American Auditory Society Scientific and Technology Meeting
February 26 - 28, 2026

PODIUM PRESENTER, INVITED SPEAKER, AND TECHNOLOGY UPDATE SPEAKER BIOS

Harvey B. Abrams, PhD
Jabra Enhance, Lititz, Pennsylvania

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

Financial Disclosures: Harvey Abrams receives consultation fees and travel reimbursement from Jabra Enhance.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Harvey Abrams has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Julie G. Arenberg, PhD
Mass Eye and Ear, Harvard, Boston, Massachusetts

Dr. Arenberg serves as the Director of Audiology Research and Education at Mass Eye and Ear. Prior to joining Mass Eye and Ear in 2019, Dr. Arenberg served as Director of Audiology and Professor at the University of Washington, Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences. Dr. Arenberg trained as a neuroscientist and an audiologist. Her research efforts are focused on improving the quality of life for people with severe hearing loss, many of whom are treated with cochlear implants. Throughout Dr. Arenberg's career, she has used basic auditory neuroscience approaches to further understand the auditory system across the lifespan for individuals with normal hearing and those with cochlear implants. She has also developed new methods for optimizing hearing restoration with cochlear implants.

Financial Disclosures: Julie Arenberg is employed by Mass Eye and Ear where she receives a salary. Her research is supported by NIH.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Julie Arenberg has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Sajana Aryal, MS
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

Sajana Aryal is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas at Austin. She earned her undergraduate degree in audiology and speech-language pathology from Nepal. Following that, she pursued a master's degree in audiology at the All-India Institute of Speech and Hearing. Her current research focuses on the neurophysiological mechanism of extended high-frequency hearing and its implications for speech perception. She has authored publications in leading journals, including Ear and Hearing and Trends in Hearing. She has been recognized with several competitive student awards, including the ASHA Foundation New Century Scholars Doctoral Scholarship and the National Hearing Conservation Association award.

Financial Disclosures: Sajana Aryal has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Sajana Aryal has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Rachael R. Baiduc, PhD

University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado

Dr. Rachael R. Baiduc is associate professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her program of research explores lifestyle factors related to auditory dysfunction with a focus on cochlear health and otoacoustic emission measurements. Her research has examined auditory health in relation to diabetes, hypertension, tobacco and cannabis smoking, and other cardiometabolic risk factors. Her work has been funded by the University of Colorado Boulder, American Hearing Research Foundation, Hearing Health Foundation, and the NIH (funder of present study).

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Non-Financial Disclosures: Rachael Baiduc has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Brooke L. Barry, BS

University of California, San Francisco, Long Beach, California

Brooke Barry is the junior specialist in the Sound and Music Perception Lab at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), working under Nicole T. Jiam, M.D. Barry received a B.A. in music performance and a B.S. in physiological science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Financial Disclosures: Brooke Barry is employed by UCSF.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Brooke Barry has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Joshua G. W. Bernstein, PhD

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland

Joshua Bernstein, Ph.D., is a Principal Investigator in the Audiology and Speech Pathology Center (ASC) at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He directs cochlear-implant research, collaborating with clinical staff to improve the care of patients with unilateral severe-to-profound hearing loss. His additional interests include psychoacoustics and speech perception by the hearing-impaired. Dr. Bernstein also serves as Acting Chief of Research in the ASC, overseeing a team of investigators conducting clinically translational and military operational audiology and speech-pathology studies. Originally an Electrical Engineer (B.S., Cornell), he earned his Ph.D. in the interdisciplinary Harvard-MIT Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology Program.

Financial Disclosures: Joshua Bernstein is employed by Walter Reed National Military Medical Center where he receives a salary. NIH-NIDCD R01-DC-020506; Uniformed Services University US240010.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Joshua Bernstein has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Sriram Boothalingam, PhD

National Acoustic Laboratories and 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 and Macquarie University.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Sriram Boothalingam has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Kristina Bowdrie, AuD, PhD

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

Kristina Bowdrie is an Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University, where she directs the Human Ecology and Auditory Research (HEAR) Laboratory. She is also a research audiologist at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She earned both her Au.D. and Ph.D. in Speech and Hearing Science from The Ohio State University. As a clinician-scientist, her research examines how individuals with hearing loss interact with their environments and how these interactions shape clinical interventions and outcomes.

