

## **American Auditory Society Scientific and Technology Meeting February 26 – 28, 2026**

### **POSTER PRESENTER BIOS**

#### **Roya Abdi, MS**

*University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin*

Roya Abdi is a third-year PhD student in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders at the University of Wisconsin Madison, USA. She is working in the Binaural Hearing and Speech Lab at the Waisman Center. She is an Audiologist by training, with a Masters from The University of Melbourne, where she studied children with bilateral cochlear implants. Her main interest is the processing of binaural cues required for binaural hearing with a focus on sound localization skills in typically hearing and hearing-impaired individuals.

*Financial Disclosures: Roya Abdi is a graduate assistant employed by University of Wisconsin.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Roya Abdi has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

#### **Komal Aggarwal, MS**

*Stanford Ear Institute, Milpitas, California*

I am a Research Intern at The Fitzgerald Lab, Stanford University. I hold a Master's degree in Audiology from India. My primary interests lie in the public health aspects of hearing loss, with a focus on pediatric and rehabilitative audiology.

*Financial Disclosures: Funding related to this work was provided by the World Health Organization and ATScale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Komal Aggarwal has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

#### **Kayle L. Alberts, MS**

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska*

Kayle Alberts is a third-year graduate student in the Clinical Doctorate of Audiology (Au.D.) program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). She received her Bachelor of Science degree at Doane University. She currently is a graduate research assistant in the Cochlear Implant Research Lab. Kayle is completing this research as part of her capstone project for her doctorate.

*Financial Disclosures: Kayle Alberts is employed by University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she receives a salary.*

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*Non-Financial Disclosures: Kayle Alberts has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

#### **Cassie Saetrum Allgrunn, BS**

*Utah State University-AuD, North Logan, Utah*

Cassie Allgrunn is a 2nd-year AuD student at Utah State University. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders with a minor in ASL at Utah State University in 2024. She has contributed to research in the Aural Rehabilitation Lab at Utah State University for the past 3 years. She is passionate about pediatric audiology and qualitative research. She is considering the future pursuit of a Ph.D. in support of these passions. She also enjoys playing violin in the community symphony.

*Financial Disclosures: Cassie Allgrunn is a full time student.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Cassie Allgrunn has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **María Ángel, BS**

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois*

María Ángel is a third-year Doctor of Audiology (AuD) student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, working under the mentorship of Dr. Mary M. Flaherty in the Child Speech Research Lab. Her research interests focus on bilingualism, hearing health disparities, and speech comprehension in noise among Spanish-English bilingual children. María is passionate about improving hearing healthcare access for underserved populations and promoting culturally responsive clinical practice. She currently serves as the National NSSLHA Vice President for Planning and as the Student Board Chair for the Illinois Academy of Audiology.

*Financial Disclosures: María Ángel is employed by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: María Ángel has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Meisam Arjmandi, PhD**

*University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina*

Dr. Arjmandi is the Director of the Translational Auditory Neuroscience Lab at the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health. His interdisciplinary research integrates auditory neuroscience, speech science, and biomedical engineering to explore the neural mechanisms of human communication and hearing impairment. Using behavioral, computational, and neuroimaging methods, he studies how auditory, speech, and language outcomes vary across typical, impaired, and electric hearing. His work also investigates how age-related hearing loss contributes to cognitive decline and dementia, aiming to enhance hearing aid and cochlear implant interventions and translate findings into personalized clinical diagnostics and treatments.

*Financial Disclosures: Meisam Arjmandi is employed by the University of South Carolina where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Meisam Arjmandi has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Susan Arzac, BS**

*Montclair State University, New York, New York*

Susan Arzac is a fourth-year audiology student at Montclair State University in New Jersey. She holds two Bachelor of Science degrees: one in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and another in Speech and Hearing Sciences from Arizona State University. After graduating in 2026, she aims to focus on both clinical practice and research.

*Financial Disclosures: Susan Arzac is a full-time student.*

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

## **Samin Ashjaei, MS**

*Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina*

Samin Ashjaei is a Ph.D. student in the Translational Auditory Neuroscience Laboratory at the University of South Carolina. As a clinician-scientist in Speech and Hearing Sciences, her research focuses on understanding the neural and cognitive mechanisms underlying poor speech perception, particularly in noisy environments, among individuals with hearing loss, including aging adults and cochlear implant users. Through her research, Samin aims to advance knowledge that informs clinical strategies to improve communication outcomes for people with hearing impairments.

*Financial Disclosures: Samin Ashjaei is employed by University of South Carolina and receives a salary by working at the Translational Auditory Neuroscience lab. This project is a collaboration with Aging Brain Cohort (ABC@USC) that receives funding from the state to do research on aging.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Samin Ashjaei has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Samar Babaee, MS**

*PhD Student, Memphis, Tennessee*

Samar Babaee is a PhD student in Hearing Sciences at the University of Memphis. She earned her Master's in Audiology from the University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences (Tehran) and worked five years as a clinical audiologist specializing in electrophysiology and vestibular assessment. Her research explores neurophysiological mechanisms of dichotic listening deficits and quantitative approaches to auditory rehabilitation. She applies Logistic Knowledge Tracing (LKT) to model ear-specific learning during ARIA training and conducts EEG studies on neural correlates of dichotic processing, aiming to bridge clinical practice and neuroscience to enhance diagnostic and rehabilitation strategies.

*Financial Disclosures: Samar Babaee is graduate student at the University of Memphis where she receives a stipend.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Samar Babaee has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Gizem Babaoglu, AuD, PhD**

*Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Department of Otolaryngology, Nashville, Tennessee*

Dr. Babaoglu is a lab manager and post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She received her Ph.D. in Audiology from Hacettepe University, Turkey and worked as a research fellow at the University Medical Center Groningen in the Netherlands. She joined Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 2024, and her current research examines auditory, cognitive, and linguistic factors that predict speech recognition outcomes in cochlear implant users as well as real world experiences.

*Financial Disclosures: Gizem Babaoglu is employed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Gizem Babaoglu has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Jalisa Bass, BS**

*Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland*

Jalisa Bass is a Research Program Coordinator in the Department of Otolaryngology, supporting the development and management of hearing health care intervention projects at the Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health. She earned her B.S. in Psychology from Kent State University and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Nonprofit Management at Johns Hopkins University. Her work focuses on understanding the cognitive and physical impacts of hearing loss and advancing equitable, user-centered approaches to hearing care that promote inclusion, access, and improved health outcomes for diverse populations.

*Financial Disclosures: Jalisa Bass is employed by Johns Hopkins University where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jalisa Bass has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Tonya R. Bergeson, PhD**

*Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana*

Dr. Tonya Bergeson earned a PhD in cognitive developmental psychology from the University of Toronto, Canada and undergraduate degrees in music and psychology from Northwestern University. She is chair and William Ney Professor in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at Butler University and volunteer associate professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Indiana University School of Medicine. Her research on the effects of early auditory experience on speech, language and music development in infants and children with hearing loss has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and published in several prestigious journals.

*Financial Disclosures: Tonya Bergeson is employed by Butler University where she receives a salary. External grant support from the Healthy Hoosier Foundation.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Tonya Bergeson has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Rebecca E. Bieber, AuD, PhD**

*1) Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; 2) The Henry M Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc, Bethesda, Maryland*

Rebecca Bieber is a Research Audiologist at the National Military Audiology and Speech Pathology Center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. She received both her doctorate in Clinical Audiology (AuD) and her PhD in Hearing and Speech Sciences from the University of Maryland in College Park. Rebecca's research interests include the study of how humans are able to perceive speech under challenging conditions, and how individual factors such as aging, hearing loss, and language background impact this ability.

*Financial Disclosures: Rebecca Bieber is employed by the Henry M Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine Inc where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Rebecca Bieber has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **William J. Bologna, AuD, PhD**

*Towson University, Towson, Maryland*

William J. Bologna, AuD, PhD, CCC-A is an Assistant Professor at Towson University in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and the Director of the Towson Auditory Simulation Lab. His research focuses on innovative approaches to assessment and rehabilitation in audiology, including clinical applications for virtual reality technology. The long-term goal of his research program is to support the use of individualized treatment plans in audiology that can address the specific physiological and behavioral deficits of a given patient.

*Financial Disclosures: William Bologna is employed by Towson University where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: William Bologna has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Sriram Boothalingam, PhD**

*National Acoustic Laboratories & Macquarie University, Macquarie University, Australia*

Sriram Boothalingam is a Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University and a Senior Scientist at the National Acoustic Laboratories, Sydney, Australia. He studies the collaborative dynamics of the ear and brain using otoacoustic emissions, EEG, and neuromodulation. His work aims to deduce the ear-brain-behavior link in human communication with applications for earlier detection, more personalized, and effective diagnostics and treatments for people with hearing difficulties.

*Financial Disclosures: Sriram Boothalingam is employed by National Acoustic Laboratories & Macquarie University, Department of Health, Disability, & Ageing, Commonwealth Government of Australia.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Sriram Boothalingam has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Callie Michelle Boren, AuD**

*Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Otolaryngology, Saint Louis, Missouri*

Callie Boren received her B.A. from Baylor University as a University Scholar in 2021 and her Au.D. with a research specialization from Washington University in St. Louis in 2025. She is currently an Olin Chancellors Fellowship funded first year Ph.D. student at Washington University in St. Louis, in Dr. Kate McClannahan's Auditory Wellness Lab. Her experiences as a person with hearing loss and clinical training in patient-centered care guide her research interests concerning holistic well-being for individuals with hearing loss. She plans to pursue a career as a clinician scientist and professor at an R1 research university.

*Financial Disclosures: Callie Boren has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Callie Boren has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Gabriella Brown, BA**

*University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida*

Gabriella Brown is a 1st year Au.D student at the University of South Florida (USF). She earned her Bachelor's in Language, Speech, and Hearing Sciences with a double minor in Deaf Studies and Children's Behavioral

Healthcare from USF in 2024. Under the supervision of Dr. Jungmee Lee and Dr. Robert Lutfi, she has conducted research and data analysis on the efficacy of the QuickSIN test, hoping to provide clinicians with an accurate diagnostic tool for improved quality and specificity of patient care.

*Financial Disclosures: Gabriella Brown is employed by the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders where she is compensated by hour.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Gabriella Brown has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Dimitri L. Brunelle, BA**

*University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida*

Dimitri L. Brunelle is a PhD student in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of South Florida. His research focuses on age-related hearing loss and signal-in-noise detection using mouse and human models, combining behavioral, electrophysiological, and computational approaches. Brunelle has published peer-reviewed articles in Hearing Research and Cell Calcium related to the cocktail party effect, developing a machine learning model which classifies the acoustic startle reflex in rodents, and a review on the auditory cortico-thalamic system. His work investigates auditory processing in challenging listening environments, with implications for improving treatment strategies for individuals with hearing loss and tinnitus.

*Financial Disclosures: Dimitri Brunelle has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Dimitri Brunelle has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Andrew M. Burleson, AuD, PhD**

*Mass Eye and Ear / Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts*

Andrew Burleson, AuD, PhD is a postdoctoral research fellow at Massachusetts Eye and Ear and Harvard Medical School. His research bridges clinical audiology and cognitive hearing science to individualize and improve outcomes for adults with hearing loss. Working in Dr. Julie Arenberg's lab, he investigates how cognitive and linguistic factors interact with peripheral input quality in cochlear implant users to shape speech processing efficiency, listening effort, and comprehension. His long-term goal is to develop precision-medicine tools that integrate top-down and bottom-up processes, creating clinically implementable outcome measures and individualized programming strategies that enhance real-world communication for adults with hearing loss.

*Financial Disclosures: Andrew Burleson is employed by Mass Eye and Ear / Harvard Medical School where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Andrew Burleson has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Yiyang Cai**

*Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland*

Yiyang Cai is a Master of Science (ScM) student in Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research focuses on sensory and cognitive aging, emphasizing the intersection of hearing loss, cardiovascular health, and digital health analytics. She aims to bridge epidemiologic evidence and translational applications to improve population health outcomes in older adults.



*Financial Disclosures: Yiyang Cai is a student at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Yiyang Cai has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Grace Olivia Caplan, MA**

*University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Grace Caplan is a third-year Doctor of Audiology student and R25 TRANSLATES scholar at the University of Pittsburgh. She currently works as a research assistant in the Auditory Perception and Cognition Lab under the direction of Dr. Christopher Brown. Her research focuses on how interaural time differences (ITDs) and interaural level differences (ILDs) support sound source segregation and selection in individuals with normal hearing and those with bilateral cochlear implants. Her clinical interests include cochlear implants and applying evidence-based practices to optimize patient care.

