a salary. He owns stocks in Intelligent Hearing Systems Corp.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Rafael Delgado has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Lauren Dillard, AuD, PhD

Department of Otolaryngology- Head & Neck Surgery, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

Lauren K. Dillard received her AuD, MS (Population Health) and PhD (Communication Sciences and Disorders) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Medical University of South Carolina. Her research is focused on topics related to the epidemiology of hearing loss, including hearing loss prevention and its treatment with hearing aids. Most of her research has been conducted in population-based cohort studies and also electronic health records from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Financial Disclosures: Lauren Dillard is employed by the Medical University of South Carolina where she receives a salary. Research support provided by VA Office of Academic Affiliations; NIH/NIDCD F32 DC021078.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Lauren Dillard has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Margaret Dillon, AuD, PhD

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Margaret Dillon, AuD, PhD is an Associate Professor and Director of the Cochlear Implant Clinical Research Labs in the Department of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She conducts clinical research investigating the effectiveness of image-guided mapping procedures for pediatric and adult cochlear implant recipients.

Financial Disclosures: Margaret Dillon is employed by UNC where she receives a salary. She is supported by a research grant provided to my university by MED-EL Corporation.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Margaret Dillon has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Keelin Fallon, BA

UMass Chan Medical School, Worcester, MA

Keelin Fallon, BA is a medical student attending UMass Chan Medical school, working to provide improved patient care. Prior to starting medical school she worked as a life science management consultant, and prior to that received a degree in biology from Columbia University. During her time as a medical student she has pursued research opportunities within Otolaryngology resulting in her presenting at national conferences. Her research interests include outcomes after cochlear implant surgery and middle ear pathology. In her free time she enjoys playing with her dog, baking for her friends, and trying new restaurants around the city.

Financial Disclosures: Keelin Fallon has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Keelin Fallon has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Matthew Fitzgerald, PhD

Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Dr. Fitzgerald is the Chief of Audiology at Stanford University, where he oversees the adult and pediatric audiology practices. He has a longstanding research focus in the development of new tools and analysis techniques, and translating those tools into clinical practice. He is particularly interested in integrating measures of suprathreshold auditory function into routine clinical practice, particularly measures of speech in noise. He is also interested in developing new procedures for analyzing large audiologic datasets, and ensuring those analysis techniques are compatible with new advances in machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Financial Disclosures: Matthew Fitzgerald is employed by Stanford University where he receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Matthew Fitzgerald has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Justin T. Fleming, PhD

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Dr. Justin Fleming is a Research Scientist in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences at the University of Minnesota. His research aims to build a deeper understanding of the diverse ways that visual cues benefit speech perception, including reducing listening effort, helping listeners repair perceptual mistakes, and supporting prosody perception. His current studies are focused on the active strategies that listeners with hearing loss use to leverage visual speech cues, using a combination of traditional laboratory studies and investigations of real-time communication dynamics.

Financial Disclosures: Justin Fleming is employed by the University of Minnesota where he receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Justin Fleming has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Emmanuel E. Garcia Morales, PhD

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD

Emmanuel E. Garcia Morales, PhD, is a Health Economist working at the Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health, his research focuses on the labor outcomes of age-related hearing loss, and on the association between hearing loss and healthcare utilization among Medicare beneficiaries.

Financial Disclosures: Emmanuel Garcia Morales is employed by Johns Hopkins University where he receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Emmanuel Garcia Morales has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

O'neil Guthrie, PhD

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

Dr. O'neil W. Guthrie completed research training in molecular biology and audiology at the University of Pittsburgh where he earned a Ph.D. He then completed postdoctoral training in molecular genetics at Duke University where he was awarded the Hargett Cell Biology Fellowship. In addition to his research credentials, he is also a licensed clinical audiologist with decades of clinical experience. In addition to his basic science research program, Dr. Guthrie is also interested in translational research that improves clinical outcomes.

Financial Disclosures: O'neil Guthrie is employed by Northern Arizona University where he receives a salary. Research support provided by the U.S. Department of Defense. O'neil is a Scientific Advisor to Optigenex, Inc.

Non-Financial Disclosures: O'neil Guthrie is a member of the AAS Board of Directors.