Financial Disclosures: Kristina Bowdrie is employed by Case Western Reserve University where she receives a salary. This research was supported by The Ohio State University Graduate School's Alumni Grants for Graduate Research and Scholarship (AGGRS) Program.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Kristina Bowdrie holds a without compensation (WOC) appointment at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Eric Branda, PhD

WS Audiology, Iselin, New Jersey

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

Financial Disclosures: Eric Branda is employed by WS Audiology where he receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Eric Branda has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Carmen C. Brewer, PhD

Consultant Research Audiologist, Hyattsville, Maryland

Carmen Brewer, Ph.D. is a Consultant Research Audiologist and Research Audiologist Emeritus at the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. She is a founding member and focus area co-chair of the International Ototoxicity Management Group. Her career spans over four decades with special interest in genetics of hearing loss and ototoxicity. She has co-authored over 100 peer reviewed manuscripts and multiple book chapters.

Financial Disclosures: Carmen Brewer is a paid consultant to JAEB Center for Healthcare Research Foundation.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Carmen Brewer has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Mitra Britton, PhD

Montclair State University, Bloomfield, New Jersey

Dr. Britton joined the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Montclair state university (MSU) as an Assistant Professor of Audiology following the completion of her Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2025. During her doctoral training, she specialized in leveraging electronic health databases such as UK Biobank to conduct data-driven research, with a focus on tinnitus phenotypic comorbidity patterns. At MSU, she aims to study cortical and cochlear changes in individuals with tinnitus, focusing on populations with an existing gastrointestinal condition as well as investigating the less known tinnitus link with other conditions.

Financial Disclosures: Mitra Britton has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Mitra Britton has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Douglas S. Brungart, PhD

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland

Douglas S. Brungart, PhD, is the Chief Scientist of the National Military Audiology and Speech Pathology Center at Walter Reed. His research focuses on the application of advanced technology to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss and other hearing, balance and speech disorders. He holds a MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a BS in Computer Engineering from Wright State University.

Financial Disclosures: Douglas Brungart is employed by the US Government where he receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Douglas Brungart has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

George W. Burwood, PhD

Oregon Hearing Research Center, Dept. of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon

George Burwood received his PhD in auditory physiology at the University of Brighton, UK. As a postdoctoral researcher he studied apical cochlear mechanics and became interested in residual hearing loss following cochlear implantation. Sensitive hearing relies upon the precise mechanical arrangement of sensory, amplifying and supporting cells in the organ of Corti. To prevent cochlear implant induced hearing loss, the functional role of each cochlear mechanical component and its dynamic mechanical behavior must be known. Such parameters

must also be measured under pathological conditions to understand implantation induced changes. These topics form the core of George's research interest.

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Non-Financial Disclosures: George Burwood has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Alexander Chern, MD

Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Alexander Chern is an otologist/neurotologist and Assistant Professor of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He completed fellowship training in otology, neurotology, and skull base surgery at Johns Hopkins University and residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia/Weill Cornell). He earned his medical degree from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and his undergraduate degree from Yale University. Dr. Chern's research focuses on the intersection of musicality, hearing, and cognition. His work aims to improve music perception and enjoyment for individuals with hearing loss and to understand how musicality may support hearing health and cognitive resilience.

Financial Disclosures: Alexander Chern is employed by the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Corporal Micheal J. Crescenz VA Medical Center where he receives a salary. American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Health Services Research Grant, American Neurotology Society Research Grant.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Alexander Chern has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Alyssa Davidson, AuD, PhD

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Elkridge, Maryland

Alyssa Davidson, AuD, PhD is a research audiologist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. She received her degrees at the University of Arizona and then completed a post-doc at Northwestern University. Her research interests include hearing aid outcomes, auditory processing, and translation of research into clinical practice.

Financial Disclosures: Alyssa Davidson is employed by Henry M. Jackson Foundation where she receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Alyssa Davidson has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Rhodieleen Anne Roque de la Cruz, MD

Western Visayas Medical Center, iloilo, Philippines

Dr. Rhodieleen Anne de la Cruz is an otorhinolaryngologist and audiologist with a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of the Philippines Manila and a Master in Clinical Audiology from the University of Santo Tomas, where she graduated magna cum laude. She also holds an International Master in Business Administration from Buckinghamshire New University, United Kingdom. Dr. de la Cruz is the Executive Vice President of Ear Diagnostics Inc. and an active consultant at several hospitals in Iloilo City. Her research interests focus on hearing screening, noise-induced hearing loss, and auditory rehabilitation.

Financial Disclosures: Rhodieleen Anne de la Cruz is employed by Ear Diagnostics Inc.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Rhodieleen Anne de la Cruz 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 rehabilitation approaches 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.