*Financial Disclosures: Grace Caplan is employed by the University of Pittsburgh where she receives an hourly wage.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Grace Caplan has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Monita Chatterjee, PhD**

*Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois*

Monita Chatterjee has a background in electrical engineering, neuroscience, and cochlear implant psychophysics. She is a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. Her work focuses on auditory and speech perception by child and adult cochlear implant users.

*Financial Disclosures: Monita Chatterjee is employed by Northwestern University where she receives a salary. Monita has a grant from the National Institutes of Health.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Monita Chatterjee has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Michael Alexander Chesnaye, PhD**

*National Acoustic Laboratories, Sydney, Australia*

Michael Chesnaye is a Biomedical Engineer specialising in auditory neuroscience and signal processing. His work focuses on statistical and computational methods for detecting brain responses to sound, with the aim of improving objective assessments of hearing. From 2015-2023, he completed his PhD and two postdoctoral positions at the University of Southampton, collaborating with Prof. Steven Bell and Prof. David Simpson on auditory evoked response detection. In 2024, he joined the National Acoustic Laboratories in Sydney, working with Dr. Viji Easwar to optimise speech-evoked EEG methods and identify neural markers predicting speech and language outcomes in infants with hearing loss.

*Financial Disclosures: Michael Chesnaye is employed by National Acoustic Laboratories where he receives a salary.*

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

## **Renée M. Christie**

*University of Maryland, Owings Mills, Maryland*

Renée Christie is a sophomore psychology major at the University of Maryland. She is a UMD-REACH (Research Equity and Access in Communication and Hearing; NIDCD R25) trainee, through which she engages in children's auditory research in the Children's Auditory Research at Maryland (ChARM) Lab.

*Financial Disclosures: Renée Christie is employed by the University of Maryland where she receives a salary. She receives funding through the UMD REACH (NIDCD R25) training program.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Renée Christie has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Hyungi Chun, PhD**

*Adelphi University, New York, New York*

Dr. Hyungi (Hannah) Chun is an Assistant Professor of Audiology at Adelphi University. She received her Ph.D. in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences from the City University of New York in 2025. Her research focuses on speech perception and listening effort in noisy environments among older adults with hearing loss and examines how the human brain encodes speech sounds in adverse listening conditions. Combining behavioral and electrophysiological approaches, Dr. Chun aims to advance understanding of auditory-cognitive processing and inform clinical strategies that enhance communication for aging listeners.

*Financial Disclosures: Hyungi Chun has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Hyungi Chun has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **King Chung, PhD**

*MGH Institute of Health Professions, Charlestown, Massachusetts*

I am an educator, a researcher, an inventor, and a humanitarian. My areas of expertise are in acoustics, amplification, calibration, humanitarian audiology, and wind noise research. My recent research has been focused on developing low-cost equipment to improve hearing healthcare access in low-resourced areas and in low- to mid-income countries. I hold three US patents with a fourth and fifth pending. I am also actively engaged in humanitarian research and service and dissemination of clinical findings. I have been leading teams of faculty, students, and professionals to different countries to provide hearing and hearing aid services since 2010.

*Financial Disclosures: King Chung is employed by MGH Institute of Health Professions. NIDCD-R13.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: King Chung received hearing aids or supplies from ReSound, Medrex, Maico, Oaktree, Microsonic to provide humanitarian services; and monetary funds from Oticon, ReSound to support student travel for humanitarian services and data collection.*

## **Taylor Ann Dalzell, BS**

*Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee*

Taylor Dalzell is a third-year Doctor of Audiology student at Vanderbilt University with research interests in auditory perception, emotion, and cognition. Taylor's research, conducted in the Hearing and Affect Perception Interest Lab, focuses on adolescents' emotional responses to sounds/pictures and adult hearing aid adoption. She



aims to integrate research and clinical practice to improve assessment and intervention strategies for diverse patient populations.

*Financial Disclosures: Taylor Dalzell receives research support from NIH NIDCD T35DC008763.*

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

## **Nimesha Didulani Dantanarayana, MS**

*University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin*

Didulani Dantanarayana is a PhD student at UW-Madison, and her research is focused on the development of speech recognition and spatial release from masking in typically developing individuals and clinical populations such as children and adults with Down syndrome and children and adults using cochlear implants or electro-acoustic stimulation. She is also interested in studying associations between speech recognition and spatial release from masking with executive functioning. She has also investigated how speech recognition and spatial release from masking change based on the predictability of the speech materials and how that impact speech recognition and usage of spatial cues.

*Financial Disclosures: Nimesha Dantanarayana is employed by the University of Wisconsin where she receives a salary. Her salary is paid by NIH grant funding*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Nimesha Dantanarayana has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Nele De Poortere, AuD, PhD**

*Ghent University, Dept. of Information Technology, Zwijnaarde, Belgium*

Nele De Poortere obtained a Master's degree in Audiology and a PhD in the same field, where she investigated the impact of noise exposure on children and young adults using subclinical diagnostic techniques. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Information Technology at Ghent University, focusing on the development of diagnostic and technological innovations for cochlear synaptopathy.

*Financial Disclosures: Nele De Poortere is employed by Ghent University where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Nele De Poortere has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Evelien Dirks, PhD**

*NSDSK | Tilburg University, Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Evelien Dirks is a professor of Early Development and Early Intervention in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children at Tilburg University. She also serves as Program Director of Research and Development at the NSDSK. Her research focuses on the cognitive, social, and language development of young children with hearing loss, as well as the effectiveness of early intervention programs supporting these children and their families.

*Financial Disclosures: Evelien Dirks is employed by NSDSK where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Evelien Dirks has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Behdad Dousti**

*Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio*

Behdad Dousti is a PhD candidate in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Cincinnati. He holds a BS in Audiology from Tehran University of Medical Sciences (Tehran, Iran). His work focuses on evaluating the association between extended high-frequency (8-16 kHz) hearing and speech-in-noise difficulties in listeners with normal standard-frequency audiograms, and on refining the clinical test battery to better differentiate high-frequency hearing loss. He has also contributed to projects evaluating speech-enhancement algorithms to improve real-world communication performance.

*Financial Disclosures: Behdad Dousti is employed by University of Cincinnati.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Behdad Dousti has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Claire M. Dorey, AuD**

*University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida*

Claire M. Dorey, Au.D. is a fourth-year Ph.D. student at the University of South Florida in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders mentored by Erol Ozmeral, Ph.D. She earned her Au.D. from the University of Florida in 2022. Her research interests are primarily in translational hearing research using animal models and human psychophysics. She is interested in developing a bench to bedside research program in the future.

*Financial Disclosures: Claire Dorey is employed by University of South Florida where she receives a salary. NIDCD 1F32DC023413.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Claire Dorey has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Gregory M. Ellis, PhD**

*Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland*

Gregory M. Ellis is a Research Scientist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. His work currently focuses on the effects of temporary changes in hearing following noise exposure and blast exposure on auditory tasks. His work also involves examining the factors that predict benefit for users of low-gain hearing aids.

*Financial Disclosures: Gregory Ellis is employed by Alaka'ina Family of Companies, LLC where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Gregory Ellis has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Hannah E. Engelken, BS**

*University of Kansas - Otolaryngology, Kansas City, Kansas*

Hannah Engelken is a 4th year student at the University of Kansas. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Central Missouri in Speech Language Pathology. She is completing her final clinical placement at the University of Kansas - Otolaryngology Department. She has an interest in adult audiological and vestibular assessment and treatment, as well as adult cochlear implant programming.

*Financial Disclosures: Hannah Engelken has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Hannah Engelken has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Janel Ensey, BS**

*Babies First Hearing Screening, Bellingham, Washington*

Janel Ensey is an audiology graduate student at Western Washington University. She received her Bachelor of Science in Speech/Language Pathology & Audiology. With years of experience as a hearing clinic administrator, the sole hearing provider in private hearing aid offices, and as a newborn hearing technician at a local hospital, she brings real world clinical experience in a variety of contexts. Janel's strengths include patient counseling, clinical problem solving, a curious approach, and a diligent work ethic. Dedicated to advancing pediatric and cochlear implant care, she strives to learn and work collaboratively with others to provide full and equitable access to hearing to everyone.

*Financial Disclosures: Janel Ensey is employed by Babies First Hearing Screening where she receives an hourly wage.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Janel Ensey has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Katie Esser, BA**

*VA RRD&T, National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research, VA Portland Medical Center, Portland, Oregon*

Katie Esser is a 4th year Doctor of Audiology (AuD) student at Towson University. She is completing her externship at the VA Portland Health Care System and National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR), under mentorship of Dr. Kelly Reavis. Katie strives to be an informed clinician-scientist, committed to advancing evidence-based practices and advocating for patients and audiologists alike.

*Financial Disclosures: Katie Esser is employed by the Portland VA Health Care System where she receives a salary.*

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

## **Jeffrey Eum**

*Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee*

Jeffrey Eum is a third-year undergraduate student at Vanderbilt University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and Medicine, Health, and Society with a minor in Chemistry. He is a recipient of the Littlejohn Family Award and a research fellow in the SyBBURE Searle Undergraduate Research Program, which supports his research in the Vanderbilt Music Cognition Lab under the mentorship of Dr. Srishti Nayak. His work primarily investigates the role of musicality, as defined by musical aptitude and engagement, in shaping long-term hearing outcomes. Following graduation, Jeffrey plans to pursue a career in medicine.

*Financial Disclosures: Jeffrey Eum is employed part-time by Vanderbilt University where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jeffrey Eum has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Avery W. Evans, BS**

*Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama*

Avery Evans, B.S., is a third-year audiology student at Auburn University's Doctor of Audiology Program. She received a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders with a Spanish minor from Samford

University. She is interested in working with the population with dual sensory loss (hearing loss and vestibular loss). Razan Al Fakir, M.D., Au.D., Ph.D, is currently serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences at Auburn University. She holds an M.D. degree in otolaryngology from Syria, a Doctor of Audiology degree (Au.D.) from Nova Southeastern University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. She is the lead researched of the Auditory, Balance, and Mobility (Ability) Research Lab.

*Financial Disclosures: Avery Evans is a student at Auburn University.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Avery Evans has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Jincong Q. Freeman, MS**

*Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois*

Jincong (Jason) Freeman is a PhD candidate and a predoctoral fellow in the NIA T32 Demography and Economics of Aging Program at the University of Chicago. He is also a research fellow in the UChicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center's Health Equity Training Program. His research focuses broadly on precision prevention, clinical prediction, aging, and survivorship. More aging research and supportive care for cancer survivors are urgently needed. Part of his work aims to identify and address unmet needs of the growing and aging population of cancer survivors and to improve their quality of life, including hearing and sensory health outcomes.

*Financial Disclosures: Jincong Freeman is a doctoral student at the University of Chicago. He is supported by a National Institute on Aging T32 training program (grant number: T32AG000243).*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jincong Freeman has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Emily Fullington, BS**

*Utah State University, Logan, Utah*

Emily Fullington is a Doctor of Audiology student at Utah State University. She earned a B.S. in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from the University of Washington in 2022. Emily has been involved in research throughout her time at Utah State University, both as a student researcher and as a graduate assistant. She is passionate about helping patients find answers and achieve their desired quality of life through hearing solutions.

*Financial Disclosures: Emily Fullington has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Emily Fullington has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Emily Gao, BS**

*Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, Baltimore, Maryland*

Emily Gao, BS, is a first-year medical student at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Her research focuses on hearing loss, music engagement, and the patient and caregiver decision-making processes. She employs mixed-methods approaches that integrate quantitative analysis with qualitative and user-experience design techniques such as semi-structured interviews, persona development, and journey mapping to understand the lived experiences of individuals with hearing loss. Before medical school, she worked in

management consulting at L.E.K. Consulting, advising life sciences companies, and earned her BS in Cognitive Science with a Specialization in Computing from the University of California, Los Angeles.

*Financial Disclosures: Emily Gao is currently a student.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Emily Gao has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Aditi Gargeshwari, PhD**

*University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, Wisconsin*

I am a postdoctoral research associate in the Binaural Hearing and Speech Laboratory. My research focuses on understanding how different acoustic cues present in sounds are processed along different levels of the auditory neuraxis and how these neural representations are altered by varying degrees of hearing loss. I earned my Ph.D. from Purdue University where I studied auditory neural processing in hearing aid users. Currently, I'm expanding my research to explore the neural underpinnings of spatial hearing in cochlear implant users. I'm particularly interested in how this relates to decision-making certainty and cognitive effort. My work employs a multifaceted approach, combining EEG and behavioral measures to gain comprehensive insights into binaural auditory processing.