Joan Hewitt, AuD

Project TALK, Encinitas, CA

Joan Hewitt, AuD is a pediatric audiologist specializing in diagnosing and treating infants and children with hearing loss. Board certified with specialization in cochlear implants, Dr. Hewitt has advanced degrees in audiology and auditory/oral education of the deaf. For over 35 years, Dr. Hewitt has provided auditory/verbal services, hearing testing, hearing aid fitting, and cochlear implant programming to children. She is a pediatric audiologist at Project TALK and faculty at California State University-San Marco Department of Speech Language Pathology. The co-author of pediatric audiology textbook chapters, she frequently presents on pediatric audiology and cochlear implants at national and international conferences.

Financial Disclosures: Joan Hewitt is employed by Project TALK. She will be compensated for her time by Akouous, Inc. a wholly owned subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company for this presentation.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Joan Hewitt has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Michelle L. Hicks, PhD

Starkey, Eden Prairie, MN

Michelle Hicks, Ph.D., Vice President of Education and Audiology, leads the Clinical and Audiology Research team at Starkey. She received her Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Science in 1997 from Arizona State University. For the past 20 years, Dr. Hicks has held positions in clinical, academic, and industry settings. She has taught courses in Amplification, Pediatric Audiology, Psychoacoustics, Anatomy and Physiology, and Research Methodology, and has presented at state, national, and international conferences on topics in Hearing Science, Amplification, and Tinnitus.

Financial Disclosures: Michelle Hicks is employed by Johns Hopkins Starkey where she receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Michelle Hicks has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Keiko Hirose, MD

Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

Keiko Hirose is a tenured professor at Washington University and a pediatric otolaryngologist and surgeon-scientist. Her clinical practice is focused on the care of deaf children, cochlear implantation, and chronic ear disease. Her research program has established the importance of innate immunity in the inner ear, demonstrating the role of myeloid cells in congenital CMV infection, pneumococcal meningitis/sepsis, and surgical implantation of neural prostheses. She served as division chief of pediatric otolaryngology at WashU for fifteen years and has been an integral part of the auditory neuroscience community at the Central Institute for the Deaf. Nationally, she has taken part in the leadership of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology, serving on ARO Council and as ARO president in 2020. Dr. Hirose has served on the Research Advisory Board of the American Otologic Society (AOS), the Program Committee for the AOS and the American Society for Pediatric Otolaryngology (ASPO).

Financial Disclosures: Keiko Hirose is employed by Washington University..

Non-Financial Disclosures: Keiko Hirose has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Benjamin Hornsby, PhD

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

Ben Hornsby is an Associate Professor in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Dr. Hornsby's broad research interests focus on the speech understanding difficulties of adults and children with hearing loss, the underlying factors responsible for those difficulties, and how these issues relate to variability in the psychosocial impact of hearing loss and benefit from rehabilitation. His current research focuses on relationships between hearing loss-related communication difficulties, mental effort, and fatigue.

Financial Disclosures: Benjamin Hornsby is employed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville TN.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Benjamin Hornsby has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Alison Huang, PhD

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Alison R. Huang, PhD, MPH, is a Senior Research Associate in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Huang is trained in the epidemiology of aging and studies the impact of hearing loss and intervention on cognitive and mental health in older adults. Huang serves as Scientific Lead of the Aging and Cognitive Health Evaluation in Elders (ACHIEVE) randomized trial and oversees the analyses and scientific directions of the study. Huang holds a PhD in Mental Health and a Master's in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Financial Disclosures: Alison Huang is employed by Johns Hopkins University.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Alison Huang has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Valerie Alexandra Ingalls, BA

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Valerie Ingalls is a Graduate Fellow at the University of Iowa where she is pursuing her PhD in Speech and Hearing Science under the mentorship of Dr. Ishan Bhatt. Alongside the other members of the Audiogenomics Research Lab, Valerie studies the genetic epidemiology of tinnitus and acquired hearing loss. She is especially interested in individualized risk assessment for targeted interventions. Valerie has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from St. Olaf College, MN.