Rafael E. Delgado, PhD

Intelligent Hearing Systems Corp., Miami, Florida

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

Financial Disclosures: Rafael Delgado is employed by Intelligent Hearing Systems Corp. where he receives a salary. He is a stock owner of Intelligent Hearing Systems Corp.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Rafael Delgado has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Lauren K. Dillard, AuD, PhD

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

Lauren K. Dillard is an Assistant Professor at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She earned her AuD, MS (Population Health Sciences) and PhD degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Lauren's research is focused on topics related to the epidemiology of hearing loss, including hearing loss prevention and management and screening for age-related hearing loss. Most of her research is conducted in longitudinal population-based cohort studies and also in electronic health records from MUSC and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Financial Disclosures: Lauren Dillard is employed by the Medical University of South Carolina where she receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Lauren Dillard has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Coral Dirks, AuD, PhD, CCC-A

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Coral Dirks earned her AuD (February 2017) and PhD (April 2020) from the University of Minnesota, where her dissertation focused on spatial hearing in individuals with single-sided deafness and cochlear implants. She served as a research audiologist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center from 2020 to 2022. In Fall 2022, she joined the University of South Dakota as an assistant professor, where she taught AuD graduate students, provided clinical care for pediatric and adult cochlear implant patients, and conducted research on spatial hearing and asymmetric hearing loss. In December 2025, she began her current role as an Academic Audiologist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Financial Disclosures: Coral Dirks is employed by Mayo Clinic where she receives a salary. She received a salary from the University of South Dakota. Research support from: NIH Grant UT2GM148086, FTL Labs, Sensimetrics Corp, Defense Centers for Public Health – Aberdeen.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Coral Dirks 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.

Peter R. Dixon, MD

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

Dr. Peter R. Dixon, MD MSc is an early-career neurologist and health services researcher dedicated to improving hearing care access and outcomes. With expertise in cochlear implants and hearing loss detection, Dr. Dixon translates complex clinical data into scalable, practical solutions. His multidisciplinary approach integrates advanced analytics and informatics to enhance hearing care delivery. Through clinical and research efforts focused on addressing barriers to care, Dr. Dixon aims to transform hearing care delivery and improve quality of life for individuals with hearing loss.

Financial Disclosures: Peter Dixon is employed by Medical University of South Carolina where he receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Peter Dixon has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Laura Dreisbach, PhD

San Diego State University, San Diego, California

Laura Dreisbach is an Audiologist and Professor in the School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at San Diego State University. Her Ph.D. from Northwestern University is where she developed objective

measurements of human cochlear physiology. In her Post-Doctoral Fellowship, she examined normal- and impaired-hearing abilities using psychoacoustic measurements. In her Auditory Physiology and Psychoacoustics Laboratory she uses objective and subjective measures to characterize the full bandwidth of auditory function across the lifespan.

Financial Disclosures: Laura Dreisbach is employed by San Diego State University where she receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Laura Dreisbach has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Viji Easwar, PhD

National Acoustic Laboratories, Baulkham Hills, Australia

Viji Easwar is the research lead of the paediatrics hearing loss program at the National Acoustic Laboratories. Viji is an audiologist and a hearing scientist with interest in auditory development and neural measures of hearing.

Financial Disclosures: Viji Easwar is employed by Hearing Australia where she receives a salary. Research support from NHMRC.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Viji Easwar has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Ann Clock Eddins, PhD

Communication Technologies Research Center, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

Ann Clock Eddins, Ph.D., M.B.A., CCC-A is Professor and Director of the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Central Florida. She is a clinical audiologist and classically trained neuroscientist with research and clinical interests aimed at understanding the neural bases of auditory perception and neural plasticity with aging, hearing loss, and rehabilitative intervention. Her research has been funded by NIH, NSF, private foundations and industry. She has 30+ years of academic experience within CSD and a passion for advancing academic programs, healthcare service delivery, interprofessional collaboration, and development of faculty, researchers, and students within the discipline.

Financial Disclosures: Ann Clock Eddins is employed by the University of Central Florida where she receives a salary. This work is supported by a contract with Sonova Canada Inc.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Ann Clock Eddins has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Katharine A. Fernandez, AuD, PhD

NIDCD/NIH, Bethesda, Maryland

Katharine Fernandez is an AuD/PhD currently working at the National Institutes of Health, exploring therapeutic strategies to mitigate drug-induced and age-related hearing loss. Her work incorporates mouse models, clinical studies, and bioinformatics to evaluate the potential for drug-repurposing to reduce the impact of hearing loss.

Financial Disclosures: Katharine Fernandez is employed by National Institutes of Health where she receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Katharine Fernandez has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Matthew Fitzgerald, PhD

Stanford University, Palo Alto, California

Dr. Fitzgerald is the Chief of Audiology at Stanford University, where he oversees the adult and pediatric audiology practices. His research interests focus on the development and translation of new tools to assess performance in patients with hearing difficulties.