*Financial Disclosures: Aditi Gargeshwari is employed by University of Wisconsin-Madison.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Aditi Gargeshwari has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Dilek Gas, BA**

*T35 Trainee-- AuD Student, Brooklyn, New York*

Dilek Gas is a 3rd-year AuD student at Adelphi University - N.Y AuD Consortium. She has a deep interest in research and clinical applications of electrophysiological testing in the field of Audiology. She completed an NIH T35 Research Traineeship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center during the Summer of 2025, where her research focused on clinical implementation of cortical auditory evoked potentials.

*Financial Disclosures: Dilek Gas has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Dilek Gas has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Steven P. Gianakas, AuD, PhD**

*Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois*

Steven Gianakas is an assistant professor at Rush University Medical Center. His research focuses on speech perception in adults and children who are hard of hearing. Specifically, he his work examines how listening with a hearing loss can be an effortful experience.

*Financial Disclosures: Steven Gianakas is employed by Rush University Medical Center where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Steven Gianakas has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Leah N. Gibbs, AuD**

*Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska*

Leah is a research and clinical audiologist at Boys Town National Research Hospital. She works with Dr. Gabrielle Merchant in the Translational Auditory Physiology and Perception (TAPP) Laboratory, which specializes in improving the identification and treatment of middle ear dysfunction in children. Clinically, Leah specializes in pediatric and adult hearing aid services and diagnostic testing (including vestibular evaluation and auditory brainstem response evaluation). Leah received her bachelor's degree and Doctorate of Audiology at the University of Iowa. She completed her fourth-year clinical and research externship at Boys Town.

*Financial Disclosures: Leah Gibbs is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital where she receives a salary. Support was received from the National Institutes of Health through the NIGMS award number P20GM109023 and NIDCD award numbers R01DC021320 and R56DC021320.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Leah Gibbs has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Katherine R. Gordon, PhD**

*Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska*

Dr. Katherine Gordon studies word learning in children with typical development and children with developmental language disorder (DLD). The overall goals of her research are 1. To understand how children refine representations of word forms and meanings across multiple training sessions (i.e., slow mapping) and 2. To determine children's ability to retain word learning across post-training intervals, such as 1 month later. Through her research she explores how individual factors (e.g., receptive vocabulary knowledge), language input (e.g., learning protocol), and environmental factors (e.g., background noise) interact to affect both word learning and post-training retention.

*Financial Disclosures: Katherine Gordon is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital. NIH-NICHD.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Katherine Gordon has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Matthew Goupell, PhD**

*University of Maryland-College Park, College Park, Maryland*

Matthew Goupell is a professor in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at the University of Maryland. He received a B.S. in physics at Hope College in Holland, MI (2001) and a Ph.D. in physics at Michigan State University (2005). He was a post-doc at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, Austria and the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His current research focuses on binaural hearing, the effects of aging on temporal processing, and cochlear implants by combining human psychoacoustical with objective measurements (computed-tomography scans, electrophysiological measurements).

*Financial Disclosures: Matthew Goupell is employed by University of Maryland where he receives a salary. He has an NIH grant that supports this research.*

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

## **Hannah Diane Green, BS**

*University of Pittsburgh Department of Communication Science and Disorders, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*



Hannah Green is a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh pursuing a Doctorate in Audiology. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Communication Disorders from Brigham Young University, where her experiences with the Deaf community and her Deaf sister inspired her passion for family-centered and accessible hearing care. Her research interests include cochlear implants, spatial hearing, and early identification and intervention for children with hearing loss. She aims to bridge clinical practice and research to improve outcomes for children and families navigating hearing healthcare.

*Financial Disclosures: Hannah Green has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Hannah Green has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **O'neil Guthrie, PhD**

*Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona*

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. U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity Award.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: O'neil Guthrie has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Leanna M. Hair, BA**

*University at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York*

Leanna Hair is a third year AuD student and graduate student researcher in the Listening Experience Lab at the University at Buffalo. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Disorders from the State University of New York at New Paltz.

*Financial Disclosures: Leanna Hair is employed by the University at Buffalo.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Leanna Hair has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Sara E. Harris, AuD**

*Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska*

Sara E. Harris received an Au.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2015 and completed postdoctoral training at the Medical University of South Carolina in 2017. Sara's current role as a Senior Research Audiologist in the Communication Engineering Laboratory (directed by Stephen Neely) at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, NE, USA involves work pertaining to cochlear mechanics, suprathreshold hearing deficits, and development/evaluation of signal processing strategies.

*Financial Disclosures: Sara Harris is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital. NIDCD R01-DC0008318.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Sara Harris has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Sarah Haysley, BA**

*University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah*

I am currently an Au.D./Ph.D. student at the University of Utah. The focus of my research is to understand how dysfunction of the peripheral auditory system and auditory efferent system contribute to speech-in-noise difficulties. To achieve this goal, I utilize electrocochleography to study auditory efferent physiology in populations of listeners with hearing loss and normal hearing. I have served as a teaching assistant for undergraduate, graduate, and study abroad courses at the University of Utah. My community service includes providing audiological services to underserved populations and promoting audiology careers through workshops and career fairs for elementary through high school students.

*Financial Disclosures: Sarah Haysley is employed by University of Utah.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Sarah Haysley has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Melissa Rose Henry, AuD**

*Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska*

Melissa R. Henry, AuD CCC-A is a research audiologist in the Audibility, Perception and Cognition Lab & Child Auditory Technology Lab at Boys Town National Research Hospital. She previously worked as a clinical audiologist providing diagnostic and intervention services across the lifespan. She is passionate about improving outcomes for children with hearing loss through advancements in treatment and technology.

*Financial Disclosures: Melissa Henry is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Melissa Henry has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Harrison Charles Holmes, BS**

*University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida*

Harrison Holmes is pursuing an Au.D./Ph.D. Dual-Degree at the University of South Florida and is conducting research in the Speech Perception and Auditory Neuroscience (SPAN) Lab under the direction of Dr. Michelle Kapolowicz. His research focuses on tinnitus and its interactions with auditory processes like high frequency hearing loss, hidden hearing loss, and listening effort. He is also evaluating the effects of low-dose nicotine on speech perception abilities for individuals with normal and pathological hearing. He aims to expand his training to include cochlear implant research and integrate clinical audiology with translational neuroscience to improve outcomes for individuals with hearing loss.

*Financial Disclosures: Harrison Holmes has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Harrison Holmes has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Selena Hopkins, BS**

*University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona*

Selena Hopkins, BS is a third-year audiology doctoral student at the University of Arizona and conducted this research under the mentorship of G. Christopher Stecker, PhD. They are an incoming audiology extern at Boys

Town National Research Hospital, where they will continue their clinical and research training. As a graduate student clinician, Selena has administered audiologic services locally and internationally to patients from diverse backgrounds and across private practice, education, humanitarian, and hospital clinical settings. Their research interests include spectral cues for spatial hearing, the impacts of cognition on speech recognition ability, and music perception and cognition.

*Financial Disclosures: Selena Hopkins has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Selena Hopkins has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Jiong Hu, AuD, PhD**

*University of the Pacific, San Francisco, California*

Jiong Hu, Ph.D., Au.D., is an Associate Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Audiology at the University of the Pacific. His research focuses on auditory electrophysiology, hearing device validation, and age- and language-related effects on neural encoding of sound. Dr. Hu has authored peer-reviewed publications and presented extensively at national and international conferences. His funded projects include studies on hearing technology, auditory processing, and clinical education innovation. A dedicated mentor and educator, Dr. Hu has guided numerous Au.D. students in research and professional development.

*Financial Disclosures: Jiong Hu is employed by University of the Pacific where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jiong Hu has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Haiping Huang, AuD**

*Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee*

Haiping Huang is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. He received his Au.D. in 2021 at Vanderbilt. His research interests include emotion perception, listening effort, and hearing aids.

*Financial Disclosures: Haiping Huang has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

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

## **Isabella Evelyn Rae Huddleston, BS**

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana*

Isabella graduated with a BA in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a minor in biology from the University of Northern Iowa. She is currently in her third year of Purdue's Audiology Clinical Doctorate program. Her clinical interests in audiology include pediatrics, cochlear implants, medical and research audiology. At Purdue, Bella has a research assistant position with Dr. Michael Heinz and is part of the Audiology Research Diagnostics Core (ARDC). She is studying the effects of noise exposure on clinical measures of hearing.

*Financial Disclosures: Isabella Huddleston is employed by Purdue University where she receives a stipend., NIDCD SBIR Grant (NIDCD,R44-DC021123).*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Isabella Huddleston has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Chanel Hudson, BA**

*University at Buffalo Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences, Buffalo, New York*

Chanel Hudson is a third-year Doctor of Audiology student at the University at Buffalo. She previously served as Vice President for Government Affairs and Public Policy for the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association and as a member of the ASHA Government Affairs and Public Policy Board. Her work focuses on equitable access to audiology education, admissions practices, and student support within clinical training.

*Financial Disclosures: Chanel Hudson has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Chanel Hudson has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Cynthia R. Hunter, PhD**

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas*

Cynthia Hunter is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing: Sciences and Disorders at the University of Kansas. Her research focuses on the neural and cognitive factors that support individuals with and without hearing loss in understanding speech in adverse listening conditions. Dr. Hunter earned her Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2016 and completed postdoctoral fellowships at Indiana University and the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute before coming to the University of Kansas. At KU, she directs the Speech Perception, Cognition, and Hearing Lab.

*Financial Disclosures: Cynthia Hunter is employed by the University of Kansas where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Cynthia Hunter has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Valerie Alexandra Ingalls, BA**

*University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa*

Valerie Ingalls is a doctoral candidate in the University of Iowa's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Her research focuses on investigating the genetics and other risk factors underlying acquired hearing disorders, with the goal of developing the foundational knowledge needed to advance toward precision medicine in audiology. She uses both traditional statistics and machine learning methods to explore genome-wide and phenome-wide effects on hearing.

*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.*

## **Kyleigh Jackson, BA**

*Graduate Student, Memphis, Tennessee*

Kyleigh Jackson is a fourth year dual Au.D/Ph.D student at the University of Memphis. She completed her undergraduate studies at Louisiana State University and graduated with her B.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders in 2021. Her current research seeks to investigate the connections between dichotic listening, speech perception, and speech production. This research aims to further emphasize the importance of the central

auditory system in relation to speech perception and production. She hopes that her findings will be used to guide assessment and management in both the speech and hearing clinical populations.

*Financial Disclosures: Kyleigh Jackson is a PhD student receiving funding through a graduate assistantship provided by the University of Memphis.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Kyleigh Jackson has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Carlotta Micaela Jarach, PhD**

*Optimal Aging Institute NYU Langone Health, New York, New York*

Carlotta M. Jarach is an epidemiologist specialized in aging and hearing research, including tinnitus. She earned her Ph.D. in 2024 from Maastricht University (Netherlands), focusing on tinnitus epidemiology. Jarach had research positions at the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research in Milan, Italy (2018-2019, and 2021-2024) and at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheva, Israel (2020-2021). Since 2025, she has been a postdoctoral fellow at NYU Grossman School of Medicine's Optimal Aging Institute, studying hearing loss, to improve sensory care for older adults.

*Financial Disclosures: Carlotta Micaela Jarach is employed by NYU Langone Health where she receives a salary*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Carlotta Micaela Jarach I has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Mona Jawad, BS**

*Program in Audiology and Communication Sciences, Washington University - St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri*

Mona Jawad is a PhD student in Speech and Hearing Science with a focus on applied computation. With her bioengineering background, she seeks to use machine learning to create new clinical tools and investigate patterns in audiological data. She is also passionate about finding new ways to analyze and approach imaging data to improve our understanding of the inner ear.

*Financial Disclosures: Mona Jawad has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Mona Jawad has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Wiktor Jedrzejczak, PhD**

*Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing, Warsaw, Poland*

W. Wiktor Jedrzejczak is a Polish audiologist and signal-processing researcher affiliated with the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing (Warsaw/Kajetany). His work focuses on cochlear mechanics and the analysis of otoacoustic emissions (OAEs), employing advanced time-frequency methods to better interpret transiently-evoked OAEs. He has contributed significantly to screening and research in hearing diagnostics, particularly in pediatric and partial-deafness populations.