Financial Disclosures: Valerie Ingalls is employed by University of Iowa where she receives a stipend.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Valerie Ingalls has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Kening Jiang

Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD

Kening Jiang is a 4th year PhD candidate in Epidemiology of Aging and a trainee at the Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She received her MHS degree in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and previously worked as a biostatistician at the Cochlear Center. She is interested in studying modifiable risk factors that might be targeted to prevent or delay dementia, especially sensory loss and sleep disturbances.

Financial Disclosures: Kening Jiang has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Kening Jiang has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Erik Jorgensen, AuD, PhD

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Erik Jorgensen, AuD, PhD, CCC-A is an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Director of the Soundscape and Audiology Research Lab. His research focuses primarily on improving hearing aid effectiveness among older adults by understanding listening in real-world environments and the impacts of auditory ecology on hearing loss intervention outcomes.

Financial Disclosures: Erik Jorgensen is employed by University of Wisconsin-Madison where he receives a salary. He receives funding from the NIH/NIDCD (R21DC021512).

Non-Financial Disclosures: Erik Jorgensen has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Emma J. Kagel

Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics; Beth Israel Lahey Health; Bioethics Alliance, Cohasset, MA

Emma J. Kagel, JD, MBE, HCE-C, LPEC is an affiliate of the Center for Bioethics at Harvard Medical School and manages the Conflict of Interest program for the Beth Israel Lahey Health health system. Ms. Kagel received her JD from the University of Washington School of Law and her MBE in Bioethics from Harvard Medical School. She is a certified healthcare ethics consultant by the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities having spent over a two decades at the bedside in clinical consultations and overseeing clinical ethics programs before transitioning to research bioethics practice. She has also been involved in the Medical Legal Partnership space in healthcare systems to utilize legal levers to improve the social determinants of health. Ms. Kagel identifies as deaf with cochlear implants. Her personal and professional knowledge has informed her efforts in disability advocacy in healthcare, education, and legal settings.

Financial Disclosures: Emma Kagel is employed by Beth Israel Lahey Health System where she receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Emma Kagel is a recipient of Cochlear America's cochlear implants.

Katie Keese, AuD

Jabra Hearing

Dr. Katie Keese, AuD, CCC-A, is the Director of Audiology at Jabra Hearing, where she has been instrumental in the development and expansion of a fully remote teleaudiology platform. She earned her Doctorate in Audiology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and has since gained extensive experience practicing in both the United States and Australia. Her professional background spans ENT clinics, hospitals, hearing aid manufacturing, retail chains, private practices, and providing mobile services to rural locations. Dr.

Keese has also contributed as an expert in teleaudiology, serving on the ASHA Convention Telepractice Committee. Driven by a passion for improving access to affordable hearing healthcare, she has consistently placed patient-centered care at the heart of her work.

Financial Disclosures: Katie Keese is employed by Jabra Hearing where she receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Katie Keese has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Kaylah Lalonde, PhD

Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, NE

Kaylah Lalonde, Ph.D. is Director of the Audiovisual Speech Processing Laboratory in the Center for Hearing Research at Boys Town National Research Hospital.

Financial Disclosures: Kaylah Lalonde is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital. Kaylah receives research support from the National Institutes of Health (R21DC020544).

Non-Financial Disclosures: Kaylah Lalonde has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Marci M. Lesperance, MD

Professor, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI

Marci Lesperance is a Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Michigan and served as Division Chief for 15 years. She completed otolaryngology residency at the University of Michigan in 1994. Dr. Lesperance then completed a one-year research fellowship in the Laboratory of Medical Genetics at the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), followed by a Pediatric Otolaryngology fellowship at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. Dr. Lesperance's research has been funded by NIH and outside foundations, and it focuses on the molecular genetics of hearing loss and using genetics to improve patient care. She has served as Chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the NIDCD. She has served as Surgeon in Chief for the Children's and Women's Hospital, and as Program Director for the University of Michigan's Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship. She has held leadership roles in the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology and was a member of the Otolaryngology Residency Review Committee for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Dr. Lesperance is the Pediatric Otolaryngology section Editor for *Cummings Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*, 6th through 8th editions. Currently, she serves as Associate Chief Clinical Officer for Children's Specialty and Women's Services for Ambulatory Care Services at Michigan Medicine.