Financial Disclosures: Matthew Fitzgerald is employed by Stanford University where he receives a salary. This work was supported by a grant from the Stanford Center for Digital Health, and a donation from Mona Taliaferro.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Matthew Fitzgerald has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

David R. Friedmann, MD

NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, New York

David R. Friedmann, MD, MSc is a neurotologist and research scientist at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. He has published widely on outcomes in cochlear implantation and skull base surgery. His funded work seeks to address complexities in the delivery of hearing care. His research is funded by the National Institutes of Health and VA Health Services Research.

Financial Disclosures: David Friedmann is employed by NYU where he receives a salary. This project was funded by a grant from NIA.
Non-Financial Disclosures: David Friedmann has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Angela Garinis, PhD

Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon

Dr. Angela Garinis is an Associate Professor at Oregon Health & Science University within the Oregon Hearing Research Center and serves as a Principal Investigator at the VA Portland's National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research. Her research, supported by funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, focuses on advancing diagnostic metrics for detecting aminoglycoside-induced hearing and balance loss, as well as identifying risk factors for individuals at elevated risk.

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Non-Financial Disclosures: Angela Garinis has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Madeline E. Gibson, AuD

University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California

Dr. Madeline Gibson is a clinical audiologist and faculty member at the University of California San Diego where she teaches in the SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Audiology. She completed her doctorate through the same program, and did her clinical externship at Rady Children's Hospital, she developed a strong interest in translational and clinical research. Her work has focused on auditory brainstem implants, telehealth in audiology, and her doctoral research looking at the role of HBEGF in the innate immune response underlying

otitis media. Dr. Gibson is dedicated to advancing evidence-based clinical practice through teaching, mentorship, and research integration.

Financial Disclosures: Madeline Gibson is employed by UCSD where she receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Madeline Gibson has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

René Gifford, PhD

Hearts for Hearing, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

René Gifford, PhD, is Chief of Audiology & Research at Hearts for Hearing in Oklahoma City as well as co-CEO of the clinical board of directors for the Institute for Cochlear Implant Training (ICIT), and Director of the ICIT Advanced Audiology Course (AAC). Her research has been NIH funded for over 20 years and focuses on speech & music perception, spatial hearing, and development of speech, language, and literacy for children with hearing loss. She has authored over 170 peer-reviewed publications, two books, and multiple book chapters in the field of cochlear implants and auditory (re)habilitation.

Financial Disclosures: René Gifford is employed by Hearts for Hearing where she receives a salary. She received research grants from Advanced Bionics (AB), Cochlear, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). René is a consultant for Cochlear, Skylark Bio, and Sony; audiology advisory board for Cochlear and Skylark Bio.
Non-Financial Disclosures: René Gifford has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Nicholas P. Giuliani, AuD, PhD

James H. Quillen VA Medical Center; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee

Dr. Giuliani's primary research interest is to develop and implement measures to improve the identification and treatment of listening difficulties and auditory disorders, particularly those that are recalcitrant to current audiological assessments. His current research explores whether autonomic nervous system responses are altered in patients with chronic tinnitus. His long-term goals are to develop objective measures that will be clinically relevant for the diagnosis and treatment of listening difficulties experienced by Veterans, particularly those with normal or near-normal hearing thresholds and a history of blast exposure, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and chronic tinnitus.

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Non-Financial Disclosures: Nicholas Giuliani has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Karen Gordon, PhD

The Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Karen Gordon, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology and a Graduate Faculty Member in the Institute of Medical Science at the University of Toronto. She works at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, as a Senior Scientist in the Research Institute and an Audiologist in the Department of Communication Disorders. She is Director of Research in Archie's Cochlear Implant Laboratory and holds the Bastable-Potts Health Clinician Scientist Award in Hearing Impairment and Cochlear Americas Chair of

Auditory Development. Karen's collaborative research focuses on auditory development in children who are deaf and use auditory prostheses including cochlear implants. Her work is supported by research funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the American National Institute of Health along with the Cochlear Americas Chair in Auditory Development and generous donations.

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

Matthew J. 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 training grant that supports this program.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Matthew Goupell has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Valerie A. Ingalls, BA

University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

Valerie is a doctoral candidate in the University of Iowa's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Her research focuses on uncovering 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 salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Valerie Ingalls has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Carole E. Johnson, AuD, PhD

Hearing Evaluation, Rehabilitation, and Outcomes (HERO) Laboratory, Edmond, Oklahoma

Carole E. Johnson, PhD, AuD is a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Director of the Hearing Evaluation, Rehabilitation, and Outcomes (HERO) Lab at the University of Oklahoma Health Campus in Oklahoma City, OK. Her area of expertise is auditory rehabilitation and she has published 84 articles, written 4 textbooks, and presented over 200 papers at national and international professional meetings.