*Financial Disclosures: Wiktor Jedrzejczak is employed by Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing, Warsaw, Poland.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Wiktor Jedrzejczak has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Penelope Williamson Coe Jeffers, PhD**

*Mass Eye and Ear, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts*

Penelope Jeffers is a postdoctoral research fellow in Otolaryngology at Harvard Medical School, working in the Mass Eye and Ear laboratory of Dr. Sharon Kujawa. She studies the functional and histological outcomes of noise exposure and aging, with a current focus on the vulnerability and regenerative potential of auditory neurons after insult. Her recent work aims to address questions about the impact of cochlear synaptopathy on speech-in-noise perception. Dr. Jeffers hopes that her research will identify functional tests that could clarify treatment targets and outcomes in humans.

*Financial Disclosures: Penelope Jeffers is employed by Mass Eye and Ear where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Penelope Jeffers has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Alexander Carl Jennings, BS**

*Utah State University, Logan, Utah*

Alex Jennings is a second-year Audiology Doctoral Student at Utah State University. He attended Brigham Young University-Idaho and graduated with a B.S. in Public Health in 2022. He also spent some time studying at Idaho State University, taking some of the classes in ISU's Pre-Audiology Pre-professional Certificate. He is very interested in working with veterans of the US armed forces and is passionate about providing effective patient-specific care. He also has an interest in working in the balance subfield of audiology.

*Financial Disclosures: Alexander Jennings has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Alexander Jennings has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Skyler G. Jennings, AuD, PhD**

*University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah*

Skyler Jennings is an Associate Professor and Associate Chair in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Utah. The long-term goal of his research is to understand and treat the difficulty hearing loss imposes on comprehending speech in noisy backgrounds. He achieves this understanding by carefully establishing the relationship between auditory perception and physiology. This understanding will lead to improved models of hearing, hearing devices, and speech recognition systems.

*Financial Disclosures: Skyler Jennings is employed by the University of Utah. Skyler's research is currently supported by awards from the US Department of Defense and Air Force.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Skyler Jennings has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Erik Jorgensen, AuD, PhD**

*University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin*

Erik Jorgensen, AuD, PhD, CCC-A is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he directs the Soundscape and Audiology Research Laboratory. His research focuses on the real-world acoustic environments listeners experience, how to measure acoustic environments in daily life, and how acoustic environments interact with hearing loss and audiologic intervention.



*Financial Disclosures: Erik Jorgensen is employed by the University of Wisconsin Madison. Erik receives funding from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the NIH/NIDCD.*

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

## **Jane Khin, AuD**

*Boys Town National Research Hospital, Boys Town, Nebraska*

Jane Khin is a clinical and research audiologist at Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH) in Omaha, Nebraska. She works with the Translational Auditory Physiology and Perception (TAPP) Laboratory, which specializes in improving the identification and management of otitis media with effusion in children. Through this hybrid role, Dr. Khin has been able to serve as a liaison between clinicians and researchers while creating protocols and guidelines for implementing wideband tympanometry in the Audiology and ENT clinics at BTNRH.

*Financial Disclosures: Jane Khin is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital where she receives a salary. Support was received from the National Institutes of Health through the NIGMS award number P20GM109023 and NIDCD award numbers R01DC021320 and R56DC021320.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jane Khin has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Jina Kim, PhD**

*University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa*

Dr. Jina Kim is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa. She received her Ph.D. from the same department in 2024, where she specialized in inhibitory processing during language comprehension. Her training integrates electrophysiology, eye-tracking, and behavioral methods to investigate sentence processing across the normal population and individuals with language difficulties. During her doctoral and postdoctoral work, Dr. Kim has published three peer-reviewed articles in leading journals. Her research bridges basic science and applied perspectives, with the long-term goal of informing interventions for individuals with language and communication disorders.

*Financial Disclosures: Jina Kim is employed by University of Iowa.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jina Kim has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Hailey Anne Kingsbury, AuD**

*Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona*

Hailey Kingsbury, Au.D., CCC-A is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Mayo Clinic Arizona. She obtained her Doctorate of Audiology from University of Iowa (2025), and she completed her fourth-year externship at Mayo Clinic Arizona (2024-25). She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Aerospace Sciences from the University of North Dakota with a Human Factors specialization. Hailey's current work at Mayo is being done in collaboration with the Aerospace Medicine Department, Division of Audiology, and the Aerospace Medicine and Vestibular Research Lab (AMVRL).

*Financial Disclosures: Hailey Kingsbury is employed by Mayo Clinic where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Hailey Kingsbury has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Katherine Austin Kingsbury, BS**

*University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa*

Katherine Kingsbury, B.S., is a third-year Doctorate of Audiology and Doctor of Philosophy student at the University of Iowa. She is a Research Assistant in Dr. Elizabeth Walker's Pediatric Audiology and Language Lab and is completing her capstone on the impacts of PE tubes on audiometric thresholds. Katie has done past research on language acquisition and development in children using American Sign Language in Dr. Aaron Shield's Sign Language and Autism Lab at Miami University.

*Financial Disclosures: Katherine Kingsbury is employed by the University of Iowa where she receives a salary. She received travel support from the University of Iowa.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Katherine Kingsbury is a member of National NSSLHA's Executive Council.*

## **Sarah Elizabeth Kingsbury, AuD**

*Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona*

Sarah Kingsbury, Au.D., CCC-A is a Principal Research Technologist working in the Aerospace Medicine and Vestibular Research Lab (AMVRL) at Mayo Clinic Arizona. She earned her Doctorate of Audiology from the University of Iowa (2023) and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Aerospace Sciences, Aviation Emphasis, from the University of North Dakota. Her current work focuses on the mitigation and measurement of motion sickness in dynamic, operational environments along with innovation user experience research supported by the Mayo Clinic Business Department and Mayo Clinic Research Innovation.

*Financial Disclosures: Sarah Kingsbury is employed by Mayo Clinic where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Sarah Kingsbury has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Kelsey Klein, AuD, PhD**

*House Institute Foundation, Los Angeles, California*

Kelsey Klein is a pediatric research scientist at the House Institute Foundation. Her research focuses on the effects of auditory access and cognitive skills on the listening and spoken language outcomes of school-age children who use hearing aids and/or cochlear implants. She is particularly interested in identifying malleable audiologic, language, and environmental factors that support effective communication for school-age children and adolescents in everyday life.

*Financial Disclosures: Kelsey Klein is employed by the House Institute Foundation where she receives a salary. She receives funding support through research grants from the National Institutes of Health and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Kelsey Klein has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Tess K. Koerner, AuD, PhD**

*NCRAR, Portland, Oregon*

Dr. Koerner, PhD, AuD, CCC-A is a Research Investigator at the VA RR&D NCRAR and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at Oregon Health and Science University. Her work is focused on gaining a better understanding the effects of aging, hearing loss, and brain injury on the neural coding and perception of speech in noise. She currently has funding from a VA Career Development Award-2 and an NIH-NIA R01AG077725.

*Financial Disclosures: Tess Koerner is employed by the Portland VA Medical Center and Oregon Health & Science University where she receives a salary. VA Career Development Award-2 (RX003941).*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Tess Koerner has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Petri Korhonen, MS**

*ORCA-US, WS Audiology, Lisle, Illinois*

Petri Korhonen received his M.Sc. (Tech) degree in electrical engineering from Helsinki University of Technology (HUT)(Aalto University). He has been part of ORCA-US WS Audiology research group since 2006, currently working as a principal scientist.

*Financial Disclosures: Petri Korhonen is employed by WS Audiology where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Petri Korhonen has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Myra Kraemer, BS**

*Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska*

Myra is a Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 2021. Currently, she is completing her fourth-year clinical and research externship at Boys Town National Research Hospital. Myra's primary interests in audiology include working with patients across the lifespan and investigating real-world outcomes of hearing aid use in both pediatric and adult populations.

*Financial Disclosures: Myra Kraemer is an audiology extern at Boys Town National Research Hospital where she receives a stipend.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Myra Kraemer has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Sophia Kreismer, BS**

*University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida*

Sophia Kreismer is a University of South Florida third-year Doctorate of Audiology student from Bradenton, Florida. She earned her B.S. in Speech and Hearing Sciences with a minor in Linguistics from Indiana University in Bloomington. Sophia's clinical interests lie in hearing aids, cognition, and working with adults. She also currently serves as the President to the Student Academy of Audiology USF chapter and works as a Research Assistant in the Clinical Translational Amplification Research (CTAR) Lab directed by Dr. Varsha Rallapalli.

*Financial Disclosures: Sophia Kreismer is employed by University of South Florida, where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Sophia Kreismer has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Sinnet G. B. Kristensen, PhD**

*Interacoustics Research Unit, Kongens Lyngby, Denmark*

Sinnet G. B. Kristensen is employed at the Interacoustics Research Unit, where she has worked with electrophysiology and published papers on the topic of verification of new stimulus design for Auditory Brainstem Response. The work presented here is part of her industrial PhD project carried out in collaboration between the Technical University of Denmark and the Interacoustics Research Unit.

*Financial Disclosures: Sinnet Kristensen is employed by Interacoustics A/S, where she receives a salary. This work was partially supported by the Innovation Fund Denmark (grant 9065-00094B) and the William Demant Foundation (case number 18-4021). She is a shareholder in Demant A/S.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Sinnet Kristensen has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Eden Landry, BA**

*School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee*

Eden Landry is a third-year doctor of audiology student at the University of Memphis. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Louisiana State University. Eden is a student researcher at the Pediatric Auditory Research Laboratory under the direction of Dr. Thierry Morlet, PhD. She is also the Hospitality Chair of her university's Student Academy of Audiology and holds a graduate assistantship managing clinical equipment. Eden participated in the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities program, gaining experience in interdepartmental collaboration in pediatric care. She is passionate about improving outcomes for children with auditory disorders.

*Financial Disclosures: Eden Landry is employed by the University of Memphis where she receives a graduate assistant scholarship.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Eden Landry has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Sean Gerrit Lang, BS**

*House Institute Foundation, Los Angeles, California*

Sean Lang is a clinical research coordinator at the House Institute Foundation. He supports research across all programs at House, including research on cochlear implants, Meniere's disease, acoustic neuroma and neurofibromatosis type 2, sudden sensorineural hearing loss, and pediatric hearing health. He completed his B.S. in neuroscience and Spanish linguistics at the University of Michigan in 2019, where his undergraduate thesis examined cross-language influence on filled pauses in bilingual Spanish-Afrikaans speakers.

*Financial Disclosures: Sean Lang is employed by the House Institute Foundation where he receives a salary. Sean receives funding support through research grants from the National Institutes of Health and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Sean Lang has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Mackenzie Lighterink, AuD**

*Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee*

Mackenzie Lighterink is a cochlear implant audiologist and PhD candidate at Vanderbilt University. Her research interests include the impact of hearing loss, specifically electric hearing through cochlear implants, on the acquisition phonological skills and perception.

*Financial Disclosures: Mackenzie Lighterink is employed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She is funded for her PhD by a Leadership Grant from the U.S. Department of Education (H325D220072).*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Mackenzie Lighterink has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Jiayue Liu, PhD**

*Starkey Laboratories, Eden Prairie, Minnesota*

Jiayue Liu is a Research Scientist in the Department of Clinical and Audiological Research at Starkey. Before joining Starkey in 2025, she completed her PhD degree in Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University, with a focus on hearing difficulties in noise. She also received her master's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering en route to her PhD. Her research interests include speech perception in noise, EEG, longitudinal analysis and computational modeling.

*Financial Disclosures: Jiayue Liu is employed by Starkey where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jiayue Liu has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Tanya Liu, BS**

*Doctor of Audiology Student, West Lafayette, Indiana*

Tanya Liu, B.S., is a third-year Doctor of Audiology (AuD) student at Purdue University. Her research interests include auditory electrophysiology, precision audiology, and translational diagnostics. Under the mentorship of Dr. Ananthanarayan Krishnan, she is investigating objective, non-behavioral methods for identifying cochlear dead regions using masked auditory brainstem responses. Her long-term goal is to integrate electrophysiologic tools into clinical practice to enhance the precision and accessibility of hearing assessments for all patient populations.

*Financial Disclosures: Tanya Liu has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Tanya Liu has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Yuetong Toria Liu**

*Epidemiology Department, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland*

Yuetong (Torja) Liu is a Master of Health Science student in Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She previously earned an MPH in Sociomedical Sciences from Columbia University. Her research focuses on aging and hearing loss, using large cohort studies such as the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study and the National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS).

*Financial Disclosures: Yuetong Liu has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Yuetong Liu has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Yueyang Catherine Lu**

*Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts*

Yueyang Catherine Lu is a B.S. engineering student at Smith College and expects to graduate in May 2027. She has worked in the Voss lab at Smith College on machine learning in WAI measurements since May 2025.