Financial Disclosures: Marci Lesperance is employed by University of Michigan where she receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Marci Lesperance has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Ross K. Maddox, PhD

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Ross Maddox earned his Ph.D. and M.S. in Biomedical Engineering from Boston University, and his B.S. in Sound Engineering from the University of Michigan. Following his Ph.D., he completed a postdoctoral appointment at the University of Washington Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences (I-LABS). Prior to joining the Kresge Hearing Research Institute at the University of Michigan as an associate professor, he was on the

faculty of the Departments of Biomedical Engineering and Neuroscience at the University of Rochester. The Maddox lab uses electroencephalography and psychophysics together in human subjects to answer fundamental questions about how humans make sense of their noisy auditory world and how to improve diagnostic and assistive technologies.

Financial Disclosures: Ross Maddox is employed by University of Michigan where he receives a salary. This work is supported by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ross Maddox has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Ryan McCreery, PhD

Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, NE

Ryan McCreery is the Vice President of Research at Boys Town National Research Hospital where he provides leadership for more than 40 laboratories across four centers of excellence in hearing, language, pediatric behavioral health, and cognitive neuroscience. Ryan's own research seeks to optimize outcomes for children who use hearing aids.

Financial Disclosures: Ryan McCreery is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital where he receives a salary. Research funding provided by NIH/NIDCD.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ryan McCreery has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Jill Mecklenburger, AuD

GN Hearing, Chicago, IL

Jill Mecklenburger, Au.D. is a Principal Audiologist in the Global Audiology group at ReSound. Her background includes managing projects and clinical research trials, contributing to the development of new and innovative hearing aid technology. Her areas of interest and expertise include wireless connectivity and evaluating user benefits of hearing aid technology. Dr. Mecklenburger has been with GN since 2003 in various roles including Research Audiologist, Project Manager and Product Manager. She is board certified by the American Board of Audiology.

Financial Disclosures: Jill Mecklenburger is employed by ReSound.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Jill Mecklenburger has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Gabrielle Ryan Merchant, PhD

Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, NE

Gabrielle R. Merchant, Au.D., Ph.D., CCC-A is an audiologist and hearing scientist and the Director of the Translational Auditory Physiology and Perception Laboratory at Boys Town National Research Hospital. She earned her B.A. from Smith College, her Ph.D. from the Harvard-MIT Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology Program, and her Au.D. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her translational hearing research focuses on auditory mechanics, auditory perception, and advancing evidence-based practice through improved clinical diagnostic tools. Her laboratory has a particular focus on pediatrics, conductive hearing loss, and wideband acoustic immittance.

Financial Disclosures: Gabrielle Merchant is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital where she receives a salary. She has funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIDCD and NIGMS) and the Department of Defense.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Gabrielle Merchant is on the editorial board of Ear and Hearing.

Andreea Micula, PhD

University of Southern Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark

Andreea Micula is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Southern Denmark (National Institute of Public Health). Her research, which is conducted in collaboration with Eriksholm Research Centre, focuses on establishing physiological markers of self-reported listening effort and fatigue during daily life, as well as identify individual characteristics that may influence this. Previously, she was affiliated with Linköping University where she completed her PhD within cognitive hearing science. She is also a certified yoga teacher and lives in Copenhagen with her partner and two free-roam bunnies.

Financial Disclosures: Andreea Micula is employed by University of Southern Denmark where she receives a salary. The project is funded by the William Demant Foundation.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Andreea Micula has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Aaron C. Moberly, MD

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

Dr. Moberly is Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Following his medical education from Indiana University School of Medicine, Dr. Moberly received his residency training in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Indiana University in Indianapolis. Subsequently, he completed his fellowship training in Neurotology at The Ohio State University, where he remained on faculty for nine years. He joined Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 2022, and his research focus is on the neurocognitive functions that underlie variability in speech recognition outcomes in adults with cochlear implants.

Financial Disclosures: Aaron Moberly is employed by VUMC where he receives a salary. R01 support from NIDCD.

Aaron is CMO and on the Board of Directors for Otologic Technologies. He is a paid consultant for Amgen.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Aaron Moberly has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Ann Elizabeth Perreau, PhD

Augustana College, Rock Island, IL

Dr. Ann Perreau is an associate professor in audiology at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on hearing science and audiology. At the Roseman Center for Speech, Language, and Hearing, Dr. Perreau offers audiological services focused on tinnitus and hyperacusis. Dr. Perreau's research contributions include tinnitus and hyperacusis assessment, questionnaire development, and the publication of multiple peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. She actively participates as a speaker and planning committee member in the annual International meeting on the Management of Tinnitus & Hyperacusis Patient. In 2023, she received an NIH grant to study hyperacusis.