Financial Disclosures: Carole Johnson has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Carole Johnson has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Eric M. Johnson, AuD, PhD

West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia

Eric M. Johnson is an assistant professor in the Division of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the West Virginia University School of Medicine. His main research interests are in speech-in-noise perception, noise-reduction technology, and psychoacoustics.

Financial Disclosures: Eric Johnson is employed by West Virginia University where he receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Eric Johnson 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, where he receives a salary. Erik's work is supported by the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the NIH/NIDCD.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Erik Jorgensen has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Andrej Kral, MD

Hannover Medical School & Macquarie University, Hannover, Germany

Andrej Kral, MD, PhD, is a Professor of Systems Neuroscience at Macquarie University and Professor of Auditory Neuroscience at Hannover Medical School, where he holds the Chair in Experimental Otology. Dr. Kral received degrees from the School of Medicine, Comenius University in Bratislava (MD 1993, PhD 1998). Dr. Kral is specialized to auditory neurophysiology in animals (rodents, cats) and humans (EEG). His research interests include hearing loss, central effects of deafness for brain development and cognition, neuroplasticity, cochlear implants and neuroprosthetics (website: www.neuroprostheses.com). Dr. Kral serves a the boardmember and from 2026 as a co-speaker of the Cluster of Excellence Hearing4All, has been the founding chair of the PhD Program "Auditory Sciences" at the Hannover Medical School. He is member of the editorial board of Hearing Research. In 2017 he has been elected a member of the German National Academy of Science and in 2018 of the Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum. He received the 2024 Pioneer Award in Basic Science from the Association for Research in Otolaryngology (USA) for his fundamental work on understanding brain plasticity after hearing loss.

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Non-Financial Disclosures: Andrej Kral has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

William G. Kronenberger, PhD

Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana

William G. Kronenberger, Ph.D., is the Arthur B. Richter Professor of Child Psychiatry at Indiana University School of Medicine. He serves as Director of the Pediatric Psychology Testing Clinic and as the Pediatric Psychologist in the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Clinic at Riley Hospital for Children. Dr. Kronenberger received his B.S. from Xavier University. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology (specializing in Pediatric Psychology) from Duke University, where he was a James B. Duke Fellow and Norman Guttman Named Instructor. He completed his internship at Indiana University School of Medicine, where he served as Chief Psychology Intern. Dr. Kronenberger's research investigates influences on the development of executive functioning, memory, learning, and spoken language, particularly in children with hearing loss and cochlear implants. His clinical work involves assessment and treatment of executive functioning, language, and learning disorders. He is the developer of the EMBED executive functioning therapy program as well as several psychological tests that are used nationally and internationally. He has been a principal investigator or co-investigator on NIH-funded projects addressing neurocognitive and spoken language development in children with cochlear implants.

Financial Disclosures: William Kronenberger is employed by Indiana University School of Medicine/IU Health Physicians where he receives a salary. This presentation was supported by grants R01DC009581, R01DC015257, and R01DC021339 from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD). He has served as a paid consultant to the Indiana Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center; this consulting is not relevant to the current presentation.
Non-Financial Disclosures: William Kronenberger has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

David M. Landsberger, PhD

New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York, New York

David M. Landsberger, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. He specializes in auditory psychophysics and cochlear implant technology, with a focus on pitch perception, sound quality, and music appreciation through electrical hearing. His research spans signal processing design, direct stimulation techniques, and innovative methods using single-sided deaf cochlear implant users as within-subject controls. Trained at the University of Melbourne and House Ear Institute, Dr. Landsberger bridges basic science and clinical application, leading translational studies that inform surgical strategies, device programming, and auditory rehabilitation for cochlear implant users.

Financial Disclosures: David Landsberger is employed by New York University Grossman School of Medicine. He owns stock in York Sound.
Non-Financial Disclosures: David Landsberger has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Lori J. Leibold, PhD

Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska

Lori Leibold is the Senior Director of the Center for Hearing Research and the Director of the Human Auditory Development Laboratory at Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. She reviewed her B.S. from McMaster University, M.Sc. from the University of Western Ontario, and her Ph.D. from the University of Washington. Her background is in audiology and developmental psychoacoustics. Her program of research investigates auditory development broadly, with a specific focus on how children learn to hear and understand speech in the presence of competing background sounds. This research involves individuals ranging in age from 6 months to 40+ years, including infants and children with hearing loss, children and adults who speak both English and Spanish, and children with Down syndrome.