*Financial Disclosures: Yueyang Lu is a student at Smith College.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Yueyang Lu has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Vinaya Manchaiah, AuD, MBA, PhD**

*University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, Colorado*

Vinaya Manchaiah, AuD, MBA, PhD serves as the Professor of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and as the Director of Audiology at the University of Colorado Hospital (UCHealth). He is the Principal Investigator at the Virtual Hearing Lab. He also has a position as an Extraordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and an Adjunct Professor at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India. He has worked in various clinical, research, teaching, and administrative roles, although his current academic appointment centres predominantly on research and clinical leadership. His research mainly focuses on improving the accessibility, affordability, and outcomes of hearing and balance disorders, by promoting self-management and using digital technologies. He has authored over 270 peer-reviewed manuscripts and 6 textbooks

*Financial Disclosures: Vinaya Manchaiah is employed by University of Colorado where he receives a salary. Funding received funding from the National Institute of Health (NIH), the University of Colorado, William Dement Foundation, Sonova Holding AG, and Advanced Bionics. He serves as the Scientific Advisor for hearX SA (Pty) Ltd and consultant for Amgen Inc., Viridian Therapeutics Inc., and Coppersmith Brockelman Lawyers where he is paid a consulting fee.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Vinaya Manchaiah has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Negin Mansoori**

*Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts*

Negin Mansoori is a senior B.S. engineering student at Smith College and will graduate in May 2026. She has worked in the Voss Lab since September 2024.

*Financial Disclosures: Negin Mansoori is an undergraduate student at Smith College.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Negin Mansoori has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Marissa J. Merrifield, AuD**

*Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York*

Marissa Merrifield received her AuD from Syracuse University in 2025 after completing her clinical externship at the Mayo Clinic in Florida. She is currently a PhD candidate in the Hearing Aids Laboratory at Syracuse University and her research focuses on diagnostics and hearing rehabilitation for older adults.

*Financial Disclosures: Marissa Merrifield is a student and employee at Syracuse University, where she receives a salary.*



*Non-Financial Disclosures: Marissa Merrifield has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Melissa Mikkelson, BA**

*National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research, Portland, Oregon*

Melissa Mikkelson is a fourth-year Doctor of Audiology student at the University of South Dakota completing her externship at the VA Portland Health Care System and the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research. Her research interests include tinnitus, the effects of traumatic brain injury on the auditory system and expanding access to hearing healthcare through tele-audiology. She has contributed to multiple VA-affiliated research projects focused on improving diagnostic accuracy and clinical outcomes for individuals with tinnitus and hearing loss.

*Financial Disclosures: Melissa Mikkelson is employed by Portland VA Medical Center where she receives a salary. This abstract is the result of work supported by a VA RRDT Merit Award (I01RX003924; PI Theodoroff) and with resources and the use of facilities at the VA National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (#C2361C/I50 RX002361), at the VA Portland Health Care System in Portland, Oregon. The content does not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, or United States government.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Melissa Mikkelson has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Margaret K. Miller, AuD**

*Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska*

Maggie Miller is a Research Audiologist in the Human Auditory Development Lab at Boys Town National Research Hospital. Dr. Miller completed her clinical audiology training at the University of Texas in Austin in 2011. Before coming to Boys Town, Dr. Miller worked as a research audiologist at the New York University School of Medicine. Currently, Dr. Miller is responsible for conducting a wide variety of hearing research studies involving infants, children, and adults with and without Down syndrome. Dr. Miller's main clinical and research interests include auditory development, specifically related to speech perception in complex listening environments.

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

## **Claire R. Mitchell, BA**

*Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee*

Claire Mitchell is a third-year Doctor of Audiology student at Vanderbilt University on the Vestibular Specialty Track. She will complete her externship at Penn Medicine next year. Her research focuses on cortical-vestibular interactions, EEG markers of sensory processing, and how cortical arousal influences vestibular responsiveness. Clinically, Claire has experience in both pediatric and adult vestibular audiology and is interested in bridging clinical practice with translational vestibular research.

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*Non-Financial Disclosures: Claire Mitchell has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Abigail Mollison, BS**

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana*

Abigail A. Mollison is a PhD student in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at Purdue University. She received her bachelor's degree in Neuroscience and French/Francophone Studies at Creighton University in 2022. Her research interests include improving functional neuroimaging methodologies, concurrent neuroimaging studies, test-retest reliability, and auditory perception in cochlear implant users.

*Financial Disclosures: Abigail Mollison is employed by Purdue University as a true fellow and receives a stipend from a training grant., Abigail has external grant funding to disclose: NIH-NIDCD T32DC016853.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Abigail Mollison has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Sara Momtaz, AuD, PhD**

*Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska*

Sarah Mumtaz, AuD, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Boys Town National Research Hospital, where she studies the mechanisms of binaural processing in individuals with normal and impaired hearing. Her research employs behavioral and electrophysiological approaches to examine how asymmetric hearing alters spatial perception and how the brain adapts to such conditions. She earned her PhD in Auditory Neuroscience from the University of Memphis and her AuD from Drexel University.

*Financial Disclosures: Sara Momtaz is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Sara Momtaz has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Leila Christine Moore, BS**

*University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona*

Leila Moore is a second-year Doctor of Audiology student at the University of Arizona, pursuing a Multicultural Bilingual Certificate. She recently completed a T35 research traineeship at Boys Town National Research Hospital, contributing to a project examining audiometric and vestibular outcomes in individuals with enlarged vestibular aqueducts. At the University of Arizona's Vestibular Research Lab, she recently led a study investigating how oVEMP reference electrode contamination affects diagnostic accuracy. Her research interests include vestibular diagnostics, pediatric hearing loss, and improving access to hearing healthcare for bilingual and underserved populations.

*Financial Disclosures: Leila Moore is employed by University of Arizona where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Leila Moore has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Ava Moran**

*T35 Trainee Vanderbilt University, AuD Student at University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida*

Ava Moran is an Au.D. student at the University of Florida and 2025 T35 Research Trainee at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Her research interests include amplification and decision-making biases in hearing healthcare.

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*Non-Financial Disclosures: Ava Moran has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Saranya Arya Mundayoor**

*The University of Texas at Dallas, Dallas, Texas*

Saranya Mundayoor is a third-year PhD student in the Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences program in Dr. Edward Lobarinas' Translational Auditory Perception lab at the University of Texas at Dallas. She is currently working on exploring the speech perception abilities in individuals with normal hearing as well as improving aided outcomes in individuals with hearing loss.

*Financial Disclosures: Saranya Mundayoor is employed by the University of Texas at Dallas where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Saranya Mundayoor has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Linnea Qiuyu Munro, BS**

*Western Washington University, Fremont, California*

Linnea Munro is a fourth-year Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) student at Western Washington University. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Biology at McGill University. She is currently completing her Audiology externship at Stanford Ear Institute with a research and clinical focus. Leveraging her computer science background, she explores applications of "big data" in hearing research. Linnea plans to pursue a Ph.D. following the completion of her Au.D. to further investigate the intersection of technology and auditory perception.

*Financial Disclosures: Linnea Munro is employed by Stanford where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Linnea Munro has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Ramesh Kumar Muralimanohar, PhD**

*Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado*

Ramesh, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Northern Colorado, works on understanding individual variability in complex speech perception. He aims to integrate physiological, cognitive, and perceptual processes into predictive models of speech perception in everyday situations. He hopes this would benefit older individuals and those with hearing impairments navigate these spaces. He completed his postdoctoral training at the University of Colorado Boulder and the VA RR&D National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research. He holds degrees in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and Electrical Engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder.

*Financial Disclosures: Ramesh Kumar Muralimanohar is employed by University of Northern Colorado where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Ramesh Kumar Muralimanohar has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Jonathan D. Neukam, AuD**

*Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee*

Jonathan Neukam graduated with his Doctor of Audiology degree in 2014 from Indiana University. He has maintained certification in intraoperative monitoring since 2015 and has worked as a research audiologist extensively in cochlear implants. Jonathan is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University under the advisement of Aaron C. Moberly, MD and Terrin N. Tamati, PhD. His research interests are prediction of cochlear implant outcomes and expanding access and utilization of cochlear implants.

*Financial Disclosures: Jonathan Neukam has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jonathan Neukam has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Andrew Joseph Olliff, BA**

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana*

I am a second year audiology student at Purdue University. I work as a research assistant in the Heinz lab working with both human and animal models of sensorineural hearing loss.

*Financial Disclosures: Andrew Olliff is employed by Purdue University.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Andrew Olliff has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Kirsten Osborn, BS**

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois*

Kirsten Osborn received her Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in May of 2023. She is currently a third-year Doctor of Audiology student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. In the future, Kirsten would like to assist medically underserved communities by providing audiologic services. She joined Dr. Ian B. Mertes' laboratory in 2021.

*Financial Disclosures: Kirsten Osborn is employed by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she receives an assistantship. Her research assistantship is supported by NIH/NIDCD (R21 DC020258).*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Kirsten Osborn has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Monika-Maria Oster, PhD**

*Listen and Talk / Western Washington University, Kirkland, Washington*

Monika-Maria (Mona) Oster, Ph.D., CED, LSLS cert. AVT, is a teacher of the deaf, LSL Mentor, and auditory researcher. Dr. Oster completed her graduate education in Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of Washington and in Early Intervention in Deaf Education at Fontbonne University. As the Education and Research Director she leads the preschool-age educational programming and research at Listen and Talk (Kirkland, WA), which is a specialized program that supports children who are deaf/hard of hearing and their families. Dr. Oster is also a Research Associate at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA.

*Financial Disclosures: Monika-Maria Oster is employed by Listen and Talk where she receives a salary. This work was supported by the ASH Foundation and the EAA.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Monika-Maria Oster has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Eunice Y. Park, PhD**

*Montclair State University, Montclair, New Jersey*

Eunice Park, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of the Department of Public Health in the College for Community Health at Montclair State University. Her academic research and interests have been on various renditions of social capital and health outcomes, mostly perceived health. In grad school, she focused on neighborhood level sense of community and social support and its association to mental health. She has been working to evaluate early adult-onset hearing loss among middle-aged individuals and their impact on social connectedness or isolation, mental health, potential earnings, and more.

*Financial Disclosures: Eunice Park is employed by Montclair State University where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Eunice Park has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Caroline K. Paroby, BA**

*MED-EL US, Durham, North Carolina*

The presenter, Caroline K. Paroby, is a fourth-year Doctor of Audiology candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is completing her externship year with the UNC Health Adult Audiology Program. She is a research assistant in the North American Research Laboratory at MED-EL US in Durham, NC. Caroline's research interests include improving outcomes for cochlear implant users including studies of speech perception, coding strategies, and evolving clinical recommendations for clinical audiologists. At the 2025 American Auditory Society Conference, she will present her latest findings on the effect of talker on AzBio speech perception for cochlear implant users.

*Financial Disclosures: Caroline Paroby is employed by MED-EL US where she receives hourly payment.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Caroline Paroby has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Ann Perreau, PhD**

*Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois*

Dr. Ann Perreau is a professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. At Augustana College, Ann teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on hearing science and audiology. Dr. Perreau also offers audiological services focused on tinnitus and hyperacusis at the Roseman Center for Speech, Language, and Hearing. She is also the current President-elect for the Illinois Academy of Audiology. Dr. Perreau's research contributions include tinnitus and hyperacusis assessment, questionnaire development, and the publication of multiple peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. 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.*

## **Erik Alan Petersen, PhD**

*University of Washington, Seattle, Washington*

My research experience has focused on developing physics and non-physics based modeling approaches for complex engineering topics in acoustics and the auditory system. This work has prompted me to apply my modeling capabilities in the electrophysiological and psychophysical domains of the human auditory system.

*Financial Disclosures: Erik Petersen is employed by University of Washington. Petersen and Shen are supported under a subcontract of NIDCD 1 R41 DC022808-01, awarded to Intelligent Hearing Systems Corp. (PI: Delgado), administered by the University of Washington (Subcontract PI: Shen).*

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

## **Michigan Peterson, BS**

*Utah State University, Logan, Utah*

Michigan Peterson is a current AuD student in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Utah State University. Previously, she received her BS from Brigham Young University in communication disorders. Her current research focuses on evaluating audiology author impact and aims to help current and upcoming professionals rethink the value of author metrics regularly used in the field of audiology.