Financial Disclosures: Ann Perreau is employed by Augustana College where she receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Ann Perreau has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Michael Pesko, PhD

University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Dr. Pesko is a health economist whose research identifies the effects of health policy changes by combining economics reasoning, causal research methods, and survey and administrative data sources. He has published 80+ peer-reviewed papers. He is PI of an R01 grant from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) to study the effects of hearing aid insurance mandates.

Financial Disclosures: Michael Pesko is employed by University of Missouri. Work is supported by NIH (R01DC019661). Other current funding non-related to research support comes from NIH, FDA, American Cancer Society, and the University of Kentucky's Institute for the Study of Free Enterprise.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Michael Pesko has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Margaret Kathleen Pichora-Fuller, PhD

University of Toronto, British Columbia, Canada

Kathy Pichora-Fuller is Professor Emerita in the Department of Psychology at the University of Toronto and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Gerontology at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. For over three decades, she has been an inter-disciplinary ambassador between audiology and psychology. She has translated her research on auditory and cognitive aging to address the rehabilitative needs of older adults with age-related hearing and cognitive impairments, more recently focussing on social engagement and healthy aging. She has served as the audiology expert for the Canadian Longitudinal Study of Aging and the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging, and has contributed to the WHO World Reports on Hearing and on Aging and Health, as well as the 2022 World Alzheimer Report. She has served on the editorial board of Ear and Hearing for 18 years and was involved in the 2016 special issue on “Hearing Impairment and Cognitive Energy”, as well as special issues on stigma (2024) and IDEA (2022). She is Past President of the International Collegium of Rehabilitative Audiologists and represents ICRA on the WHO World Hearing Forum. She leads the Hearing in Later Life working group of the International Society of Audiology and represents the ISA on the WHO World Rehabilitation Alliance working group on primary care. She has won the International Award of the American Academy of Audiology and the Lifetime Achievement Award of Speech-Language and Audiology Canada. She is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Financial Disclosures: Margaret Kathleen Pichora-Fuller has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Margaret Kathleen Pichora-Fuller has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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James Russell Pike is a Research Scientist and Senior Biostatistician in the Optimal Aging Institute at New York University. His work involves the examination of cognitive function within older adults using measures obtained from neuropsychological testing, magnetic resonance imaging, positron emission tomography, and plasma-based assays of Alzheimer's disease pathology and neurodegeneration. He has a MBA from Claremont Graduate University and previously served as a research director at the University of Southern California and

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Financial Disclosures: Nairan Ramirez-Esparza I am employed by the University of Connecticut.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Nairan Ramirez-Esparza I have no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Financial Disclosures: Nicholas Reed is employed by New York University where he receives a salary. Research support provided by NIH (NIA/NIDCD).

Non-Financial Disclosures: Nicholas Reed was on the Neosensory Scientific Advisory Board, 2021-2023.

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Jwala Rejimon is a research audiologist currently working at Stanford University School of Medicine at the STARLab. She completed her audiology training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her externship training at the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR). During her training, she completed the T35 research traineeship with Boys Town National Research Hospital.

Financial Disclosures: Jwala Rejimon is employed by Stanford University where she receives a salary. Her salary is paid by a grant to Stanford from Starkey Hearing Technologies.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Jwala Rejimon has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Dr. Robinson serves as Director of Workforce Development and Community Health for the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). Dr. Robinson leads NIDCD initiatives aimed at promoting workforce excellence through capacity-building and training initiatives that ensure opportunities for all scientists. Dr. Robinson also leads initiatives that promote community health through implementation science, community engagement, and addressing health disparities. Prior to joining NIDCD, Dr. Robinson led the development of a DEI strategy for the Department of Veteran Affairs Office of Research and Development. As part of this strategy, she developed and executed initiatives to promote health equity and to expand the pipeline of researchers from historically excluded groups. Dr. Robinson also co-directed the implementation of summer research programs in 21 VA medical centers. In addition, she managed a portfolio of research on behavioral health and social reintegration. Before joining the VA, Dr. Robinson was a research fellow and project manager for the Smokefree.gov initiative at the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute (NCI). At NCI, she conducted multiple research projects aimed at improving smoking cessation outcomes for adolescents and African American smokers by focusing on access and engagement. Dr. Robinson initiated the collection of race and ethnicity data for NCI's Smokefreetxt—a text messaging service for people who are ready to quit smoking—and conducted the first analysis of Smokefreetxt outcomes among African American smokers. Dr. Robinson received a bachelor's degree in brain and cognitive sciences from the University of Rochester. She received a master's degree and a doctoral degree in medical and clinical psychology from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences as well as a master's degree in public health—quantitative methods from Harvard School of Public Health.