Financial Disclosures: Lori Leibold is employed by Boys Town National Research Hospital where she receives a salary. She receives funding from the National Institutes of Health.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Lori Leibold has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Frank R. Lin, MD

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

Frank R. Lin, MD, PhD is a Professor of Otolaryngology and Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health. As an otologic surgeon and epidemiologist, he has translated his experiences caring for adults with hearing loss into public health research and policy. These efforts include establishing the impact of hearing loss and hearing interventions on dementia risk and other health outcomes through the ACHIEVE study, collaborating with and testifying before policy makers to secure federal passage and enactment of the U.S. Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017 and launching the Hearing Number awareness initiative. Lin is a former member of both the Board on Health Sciences Policy and the Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence at the National Academies. As of September 2025, he is on a professional leave of absence from Johns Hopkins University and working at Apple.

Financial Disclosures: Frank Lin is employed by Apple Inc where he receives a salary. He is presently on a professional leave of absence from Johns Hopkins University. He has equity in Apple.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Frank Lin has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Alexandra R. Mai, AuD

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

Alexandra Hustedt-Mai earned her B.A. from St. Louis University in 2016 and her AuD from Purdue in 2020. During her training, she gained research experience in Dr. Hari Bharadwaj's lab and through a T-35 traineeship at BoysTown, which underscored the importance of bridging research and clinic. Following her externship at Nemours Hospital for Children, Alex worked as a clinical audiologist. Now serving as the research audiologist for Purdue's Accessible Precision Audiology Research Center (APARC), Alex combines her clinical expertise with her research background to advance community-based hearing-health initiatives focusing on engaging communities, gathering high-quality data, and providing hearing-health education.

Financial Disclosures: Alexandra Mai is employed by Purdue where she receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Alexandra Mai has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Jacie R. McHaney, PhD

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

I am a Research Assistant Professor in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Northwestern University. My research investigates the impacts of aging, hearing loss, and cognition on the neural mechanisms underlying speech perception. My research program integrates neurophysiological, computational, and translational approaches to understand speech processing challenges across the adult lifespan. I am particularly interested in midlife, as this is a time when speech perception challenges begin to occur even in the absence of hearing loss. My long-term research goal is to provide a neurobiologically informed foundation for scalable diagnostics and interventions for speech perception challenges.

Financial Disclosures: Jacie McHaney is employed by Northwestern University.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Jacie McHaney has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Theodore R. McRackan, MD

Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina

Dr. Teddy McRackan, MD MSCR is a fellowship-trained neurotologist whose research focuses on a better understanding of the communication, health, and social benefits of hearing loss treatment in adults, with a focus on developing patient-centered interventions to improve functional outcomes. To date, his research program has been supported by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, American Cochlear Implant Alliance, and the Doris Duke Foundation. He currently serves as the Medical Director of the MUSC Cochlear Implant Program and Director of the MUSC Skull Base Center.

Financial Disclosures: Theodore McRackan is employed by MUSC where he receives a salary. R01 NIDCD. He is on the Advisory Board for Envoy Medical.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Theodore McRackan has no other relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Jill Mecklenburger, AuD

GN Hearing, Glenview, Illinois

Jill Mecklenburger, Au.D., is a Principal Audiologist in the Global Audiology group at GN Hearing. She supports projects contributing to the development of innovative hearing aid technologies. Her interests include wireless connectivity and evaluating user benefits of new technology. She has worked with technology partners Microsoft, Intel, and Google on the development of Bluetooth Low Energy Audio for hearing aids, and shares insights from these experiences at lectures worldwide. Since joining GN in 2003, Dr. Mecklenburger has held various roles including Research Audiologist, Project Manager, and Product Manager. She is board certified by the American Board of Audiology.

Financial Disclosures: Jill Mecklenburger is employed by GN Hearing where she receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Jill Mecklenburger has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Srikanta K. Mishra, PhD

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

Srikanta Mishra, PhD, CCC-A, is an associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin. His research program is focused on hearing in children, actively supported by NIH/NIDCD grants.

Financial Disclosures: Srikanta Mishra is employed by UT Austin where he receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Srikanta Mishra has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Brian B. Monson, PhD
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois

Brian B. Monson, PhD, is an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Speech and Hearing Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His research focuses on speech perception, speech acoustics, and auditory neurodevelopment.