*Financial Disclosures: Michigan Peterson is employed by Logan Regional Hospital where she receives a salary as a pharmacy technician.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Michigan Peterson has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Ian Phillips, PhD**

*Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland*

Ian Phillips is a researcher in the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) National Military Audiology and Speech Pathology Center (NMASC). His research is focused on language processing in bilingual adults. His background is in psycholinguistics with training in behavioral and (electro)physiological experimental methods for measuring language perception and comprehension. His current research is focused on characterizing effects of bilingual language experience on speech perception in challenging conditions.

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*Non-Financial Disclosures: Ian Phillips has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Thomas A. Powers, PhD**

*Powers Consulting, LLC, Oxford, New Jersey*

Thomas A. Powers, Ph.D., is currently the Founder/Managing Member of Powers Consulting LLC, providing management consulting to the hearing health industry. He began his career as a partner in an Audiology private practice, followed by over 35 years in the hearing aid industry. Prior to his current role, he was Vice-President, Government Services and Professional Relations for Sivantos Inc. (now WS Audiology), and served as the Compliance Officer for seven years. Dr. Powers currently holds an appointment as an Adjunct Instructor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Ohio University. Dr. Powers received his B.S. from the State



University of New York at Geneseo, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Audiology-Hearing Science from Ohio University

*Financial Disclosures: Thomas Powers Powers Consulting, LLC (Founder). Adjunct Professor - Ohio University.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Thomas Powers has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Sheila R. Pratt, PhD**

*University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Sheila Pratt, Ph.D., has Professor Emeritus status in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders at the University of Pittsburgh. Her work has focused on auditory (re)habilitation and the impact of hearing loss on communication skills in pediatric and adult populations. She also has investigated the auditory complaints of Veterans who have been blast exposed, the impact of hearing loss on people with aphasia, and the relationship between aging and hearing loss.

*Financial Disclosures: Sheila Pratt has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Sheila Pratt has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Quentin Price, BS**

*NIDCD/NIH, Bethesda, Maryland*

Quentin Price graduated from Howard University in 2025n with a degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry and African Studies. His previous research experience focused on mouse models of aging. His current projects aim to explore therapeutic options to mitigate age-related and drug-induced hearing loss using animal models and large-scale clinical datasets.

*Financial Disclosures: Quentin Price is employed by National Institutes of Health where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Quentin Price has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Beth Prieve, PhD, CCC-A**

*Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York*

Beth Prieve, PhD, CCC-A is a Professor at Syracuse University where she is the Director of the Pediatric Audiology Laboratory. She is a clinical scientist specializing in translating basic science to clinical use. Her research focuses on development of the auditory system and diagnosis of hearing loss in children. Dr. Prieve's research is funded by the NIH/NIDCD.

*Financial Disclosures: Beth Prieve is employed by Syracuse University where she receives a salary. She currently receives funding from NIH for an R21 research grant. Beth receives income from consulting with Akouos.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Beth Prieve has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Jean-Luc Puel, PhD**

*Institute for Neurosciences of Montpellier, University of Montpellier, INSERM, France, Montpellier, France*

Jean-Luc Puel is Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Montpellier. After completing his PhD with Rémy Pujol, he trained in New Orleans with Richard Bobbin before joining CNRS in France. His research focuses on inner ear physiology and pathology, including neural encoding and synaptic regeneration in acquired deafness. He led the Institute for Neurosciences of Montpellier for 10 years. In 2017, he received the Scientific Grand Prize from the Fondation pour l'Audition for his pioneering work in hearing science. He recently created Audiocampus, a center of excellence for research and training in audiology and neuroprosthetics

*Financial Disclosures: Jean-Luc Puel is employed by the University of Montpellier.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jean-Luc Puel has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Varsha Rallapalli, AuD, PhD**

*University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida*

Dr. Varsha Rallapalli is an Assistant Professor at University of South Florida and Director of the Clinical Translational Amplification Research Lab. Her research examines how hearing-aid signal processing interacts with cognitive and perceptual mechanisms to shape communication outcomes in complex acoustic environments. She completed her Au.D. and Ph.D. at Purdue University and postdoctoral training at Northwestern University. As a new investigator, she is establishing a translational research program that integrates behavior, cognition, and signal processing to develop personalized amplification strategies. Her long-term goal is to bridge laboratory and clinical science to optimize hearing-aid benefit and promote successful communication outcomes.

*Financial Disclosures: Varsha Rallapalli I am employed by University of South Florida where she receives a salary. The study was funded by NIDCD (R01DC012289 to P.S.). VR has received previous funding from NIH and ASH Foundation for work unrelated to this project.*

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

## **Eric R. Rodriguez, AuD**

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana*

Eric R. Rodriguez is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at Purdue University. He holds a clinical doctorate in audiology (Au.D.) from Purdue University and completed a clinical + research externship at Boys Town National Research Hospital, where he evaluated and treated a wide range of clinical populations, including cochlear implant recipients. His research examines speech-perception outcomes in cochlear implant users, focusing on individual factors that affect performance using both objective measures (e.g., functional near-infrared spectroscopy) and common clinical measures (e.g., behavioral speech-perception testing).

*Financial Disclosures: Eric Rodriguez is employed by Purdue University where he receives a stipend from a research fellowship., He receives funding from an institutional training grant: NIH-NIDCD T32-DC000030.*

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

## **Gianna Rodriguez, BA**

*University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland*

Gianna Rodriguez is a 2nd-year audiology graduate student at the University of Maryland. She earned a bachelor's degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences from Kean University, with a minor in Health. Her research interests include the inequalities in hearing health care, especially as they intersect with diabetes-related health issues and outcomes.

*Financial Disclosures: Gianna Rodriguez is employed by the University of Maryland as a graduate assistant where she receives a stipend.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Gianna Rodriguez has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Tali Rotman, PhD**

*Idaho State University, Meridian, Idaho*

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Idaho State University with over 20 years of clinical experience in audiology and aural rehabilitation for older adults. My research bridges clinical practice with cognitive and auditory science to improve speech recognition and communication outcomes for individuals with hearing loss. I investigate how cognitive and perceptual mechanisms support speech understanding in challenging environments and develop interventions for individuals using hearing aids and cochlear implants. My work integrates behavioral, electrophysiological, and pupillometric methods to advance personalized, evidence-based approaches to auditory-cognitive rehabilitation across the lifespan.

*Financial Disclosures: Tali Rotman has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Tali Rotman has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Christina M. Roup, PhD**

*The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio*

Christina completed a predoctoral fellowship at the Mt. Home VAMC in Johnson City, TN and received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2002. She is currently an Associate Professor at The Ohio State University where she teaches courses in introductory audiology and audiologic rehabilitation. Christina research program focuses on binaural auditory processing deficits in the aging and traumatic brain injury populations, as well as the use of low-gain hearing aids for adults with functional hearing difficulties. Christina is a past president of the Ohio Academy of Audiology and an ASHA Fellow.

*Financial Disclosures: Christina Roup is employed by The Ohio State University where she receives a salary., This research was supported by a Coca Cola Critical Difference for Women Research Grant. Christina is an editor for the American Journal of Audiology.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Christina Roup is the co-chair for the American Academy of Audiology's management of adult hearing loss guideline writing committee..*

## **Grace G. Rowland, BS**

*University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

Grace Rowland is a 2025 Boys Town National Research Hospital T35 Trainee, where she worked research in Dr. Ellen Peng's Functional Hearing Lab. She is currently a third-year Doctor of Audiology student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, actively involved in research focused on cochlear implants and

barriers to audiological care. Grace's research interests include neurodevelopmental disabilities, cochlear implants, and improving access to audiological services for Spanish-speaking populations.

*Financial Disclosures: Grace G. Rowland received research support through the NIH T35 Short-Term Training Program at BTNRH.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Grace G. Rowland has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Carson Rumble-Tricker, MS**

*University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada*

Carson Rumble-Tricker is a PhD student at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, under the supervision of Dr. Mark Fenske in the Cognitive-Affective Neuroscience lab. Her research focuses on auditory cognition, specifically on how we can measure experiences of effortful listening, and the role of individual differences in determining subjective listening experiences. She previously completed her undergraduate degree in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience from Western University, Ontario, Canada.

*Financial Disclosures: Carson Rumble-Tricker is employed by University of Guelph where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Carson Rumble-Tricker has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Victoria A. Sanchez, AuD, PhD**

*University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida*

Dr. Vicky Sanchez is an Associate Professor and Chief of Audiology in the Department of Otolaryngology within the Morsani College of Medicine at the University of South Florida. She provides clinical services, teaches, and leads several research studies. She is a principal investigator in the Auditory Rehabilitation & Clinical Trials Laboratory, and her research areas of interest are speech perception, auditory cognitive neuroscience, auditory rehabilitation, evidence-based practice, and the effects of various disorders and interventions on the auditory-vestibular systems. Current projects include developing and evaluating novel approaches to treat acquired forms of hearing loss and how treatments can impact overall health and wellbeing.

*Financial Disclosures: Victoria Sanchez is employed by the University of South Florida. She reports salary and research support to the Auditory Rehabilitation & Clinical Trials Laboratory from the University of South Florida. She also reports industry related to consulting or research support to USF from Otonomy Inc., Autifony Therapeutics Ltd., Boehringer Ingelheim, Frequency Therapeutics Ltd., Pipeline Therapeutics, Sensorion, Oticon Medical, Helen of Troy Ltd., Sonova Holding AG, and Phonak USA. She received funding to the University of South in the form of grants from the National Institute of Health (National Institute on Aging (NIA) grant R01AG055426, NIA R01AG060502, NIA R34AG046548, NIA R01 AG075083, NIA R01AG076518, and NIDCD R01DC019408). Hearing aids, hearing assistive technologies, and related materials used in recent studies were provided at no cost to the researchers or the participants from Sonova/Phonak LLC.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Victoria Sanchez has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Maria Carmela Sarier, BS**

*Towson University, Towson, Maryland*

Maria C. Sarier is a first year Doctor of Audiology (AuD) student at Towson University. Her research interests include auditory scene analysis, emotional prosody perception, and the factors that influence speech

understanding in complex listening environments. She is currently involved in research examining how noise-band vocoding affects emotion recognition and auditory stream segregation. Maria plans to pursue a clinical career in pediatrics audiology and maintain research and teaching interest related to auditory perception and communication.

*Financial Disclosures: Maria Sarier has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Maria Sarier has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Gabrielle Saunders, PhD**

*Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness (ManCAD), University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom*

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), Co-Lead of the Hearing Health Theme of the National Institute for Health and Care Research Manchester Biomedical Research, and a Trustee of the British Society of Audiology. Her research focuses on auditory rehabilitation and is broadly designed to optimize outcomes of hearing-related interventions, including alternative clinical pathways, hearing screening, assistive technology and education, taking advantage of knowledge that can be gained from the lived experience of people with hearing loss and their families, as well as mobile technology and big data sets. Her research is underpinned by the principles of family-centred care and health behaviour psychology. She hopes her research will contribute towards making clinical care more evidence-based, family-centred, and personalized.

*Financial Disclosures: Gabrielle Saunders is employed by the University of Manchester where she receives a salary.*

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

## **Trisha Saxena, BA**

*University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin*

Trisha Saxena is a second year Doctoral student of Audiology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She received her B.A. from UW-Madison in Communication Sciences & Disorders, Linguistics, and Anthropology, with a Certificate in Global Cultures, Languages, and Education. Trisha completed her T35 predoctoral traineeship at Boys Town National Research Hospital in the Translational Auditory Physiology and Perception Laboratory, under the mentorship of Dr. Gabrielle Merchant.

*Financial Disclosures: Trisha Saxena has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Trisha Saxena has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Annika Schenkel, BS**

*Purdue University Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, West Lafayette, Indiana*

Annika Schenkel is currently a third-year graduate student in the Doctor of Audiology (AuD) program at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. She graduated from Purdue University in 2023 with a bachelor's degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS). As a student in the John Martinson Honors College, Annika integrated research into her undergraduate degree by collaborating with the Center for Intercultural Learning, Mentorship, Assessment, and Research (CILMAR) and the SLHS department. She has

worked in the Purdue Auditory Neurophysiology and Modeling Lab since Spring 2024, often running audiological assessments for the Auditory Research Diagnostics Core (ARDC).

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*Non-Financial Disclosures: Annika Schenkel has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Joy Sharp**

*University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland*

My name is Joy Sharp, a junior at the University of Maryland, College Park, studying Public Health Practice. I have a keen interest in Health Policy and Health Services Research. I am a Research, Equity, and Access in Communication and Hearing (UMD-REACH) scholar. I plan to pursue a career as a public health professional working on the federal policy level, assisting in research that improves the quality of our evolving healthcare system.