Financial Disclosures: Cendrine Robinson is employed by National Institutes of Health where she receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Cendrine Robinson has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Financial Disclosures: Sébastien Santurette is employed by Oticon A/S where he receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Sébastien Santurette has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Gabrielle (Gaby) Saunders is a Professor of Audiology at the University of Manchester, UK. She is the Director of Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness (ManCAD), and Co-Lead of the Hearing Health Theme of the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research (BRC). Her research focuses on auditory rehabilitation and is broadly designed to optimize outcomes of hearing-related interventions, including teleaudiology, hearing screening, assistive technology and education, taking advantage of knowledge that can be gained from mobile technology and big data sets. Her research is underpinned by the principles of person-centred care and health behaviour psychology.

Financial Disclosures: Gabrielle Saunders I am employed by the University of Manchester.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Gabrielle Saunders has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Dr. Yi Shen received his PhD in Hearing Science from Indiana University Bloomington in 2020, followed by his postdoctoral training at the Center for Hearing Research at the University of California, Irvine. He returned to Bloomington as a faculty member in 2014 and moved to the University of Washington in 2020 where he is now an Associate Professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. Research in Dr. Shen's lab focuses on developing rapid and reliable clinical diagnostic tests in audiology and technologies that enable highly individualized interventions to communication challenges experienced by older adults.

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Non-Financial Disclosures: Yi Shen has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Daniel E. Shub, PhD joined the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in 2015. Prior to that he was a doctoral student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, and an Assistant Professor at the University of Nottingham in the School of Psychology.

Financial Disclosures: Daniel Shub is employed by Walter Reed National Military Medical Center where he receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Daniel Shub has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Erika Skoe, PhD, an associate professor at the University of Connecticut, studies experience-dependent plasticity of the human auditory system. Specifically, she is interested in understanding the diversity of auditory experiences across different populations and how this diversity individualizes how the auditory system develops

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Christopher Slugocki, Ph.D. (Psychology, Neuroscience & Behavior, McMaster University) is a Research Scientist at ORCA-USA. His work uses psychophysics and electrophysiology to explore how technology can assist the human auditory system to process sound under adverse listening conditions in listeners with a hearing loss.

Financial Disclosures: Christopher Slugocki is employed by WS Audiology where he receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Christopher Slugocki has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Sherri Smith, Au.D., Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Head & Neck Surgery and Communication Sciences and Population Health Sciences in the Duke University School of Medicine, and is Chief of Audiology for the Duke Health System. Her area of clinical and research expertise focuses on improving the assessment and treatment of hearing loss in older adults. Specifically, her work centers on comparing the effectiveness of hearing interventions and examining rehabilitation approaches that help patients reach their individualized hearing goals. She also collaborates with interdisciplinary teams to better understand the impact of hearing loss on other health conditions and services.

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Non-Financial Disclosures: Sherri Smith has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Hillary Snapp, AuD, PhD is the Chief of Audiology and Professor at the University of Miami Ear Institute. She is a clinician-scientist carrying out research in hearing implants and auditory spatial perception. Her work examines the mechanisms underlying the variations observed in hearing-impaired individuals for complex auditory tasks such as speech perception in noise and localization ability.

Financial Disclosures: Hillary Snapp I am employed by the University of Miami Ear Institute.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Hillary Snapp has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Hillary Snapp, AuD, PhD is the Chief of Audiology and Professor at the University of Miami Ear Institute. She is a clinician-scientist carrying out research in hearing implants and auditory spatial perception. Her work examines the mechanisms underlying the variations observed in hearing-impaired individuals for complex auditory tasks such as speech perception in noise and localization ability.