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Lina Motlagh Zadeh, PhD
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of Cincinnati, Goshen, Ohio

Dr. Lina Motlagh Zadeh initially trained as a clinical audiologist and earned her PhD from the University of Cincinnati. Following graduation, she completed postdoctoral training in the Communication Sciences Research Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital before joining the University of Cincinnati as an Assistant Professor in August 2023. Her research focuses on developing behavioral measures to assess how peripheral and central auditory processes affect speech perception in noise, identifying mechanisms underlying subclinical hearing loss, and optimizing hearing healthcare delivery.

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Anu Nair, PhD
The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

The presenting author is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on understanding the neural and perceptual consequences of subclinical hearing loss.

Financial Disclosures: Anu Nair has no relevant financial relationship to disclose.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Anu Nair has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Sara Neumann, AuD
Hearts for Hearing, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Sara Neumann, Au.D., is a clinical & research audiologist and Division Director of the Pediatric Hearing Implant Program at Hearts for Hearing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She specializes in pediatric audiology and

cochlear implants for children and adults and conducts research studies evaluating clinically relevant outcomes with different hearing technologies. Prior to obtaining her Doctorate of Audiology from Illinois State University (2012), she was a teacher of the deaf providing early intervention and educational services for D/HH children, 0-18 years. She has been an audiologist at Hearts for Hearing since 2013 and served as the Audiology Research Manager from 2018-2025.

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

Carrie L. Nieman, MD

Johns Hopkins Cochlear Center for Hearing & Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland

Dr. Carrie Nieman is an Associate Professor in the Division of Otology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery in the Johns Hopkins Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. She is Core Faculty at the Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Principal Faculty at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing Center for Equity in Aging. Her research is directed at understanding and addressing hearing health disparities among older adults. Dr. Nieman's work focuses on the development and implementation of public health-driven approaches to hearing care.

Financial Disclosures: Carrie Nieman is employed by Johns Hopkins School of Medicine where she receives a salary. Carrie receives grant support from the NIH.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Carrie Nieman serves as a volunteer board member of the nonprofit organizations, Hearing Loss Association of America and Access HEARS.

Maddie M. Olson, AuD

Starkey, Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Maddie Olson, Au.D., is the Manager of Clinical Product Research at Starkey, where she leads a team of audiologists dedicated to validating hearing technologies and ensuring exceptional performance and clinical benefit. Since joining Starkey as a Research Audiologist in 2021, Dr. Olson has spearheaded product validation studies and post-market studies to assess device efficacy over time. Her work supports the development of technologies that promote long-term, positive outcomes for hearing aid users.

Financial Disclosures: Maddie Olson is employed by Starkey where she receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Maddie Olson has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Heesung Park, PhD

University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

Dr. Heesung Park is a postdoctoral researcher in the Auditory Neurosciences and Technology (ANT) Laboratory, directed by Dr. Erol Ozmeral, at the University of South Florida. He previously worked as a research audiologist at Samsung Medical Center in South Korea and earned his Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders from James Madison University in 2023. His research focuses on selective auditory attention in spatial hearing and the cognitive and behavioral mechanisms for better listening.

Financial Disclosures: Heesung Park is employed by the University of Florida where he received a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Heesung Park has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

So Eun Park, AuD, PhD

East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee

I am an Assistant Professor at East Tennessee State University. My research focuses on age-related auditory processing difficulties, utilizing electrophysiological methods to investigate their underlying neural mechanisms. My long-term goal is to develop objective assessment tools for age-related auditory dysfunction and to establish clinically applicable electrophysiological outcome measures for auditory rehabilitation in aging and other clinical populations. I am also deeply committed to educating future audiologists through hands-on instruction and mentorship.

Financial Disclosures: So Eun Park is employed by ETSU. This research was supported by East Tennessee State University (ETSU).
Non-Financial Disclosures: So Eun Park has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

James Russell Pike

New York University, New York, New York

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

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Heather Porter, AuD, PhD

Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska

Heather Porter is a research scientist and clinical audiologist at Boys Town National Research Hospital. She completed clinical and research doctorates from Vanderbilt University, including training in leadership

education in neurodevelopmental differences. She completed post-doctoral studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and later became immersed in a clinical setting at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, working with children with complex medical histories and developmental differences. Her current roles inform a program of federally funded translational research to improve hearing healthcare and outcomes in individuals with Down syndrome across the lifespan.

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Non-Financial Disclosures: Heather Porter is a member of the Phonak Pediatric Advisory Board.

Sébastien Santurette, PhD

Centre for Applied Audiology Research, Oticon A/S, Smørum, Denmark

Sébastien Santurette is Director of Research in Auditory Science and Technical Audiology at Oticon‚Äôs Centre for Applied Audiology Research. He has held associate professorship positions in clinical audiology and hearing rehabilitation at the Technical University of Denmark and Copenhagen University Hospital. His research interests include psychoacoustics, effects of hearing loss on sound perception, and audiology. He is an engineering graduate of Ecole Centrale Paris and holds an MSc degree in Engineering Acoustics (2005) and a PhD in Electronics and Communication from the Technical University of Denmark (2011).