*Financial Disclosures: Joy Sharp is an undergraduate student, no relevant employment, but receives a stipend through UMD-REACH.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Joy Sharp has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Sterling W. Sheffield, AuD, PhD**

*Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington*

Sterling Sheffield is an Associate Professor in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at Western Washington University. He earned an Au.D. in Audiology at the University of Iowa in 2011 with his externship at Mayo Clinic Rochester. He then completed his Ph.D. in Hearing and Speech Sciences at Vanderbilt University in 2016. Dr. Sheffield's research focuses on speech perception and spatial hearing in complex environments, including with hearing aids, cochlear implants, and bilingualism. More recent work has focused on over-the-counter hearing aids and cochlear implants.

*Financial Disclosures: Sterling Sheffield is employed by Western Washington University where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Sterling Sheffield has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Daniel E. Shub, PhD**

*Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland*

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 the Department of Defense where he receives a salary.*

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

## **Jeffrey Simmons, AuD, CCC-A**

*Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska*



Jeffrey Simmons, Au.D., CCC-A, is currently a Staff Research Audiologist at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. He completed his clinical fellowship in audiology at the hospital in 1997 and has worked at this institution for the past 29 years. During a majority of his career as a clinical audiologist, Jeffrey served as Manager of Staff Audiology for the BTNRH Cochlear Implant Clinic and has been involved in research, publications, and presentations involving audiology-related topics such as newborn hearing screening, pediatric amplification, oto-reflectance, auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder, ethical decision-making, and various aspects of cochlear implants.

*Financial Disclosures: Jeffrey Simmons is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jeffrey Simons has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

### **Abigail Simon, AuD**

*Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska*

Abigail Simon is a clinical and research audiologist at Boys Town National Research Hospital. She completed her Au.D. from The Ohio State University. She works clinically with patients across the lifespan covering diagnostics, electrophysiology, vestibular, and hearing aids. She helps to support various translational research projects to improve hearing healthcare and outcomes in pediatrics and individuals with Down syndrome.

*Financial Disclosures: Abigail Simon is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Abigail Simon has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

### **Rebecca Sims, BS**

*Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri*

Rebecca Sims is a third-year audiology student at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine. She received her Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Rhode Island. Her clinical interests include age-related hearing loss and cochlear implants. The present study is her Capstone Project in which she is interested in possible underlying mechanisms of age-related hearing loss.

*Financial Disclosures: Rebecca Sims has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Rebecca Sims has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

### **Jasleen Singh, AuD, PhD**

*University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts*

Clinically trained as an audiologist, Jasleen completed her Ph.D. at Syracuse University and postdoctoral fellowship at Northwestern University. Her programmatic line of research focuses on identifying and improving barriers to hearing aid use in both provider and consumer-driven models of hearing healthcare using a mixed-methods research approach. Her work has been supported by the American Hearing Research Foundation, the American Speech-Language Hearing Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health.

*Financial Disclosures: Jasleen Singh is employed by the University of Massachusetts where she receives a salary. Grant support from the American Speech-Language Hearing Foundation, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jasleen Singh has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Christopher Slugocki, PhD**

*WS Audiology, Office of Research in Clinical Amplification (ORCA-USA), Lisle, Illinois*

Christopher Slugocki, Ph.D. (Psychology, Neuroscience & Behavior, McMaster University) is a Senior 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.*

## **Alyssa C. Smith, PhD**

*Department of Psychology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada*

Alyssa Smith is an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Guelph (Canada) where she works with Mark Fenske. She received her PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience from the University of Waterloo (Canada) in 2024. Her doctoral research investigated the relation between oral contraceptive use and attention-related traits and states. Alyssa's current research is focused on better understanding the role of hormones and hormonal contraceptives in the cognitive development of adolescents and individual differences in age-related hearing loss. Her past research has also examined individual differences in cognition, attention during lectures, information search behaviours, media multitasking, and flow.

*Financial Disclosures: Alyssa Smith is postdoctoral fellow at the University of Guelph where she is paid through an external award from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). This research was supported by a Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Postdoctoral Fellowship awarded to Alyssa Smith.*

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

## **Emily Smith, BS**

*Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York*

Emily Smith is an AuD/PhD student at Syracuse University under the mentorship of Dr. Kathy Vander Werff in the Auditory Evoked Potentials lab. Her interests include translational research utilizing auditory evoked potentials to better understand normal and disordered auditory processing, particularly as it applies to difficulty understanding speech in background noise and other challenging listening environments.

*Financial Disclosures: Emily Smith is employed by Syracuse University where she receives a salary.*

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

## **Mara Louise Smith, BA**

*Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona*

Mara Smith, B.A. is a current 4th year Doctorate of Audiology candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder with anticipated completion in May 2026. She obtained her Bachelors of Arts and Sciences degrees in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and in Spanish for Professionals in May of 2022. She is currently completing her externship at Mayo Clinic Arizona School of Health Sciences. Her clinical and research interests include adult cochlear implants, diagnostics, advanced hearing aid programming, and central auditory processing disorder.

*Financial Disclosures: Mara Smith is employed as a student at Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences, where she receives a stipend.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Mara Smith is a member of the National Student Academy of Audiology (SAA).*

## **Won So, AuD, PhD**

*Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan*

Dr. Won So is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Grand Valley State University. His research focuses on auditory perception in complex listening environments, including binaural processing, frequency-following responses, and speech perception across different central processing backgrounds. This work explores how listeners with varied language experiences or auditory processing characteristics perceive and integrate acoustic cues, emphasizing the interaction between peripheral hearing and central neural mechanisms involved in speech understanding.

*Financial Disclosures: Won So is employed by Grand Valley State University where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Won So has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Christopher Spankovich, AuD, PhD**

*University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, Mississippi*

Christopher Spankovich, AuD, PhD, MPH is a Professor, Audiologist, and Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Otolaryngology and Head-Neck Surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). He is also Associate Director of the NIH-COBRE funded Balance and Auditory Research Center (BARC). Dr. Spankovich is a clinician-scientist with a translational research program focused on early identification and prevention of acquired forms of hearing loss, tinnitus, and sound sensitivity. His research has been funded by industry, federal, and professional bodies. His current NIH funding is directed toward application of mild therapeutic hypothermia for otoprotection and recovery.

*Financial Disclosures: Christopher Spankovich is employed by UMMC where he receives a salary. National Institutes of Health, 1P20GM156708.*

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

## **Emily R. Spitzer, AuD**

*NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, New York*

Emily Spitzer is a Research Associate Professor at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

*Financial Disclosures: Emily Spitzer is employed by NYU Grossman School of Medicine.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Emily Spitzer has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Sierra Stecklein, MA**

*University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Sierra is a third-year graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, working toward their Doctoral degree in Audiology. Originally from Washington State, they received their Bachelor of Arts in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Western Washington University. Their audiologic interests include educational audiology and pediatrics, with a focus on providing comprehensive care that extends beyond amplification alone. They are also a Research Assistant in the Auditory Perception and Cognition research lab, under the direction of Dr. Christopher Brown, investigating sound spatialization cues in participants with normal hearing and bilateral cochlear implants.

*Financial Disclosures: Sierra Stecklein is employed by the University of Pittsburgh where Sierra receives an hourly wage.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Sierra Stecklein has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Elizabeth Stewart, AuD, PhD**

*Sonova US, Aurora, Illinois*

Elizabeth Stewart is a Senior Research Audiologist in the Phonak Audiology Research Center in Chicago (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 clinical investigations 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.*

## **Laura G. Street, AuD**

*Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee*

Laura G. Street is a Ph.D. student in Hearing and Speech Sciences at Vanderbilt University. Prior to returning to school, she provided clinical services to adult and pediatric patient populations in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 8 years. She earned her Doctorate of Audiology from Washington University in St. Louis and her M.A. and B.A. degrees in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Pedagogy at Montclair State University.

*Financial Disclosures: Laura Street is employed by Vanderbilt University Medical Center where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Laura Street has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Jonathan J. Suen, AuD, PhD**

*Johns Hopkins Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland*

Jonathan J. Suen, Ph.D., Au.D. is a Research Associate in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Johns Hopkins Medicine. As a core faculty member in the Johns Hopkins Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health, Suen applies his trainings as a public health audiologist and gerontologist to research novel approaches in care for increasing its accessibility by older populations. He is an expert in community/stakeholder-engaged and behavioral intervention research. He also studies social isolation and loneliness in relation with hearing loss among older populations. Suen earned his Au.D. from Gallaudet University and his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University.

*Financial Disclosures: Jonathan Suen is employed by the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine where he receives a salary. NIDCD R33 DC020149 (Nieman); NIDCD R01 DC019686 (Nieman, Han); NIA R01 AG076525 (Nieman, Oh); Eleanor Schwartz Foundation (Nieman); Johns Hopkins Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health - with philanthropic gift from Cochlear, Ltd.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jonathan Suen has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Alyssa Dolan Swann, BS**

*Towson University, Towson, Maryland*

Alyssa Swann is a doctoral student researcher in the Mechanisms of Auditory Perception Lab within the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at Towson University, where she also completed her postbaccalaureate degree. Her research focuses on individual differences in auditory perception among listeners with clinically normal hearing. She investigates why some individuals experience difficulty understanding speech in adverse listening conditions despite normal audiometric thresholds. Using behavioral and electrophysiological methods, her work explores how subclinical peripheral damage affects neural encoding and contributes to hidden hearing deficits.

*Financial Disclosures: Alyssa Swann has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Alyssa Swann has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Terrin Nichole Tamati, PhD**

*The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio*

Dr. Tamati is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science at The Ohio State University. Dr. Tamati completed a Ph.D. in Linguistics at Indiana University. Subsequently, she completed postdoctoral fellowships at the University Medical Center Groningen and Ohio State University. She joined The Ohio State University in 2025. Her research focus is on the cognitive-linguistic, perceptual, and social factors that support speech recognition in adults with cochlear implants.

*Financial Disclosures: Terrin Tamati is employed by The Ohio State University where she receives a salary. She received grant funding from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.*

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

## **Nasya S. Tan**

*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan*

Nasya Tan is a candidate in the PhD of Epidemiologic Sciences program at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She previously received her Master of Public Health degree in 2013 from Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. Her research is focused on identifying health disparities experienced by adults with hearing loss and understanding the mechanisms under which such health disparities arise. She plans to defend her dissertation entitled "Social Determinants of Cardiovascular Health and Mortality among Middle-Aged and Older Adults with Hearing Loss" in March, 2026 and is currently seeking post-doctoral opportunities (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nasya-tan/>).

*Financial Disclosures: Nasya Tan is employed by University of Michigan where she receives a stipend, and she receives consulting fees from Johns Hopkins University.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Nasya Tan has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Taylor Alexis Teague, BS**

*Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana*

Taylor Teague is a first-year AuD-PhD student in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at Purdue University. She holds a bachelor's degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences from Purdue University with specific concentrations in ASL/Deaf Studies and Critical Disability Studies. Taylor completed an undergraduate thesis project on the intersection of cognition and age on time-compressed discourse comprehension abilities across age groups. Her research examines ecologically valid clinical measurements for advanced-aging populations, with future work expanding to improve the variability of post-implantation outcomes in cochlear implant recipients.

*Financial Disclosures: Taylor Teague is employed by Purdue University where she receives a salary.*

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

## **Allison Trine, AuD**

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois*

Allison Trine is a research audiologist and the Lab Coordinator for the Auditory Neuro Experience (ANEx) lab at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She graduated with her AuD from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2022. Allison's research interests include extended high frequency hearing, the role of ecological listening environments in speech perception, and auditory development across the lifespan.

*Financial Disclosures: Allison Trine is employed by University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Allison Trine has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Jami Trumbo**

*Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland*

Jami Trumbo, MSPH is a research manager at the Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She coordinates research activities for the HEARS (Hearing health Equity through Accessible Research and Solutions) studies under Dr. Carrie Nieman and collaborators bringing community-based hearing health solutions to older adults. She received her Master of Science in



Public Health in health education and health communication from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

*Financial Disclosures: Jami Trumbo is employed by Johns Hopkins University where she receives a salary. She has partial salary support by NIH.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jami Trumbo has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Dahvae Turner, BA**

*(1) Department of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, (2) Department of Speech-Language and Hearing Sciences, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA*

Dahvae Turner, BA, is a fourth year Doctor of Audiology student at Western Washington University and the clinical extern at the Children's Cochlear Implant Center at the University of North Carolina. His clinical and research interests include pediatric amplification, electrophysiology, and signal processing.