Financial Disclosures: Hillary Snapp I am employed by the University of Miami Ear Institute.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Hillary Snapp has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Pamela Souza received her bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, followed by masters and PhD degrees in Audiology from Syracuse University. She is a professor in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Northwestern University. with faculty appointments in Linguistics and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Souza's research interests include speech recognition, hearing aids, and the effects of aging and cognitive change on communication. She has published over 100 scientific papers and book chapters in those areas. A recurring theme in her scientific work is understanding individual auditory and cognitive abilities in order to customize hearing treatment. Dr. Souza is a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, and a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She is an Associate Editor for the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America and previously served as Section Editor for Ear and Hearing, Associate Editor for the Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research, and Associate Editor for Trends in Amplification. She is a licensed audiologist with clinical interests in hearing aids, severe hearing loss, hearing assistive technology, tinnitus management, and patient education. Her research is motivated by her patients, and by personal experiences with hearing loss and dementia within her own family.

Financial Disclosures: Pamela Souza is employed by Northwestern University where she receives a salary. She receives research grants from: National Institute on Aging; American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation; Knowles Hearing Center. She serves on the Scientific Advisory Committee for the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Pamela Souza has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Elizabeth Stewart is a Senior Research Audiologist in the Phonak Audiology Research Center (Sonova US). Her educational background includes a Doctorate of Audiology from the University of Kansas Medical Center and a PhD in Speech and Hearing Science from Arizona State University. She manages internal studies as well as external research collaborations and supports various other science-focused initiatives across Sonova.

Financial Disclosures: Elizabeth Stewart is employed by Sonova where she receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Elizabeth Stewart has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Financial Disclosures: Terrin Tamati is employed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center where she receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Terrin Tamati has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Brian Taylor is senior director of audiology for Signia. He is also the editor of Audiology Practices, a quarterly journal of the Academy of Doctors of Audiology, editor-at-large for Hearing Health and Technology Matters and adjunct instructor at the University of Wisconsin. Brian has nearly 30+ years of experience as both a clinician, business manager and university instructor.

Financial Disclosures: Brian Taylor is employed by WS Audiology where he receives a salary. He receives a stipend from the Academy of Doctors of Audiology and UW-Madison.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Brian Taylor has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Susan Voss is the Achilles Professor of Engineering within the Picker Engineering Program at Smith College. Voss is an electrical engineer and scientist in the field of speech and hearing. Her research focuses on sound transmission in normal and diseased ears. Voss received her B.S. in Engineering from Brown University (1991), her M.S. in EECS from MIT (1995), and her Ph.D. from the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology (1998) in Speech and Hearing Sciences. Voss teaches engineering and pursues research with undergraduates within the areas of middle-ear sound transmission with a focus on WAI measurements for middle-ear diagnostic approaches.

Financial Disclosures: Susan Voss I am employed by Smith College.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Susan Voss has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Matthew Winn is an associate professor at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, and a former clinical audiologist. He directs the Listen Lab, which is dedicated to studying speech communication and things that make it challenging for people with hearing loss. Dr. Winn is focused on responding to patient concerns by better understanding the timing and mechanisms of listening effort in ways

that reflect everyday challenges. He is also dedicated to improving science communication skills in fellow scientists across all career stages.

Financial Disclosures: Matthew Winn I am employed by the University of Minnesota.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Matthew Winn has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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Prof. Lena Wong is Professor in Audiology at the Faculty of Education, the University of Hong Kong; and a Past-President of the International Society of Audiology. Her research interests include barriers and facilitators of hearing aid uptake, outcome measurement of amplification devices, and speech and tone perception. A new area of interest is to develop tools for measuring hearing and cognitive function simultaneously and to make hearing and speech intervention accessible globally. She is the lead editor of the book "Evidence-Based Practice in Audiology: Evaluating Interventions for Children and Adults with Hearing Impairment".

Financial Disclosures: Lena Wong is employed by the University of Hong Kong where she receives a salary.

Non-Financial Disclosures: Lena Wong has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.