Financial Disclosures: Sébastien Santurette is employed by Oticon A/S where he receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Sébastien Santurette has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Julia Zoe Sarant, AuD, PhD

The University of Melbourne, Carlton, Australia

Prof Julia Sarant is a professor in Audiology in the School of Health Sciences at The University of Melbourne. She has 30+ years of experience in hearing loss related research and leads the Hearing Loss and Cognition Program in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology. Julia's research program includes work on: whether hearing interventions can delay cognitive decline/dementia; medical comorbidities and markers/predictors of hearing loss; barriers to GP referral for hearing care; barriers to hearing aid take-up and use; developing behavioral interventions to address barriers to hearing care; health economics evaluations of the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of interventions.

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Kevin Seitz-Paquette, AuD

Sonova, Aurora, Illinois

Kevin Seitz-Paquette is the Sr Director of Audiologic Insights at Sonova. In this role, he is responsible for the dissemination and translation of clinical research findings related to new and existing Sonova technologies.

Prior to this role, he served as director of the Phonak Audiology Research Center. He holds an AuD from Northwestern University and serves on the membership committee of the American Auditory Society.

Financial Disclosures: Kevin Seitz-Paquette is employed by Sonova where he receives a salary. He holds shares in Sonova AG.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Kevin Seitz-Paquette has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Christopher Shera, PhD

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Christopher Shera studies how the ear amplifies, analyzes, and emits sound. A Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, Shera holds a PhD in physics and neurobiology from the California Institute of Technology and works as Professor of Otolaryngology at the University of Southern California, where he directs the Hearing and Communication Neuroscience Program. When not thinking about ears, he annoys a sleeping greyhound by attempting to play the cello.

Financial Disclosures: Christopher Shera is employed by the University of Southern California where he receives a salary. Grant support: NIH/NIDCD R01 DC003687 and R01 DC018307.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Christopher Shera 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.

Sherri L. Smith, AuD, PhD

Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina

Sherri L. Smith, AuD, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Head & Neck Surgery and Communication Sciences and Population Health Sciences at Duke University School of Medicine. Her core research focuses on improving the assessment and treatment of hearing loss in older adults. Specifically, her work centers on comparing the effectiveness of hearing interventions; developing new, innovative clinical tools; and examining the impact of hearing loss on other health conditions and services.

Financial Disclosures: Sherri Smith is employed by Duke University School of Medicine.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Sherri Smith has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Peter S. Steyger, PhD

Bellucci Translational Hearing Center; Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

Dr. Steyger obtained his PhD in Communication and Neuroscience at Keele University, England, where he first began his ototoxicity research 25 years ago. His preclinical research revealed that systemic inflammation exacerbated the degree of drug-induced hearing loss. This study tested the same hypothesis in a neonatal population exposed to aminoglycosides.

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Brian J. Taylor, AuD

WS Audiology, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Brian Taylor, AuD, is the senior director of audiology for WS Audiology. Dr. Taylor also serves as the editor of Audiology Practices, a quarterly publication of the Academy of Doctors of Audiology, and an adjunct instructor at the University of Wisconsin. Brian has more than 30 years of clinical, business and teaching experience.

Financial Disclosures: Brian Taylor is employed by WS Audiology where he receives a salary.
Non-Financial Disclosures: Brian Taylor has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Abbey L. Thomas, PhD

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Abbey Thomas is a postdoctoral associate in the University of Minnesota's Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences. Thomas completed her PhD at The University of Texas at Dallas, where her research focused on affective prosody production and perception. Thomas plans to continue researching how perception of doubting and trusting prosody influences interactions between clinical populations and service professionals. In addition to prosody research, Thomas develops open-source software for remote speech and hearing experiments, with the goal of improving accessibility for potential participants.

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Susan E. Voss, PhD

Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

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

Financial Disclosures: Susan Voss is employed by Smith College where she receives a salary. She is supported by an R15 grant from the NIDCD.
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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.

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Kathryn Wiseman, AuD, PhD

Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska

Kathryn Wiseman, AuD, PhD, CCC-A is Director of the Child Auditory Technology Lab at Boys Town National Research Hospital. Her research interests include developmental outcomes in children who are deaf or hard of hearing who use hearing aids and/or cochlear implants. Her work aims to study clinical outcomes and experimental measures across the continuum of auditory technology to enhance device candidacy, fitting, and intervention for these children and their families.

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