*Financial Disclosures: This work was supported in part by a research grant from MED-EL Corporation UNC.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Dahvae Turner has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Aaron Tward, MD, PhD**

*Eli Lilly and Company, Boston, Massachusetts*

Aaron Tward, MD, Ph.D. is Associate Vice President of Gene Therapy at Eli Lilly and Company. His work involves the development of gene therapies with the potential to restore, improve, and preserve high-acuity physiologic hearing for individuals living with hearing loss. He received both a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences and an M.D. from UCSF and completed his residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery and a fellowship in otology, neurotology, and skull base surgery at Harvard Medical School. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, and is associate professor at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

*Financial Disclosures: Aaron Tward is employed by Eli Lilly and Company where he receives a salary.*

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

## **Than Than Tway, BA**

*University at Buffalo Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences, Buffalo, New York*

Than Than Tway is a second-year Doctor of Audiology (AuD) student at the University at Buffalo. She earned her B.A in Sociology with a minor in Psychology from D'Youville University. Her research explores hyperacusis beyond conventional audiometry, examining how individuals' reports of sound sensitivity correlate to their extended high-frequency (EHF) thresholds. As a military personnel, her experiences have inspired a strong commitment to serving veterans affected by hearing loss, tinnitus, and auditory disorders. Than Than strives to bridge research and clinical practice to advance evidence-based audiologic care and improve hearing healthcare access for the veteran community.

*Financial Disclosures: Than Than Tway is employed by University at Buffalo where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Than Than Tway has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

### **Katarina M. H. Wajerski**

*Smith College, Picker Engineering Program, Northampton, Massachusetts*

Katarina Wajerski is a junior B.S. engineering student at Smith College and will graduate in May 2027. She has worked in the Voss Lab since May 2025. Wajerski is from Bellevue, WA and plans to pursue a master's degree in biomechanical engineering.

*Financial Disclosures: Katarina Wajerski is a student at Smith College.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Katarina Wajerski has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

### **Celine Wan, BA**

*Stanford Ear Institute, Palo Alto, California*

Celine Wan is a 4th year audiology student at the State University of New York (SUNY)- University at Buffalo. She is currently completing her externship at the Stanford Ear Institute on the adult track. She has a clinical interest in vestibular audiology and adult cochlear implants. Her research interests include electrophysiology, tinnitus, and speech perception.

*Financial Disclosures: Celine Wan is employed by Stanford where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Celine Wan has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

### **Xi Wang, MS**

*Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland*

Xi (Sissi) Wang, MPH, is a PhD student in Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Wang earned her MPH from the University of Michigan School of Public Health and worked as an analyst at the University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center from 2016 to 2022. With a health equity lens, Wang is passionate about integrating advanced epidemiologic methods with a deep understanding of the social determinants of health, lifestyle risk factors, and sensory loss to answer complex questions about cognitive aging.

*Financial Disclosures: Xi Wang has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Xi Wang has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

### **Xianhui Wang, PhD**

*San Diego State University, San Diego, California*

Dr. Xianhui (Kaye) Wang is an Assistant Professor in the School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at San Diego State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Hearing Science from Ohio University, with prior training in Audiological Science and Biomedical Engineering. Her research focuses on speech perception and underlying cognitive mechanisms of speech recognition in normal-hearing individuals and those with tinnitus.

*Financial Disclosures: Xianhui Wang is employed by San Diego State University where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Xianhui Wang has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Gabrielle Watson, AuD**

*Iowa Health Care Cochlear Implant Clinical Research Center, Iowa City, Iowa*

Gabrielle Watson, AuD, CCC-A is a clinical audiologist at the Iowa Health Care Cochlear Implant Clinical Research Center, where she provides diagnostic and rehabilitative services to patients of all ages. Gabrielle received her Doctorate of Audiology from University of Iowa. She is a member of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association and the American Cochlear Implant Alliance.

*Financial Disclosures: Gabrielle Watson is employed by Iowa Health Care Cochlear Implant Clinical Research Center where she receives a salary.*

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

## **Hana Weiss, BS**

*Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York*

Hana Weiss is a third-year clinical Doctorate in Audiology (AuD) student at Syracuse University. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders and Neuroscience as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Syracuse University. Presently, she serves as the President of Syracuse University's Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) chapter and works as a graduate research assistant in the Auditory Evoked Potentials (AEP) lab under Dr. Kathy Vander Werff, PhD. Her clinical interests include adult diagnostics and rehabilitation. She will be completing her 4th year externship at the Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System in Pennsylvania.

*Financial Disclosures: Hana Weiss has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Hana Weiss has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Jessica S. West, PhD**

*Duke University, Durham, North Carolina*

Jessica S. West, PhD, MPH, is a medical sociologist who specializes in research on the health and well-being of people with hearing loss over the life course. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery & Communication Sciences in the Duke University School of Medicine, where she integrates population- and patient-level data and uses innovative statistical methods at the intersection of medical sociology, hearing sciences, stigma, and public health.

*Financial Disclosures: Jessica West is employed by Duke University. She is supported, in part, by grants from the National Institutes of Health.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jessica West has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Harley James Wheeler, AuD**

*University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Harley Wheeler is a PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota in the Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences department, and a former clinical audiologist. His research focuses on the expression and perception of speech prosody, linking acoustic variability to perceptual outcomes. Dr. Wheeler aims to address crucial aspects of speech perception beyond word intelligibility towards the goal of producing clinical assessments that better represent patient struggles with daily communication.

*Financial Disclosures: Harley Wheeler has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Harley Wheeler has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Stephanie L. White, AuD**

*University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas*

Stephanie L. White, AuD, CCC-A, is an Instructor in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Central Arkansas and a PhD candidate at the University of Memphis under the mentorship of Dr. Deborah Moncrieff. She earned her Doctor of Audiology degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Building on prior work demonstrating that the severity of dichotic listening deficits influences auditory training outcomes, Dr. White's current research investigates how such deficits relate to phonological processing performance in children.

*Financial Disclosures: Stephanie White is employed by the University of Central Arkansas where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Stephanie White has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Nicole Kaye Whittle, AuD**

*VA RRD&T, National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research, Portland, Oregon & Portland VA Research Foundation, Portland, Oregon*

Dr. Nicole Whittle is a research audiologist and lab manager at the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) supporting Dr. Kelly Reavis in her work on the Noise Outcomes in Servicemembers Epidemiology (NOISE) Study. Since acquiring her Doctor of Audiology degree from the University of Washington in 2019, she has contributed to work supporting Veterans with a goal of understanding how trauma, noise, and oto-toxicant exposures and comorbidities affect auditory outcomes.

*Financial Disclosures: Nicole Whittle is employed by the Portland VA Research Foundation where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Nicole Whittle has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Haley R. Williams, BS**

*University of Utah, Highland, Utah*

Haley Williams is a third year Audiology graduate student at the University of Utah. Her primary research interests include cochlear implants, listening related fatigue, and pediatrics.

*Financial Disclosures: Haley Williams is employed by the University of Utah where she receives a salary. Supported by NIH-NIDCD T35-DC008763.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Haley Williams has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Hannah Marie Wittenback, BS**

*The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas*

Hannah Wittenback is a graduate student in the Doctor of Audiology program at The University of Texas at Dallas. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders at The University of Oklahoma. Hannah works in Dr. Andrea Warner-Czyz's Children and Infant Listening Laboratory at UTD. Her current research focuses on how talker similarity and language affect children's talker identification, conducted during her T35 at BTNRH with Kathryn Wiseman, PhD. She is also interested in the relationship between hearing loss and comorbidities, and their impact on patients' social-cognitive skills.

*Financial Disclosures: Hannah Wittenback is employed by The University of Texas at Dallas (non-salaried position). She received research support through the NIH T35 Short-Term Research Training Program at Boys Town National Research Hospital.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Hannah Wittenback has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Jingjing Xu, PhD**

*Starkey, Eden Prairie, Minnesota*

Jingjing Xu is a research scientist in the Department of Clinical and Audiology Research at Starkey. Before joining Starkey in 2016, he served as a research assistant professor of audiology at the University of Memphis. He earned his master's degree in Engineering Acoustics from the Technical University of Denmark and his Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Memphis. His research interests include acoustics, speech recognition, hearing aid outcome measures, and ecological momentary assessment.

*Financial Disclosures: Jingjing Xu is employed by Starkey where I receive a salary., I have no relevant financial relationship to disclose., I have no relevant financial relationship to disclose., , I have no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Jingjing Xu I have no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Stephanie Younan, BS**

*UCSF, San Francisco, California*

Stephanie Younan, holding a BS from UCLA and an MPH from Columbia University, is a fourth-year medical student at UCSF currently completing a dedicated research year under the mentorship of Dr. Nicole Jiam. Her interest in otolaryngology is deeply personal, inspired by her father's experience with single-sided deafness and her mother's career as a speech-language pathologist. Her research is focused on improving patient outcomes within otology and neurotology, with specific interests in predictors of music perception during cochlear implant rehabilitation, single-sided deafness, and vestibular schwannoma tumor burden. Her research focus on music perception stems from her personal love of songwriting.

*Financial Disclosures: Stephanie Younan has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Stephanie Younan has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Connor J. Youngren, BA**

*Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington*

Connor Youngren is a third-year Doctor of Audiology student at Western Washington University. His research at the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research, in collaboration with Dr. J. Riley DeBacker, examines hearing-related outcomes in adults with HIV. Clinically, Connor is passionate about pediatric diagnostics, ototoxicity management, cochlear implants, and aural (re)habilitation. Connor is inspired to pursue clinical research to improve patient care and clinical knowledge. He aims to integrate research and clinical practice to improve hearing health outcomes across diverse populations.

*Financial Disclosures: Connor Youngren is a student of Western Washington University.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Connor Youngren has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Milad Yousefi**

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois*

Milad Yousefi is currently a Ph.D. student in Speech and Hearing Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He obtained an MSc. in Audiology from Tehran University of Medical Sciences in 2024. His research interests include speech perception, listening effort, and sudden hearing loss.

*Financial Disclosures: Milad Yousefi is employed by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as a graduate research assistant. His graduate research assistant position is funded by Ian Mertes' NIH/NIDCD grant (R21DC020258), and he is presenting on results supported by this grant.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Milad Yousefi has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Donghyeon Yun, AuD, PhD**

*University of Colorado Boulder, Northglenn, Colorado*

Dr. Donghyeon Yun is an audiologist and hearing scientist with expertise in psychoacoustics, hearing assistive technology, and digital signal processing. He earned his AuD and PhD degrees from Indiana University Bloomington and completed his AuD externship in the Hearing Research Program at the Medical University of South Carolina. His research primarily aims to support individuals who have trouble understanding speech and those who find it challenging to fully enjoy sound. His research focuses on evaluating and optimizing signal processing algorithms in acoustic processing, applying hearing science theories to clinical and real-world practice, and developing computational models of hearing-related phenomena.

*Financial Disclosures: Donghyeon Yun is employed by University of Colorado Boulder where he receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Donghyeon Yun has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Olivia Montou Zant, AuD, PhD**

*University of North Texas, Denton, Texas*

Olivia Zant, AuD, PhD, F-AAA, is an Assistant Professor of Audiology at the University of North Texas. Her research investigates how central auditory processes shape listening effort and perceptual variability among adults with hearing loss, autism spectrum disorder, and misophonia. Drawing on her clinical background, Dr. Zant conducts clinically informed research that integrates subjective, behavioral, and electrophysiological



measures to examine auditory processing from multiple dimensions and advance evidence-based approaches to hearing healthcare.

*Financial Disclosures: Olivia Zant is employed by the University of North Texas where she receives a salary.*

*Non-Financial Disclosures: Olivia Zant has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.*

## **Wuyang Zhang, MS**

*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland*

Wuyang Zhang, MHS is a second-year PhD student at the Epidemiology Department of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He earned his Master of Health Science degree in Epidemiology at the Bloomberg School in May 2022 and worked as a research data analyst before starting his doctoral work. Zhang is currently advised by Cochlear Center core faculty member Pablo Martinez-Amezcu, MD, PhD. Zhang's research interests include age-related hearing loss and other sensory loss, family caregiving, and social determinants of health. Wuyang Zhang, MHS is a second-year PhD student at the Epidemiology Department of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He earned his Master of Health Science degree in Epidemiology at the Bloomberg School in May 2022 and worked as a research data analyst before starting his doctoral work. Zhang is currently advised by Cochlear Center core faculty member Pablo Martinez-Amezcu, MD, PhD. Zhang's research interests include age-related hearing loss and other sensory loss, family caregiving, and social determinants of health.

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