



AERICAN
AAUDITORY
SSOCIETY

SCIENTIFIC &
TECHNOLOGY
MEETING

BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN AUDITORY SOCIETY • FEBRUARY 2026



**Final
Program**

Scottsdale, AZ • February 26-28, 2026



A Warm Welcome to the 2026 American Auditory Society Scientific and Technology Conference!

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2026 American Auditory Society Scientific and Technology Conference! This year, we carry forward AAS's tradition of promoting impactful translational hearing and balance research, supporting interdisciplinary discussion, and fostering the development of promising junior scientists and clinician-scientists in the field. The Program Committee worked diligently to select the most innovative, impactful, and high-quality podiums, posters, and trainee and new investigator travel awards.

The AAS Board would like to express our gratitude to the organizations and individuals who have contributed financially to the success of this conference. The ongoing support from the NIDCD through an R13 conference grant, from generous individual donors, and through the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Fund, all continue to be critical to support outstanding sessions and awards. These include the prestigious Translational Research and Special Session podium presentations, Mentored Student and Resident Research Travel Awards, T35 Travel Awards, and New Investigator Travel Awards. We are deeply grateful for these forms of support, because they have enriched the meeting tremendously and have created outstanding opportunities for student and trainee career development.



Speakers and Special Program

We have an incredible line-up of speakers for our featured sessions this year!

The Carhart Memorial Lecture will be given by **Christopher Shera, PhD**. Dr. 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. Dr. Shera's lab studies how the ear amplifies, analyzes, and creates sound, using a quantitative interplay between theoretical modelling studies and physiological measurements. His lecture titled, *Sing, Ear of Charming Echo*, will review ongoing efforts regarding the mechanical frequency selectivity of the inner ear. The Carhart Memorial Lecture on Thursday afternoon will be followed by a festive Opening Reception for all attendees.

This year's Translational Lecture Series emphasizes the inter- and trans-disciplinary foci that are long-standing hallmarks of the AAS. Thursday morning will kick off with a presentation on *Using Acoustic Modeling to Understand Middle-Ear Pathologies and Improve Diagnosis and Treatment* by **Susan E. Voss, PhD**. On Friday morning, the Early Career Research Award Presentation will be delivered by **Coral Dirks, AuD, PhD, CCC-A**, who will give a lecture titled, *From Controlled Environments to Clinical Reality: Evaluating How We Hear with Two Ears*. Following this session, the Killion Lecture will be given by **Frank Lin, MD, PhD**, on *Transforming Hearing through Evidence, Policy, and Awareness*. Lastly, **Lori Leibold, PhD**, completes our Translational Lecture Series on Saturday morning with the presentation *Maturation of Speech Recognition in Noisy Environments*.

We are also excited to hear presentations from 9 representatives of hearing healthcare companies, who will share new and innovative aspects of their work on Thursday afternoon, and we are grateful for their time and support of the AAS meeting.

During Saturday afternoon's Special Session on *Cochlear Implantation and Neurodevelopment*, we will hear from four prominent scientists and clinician-scientists who are leaders in the fields of cochlear implantation, neurocognitive processing, and auditory and language development. We will begin with a presentation by **Karen A. Gordon, PhD, CCC-A**, a leader on binaural processing and development in pediatric implant users, titled, *Understanding Memory and Learning Challenges in Children with Hearing and Balance Impairments*. Next, **Julie Arenberg, PhD**, an expert on the electrode-neuron interface in cochlear implant recipients, will present on *Differences Between Children and Adults with Cochlear Implants: A Neurophysiologic Perspective*. We will then hear a presentation on *Non-auditory Consequences of Developmental Hearing Loss* from **Andrej Kral, MD, PhD**, an esteemed expert in translational research from cats to humans. Finally, **William G. Kronenberger, PhD**, will discuss the interplay between auditory and neurocognitive processing and development during his talk, *Thinking Fast and Slow: Speed of Information Processing, Executive Functioning, and Language Development in Children with Cochlear Implants*.

Awards

On Friday morning, AAS President, **Rachael Frush Holt, PhD**, will host the Awards Session. We will honor the 2026 recipient of the Life Achievement Award, **Robert Burkard, PhD**. Also at this session, the Editor of *Ear and Hearing*, **Ruth Litovsky, PhD**, will present this year's Editors' Award and Readers' Choice Awards for the best manuscripts in our associated journal.





NIDCD support includes 20 trainees for Mentored Student and Resident Research Poster Travel Awards as well as 10 T35 Audiology Travel Awards for meritorious trainees to attend the Annual AAS meeting and present a poster of their research efforts. Two additional Student Travel Awards have been supported by generous gifts to the IDEA fund. Of the Travel Award recipients, 8 will share brief oral previews of their research in the Student Travel Award Poster Forum on Thursday. We strongly encourage attendees to support trainee research by attending this forum and visiting all of our outstanding trainee posters during the conference.

We are also excited that this year AAS was able to fund 16 New Investigator Travel Awards, which increased from 6 awards last year. Ten of these will participate in the Early Career Podium Sessions on Friday afternoon, with the remaining 6 presenting throughout the program. This double-digit increase in meritorious new investigator awards was supported by the generous donations from AAS members specifically to increase travel awards and the development of future leaders in our field. A special thanks to these generous donors!

Mentoring and Training Sessions

This year, the Students and Post-Doctoral fellows of AAS (spAAS) have organized a special session for Friday evening, *Perspectives on Mentoring*, which is open to all trainees: prospective students, current students, postdoctoral fellows, and medical trainees. Attendees will gather at round tables to discuss topics related to the mentoring process, with discussions facilitated by current postdoctoral fellows, as well as light snacks. If interested, please register, but there is no fee. This will be a fun, informal event for trainees to socialize with each other.

During lunch on Thursday, please also consider attending a new Reviewer Training Workshop, spearheaded by **Michelle Hughes, PhD**, and **Adam Bosen, PhD**, and the *Ear and Hearing* Editorial Board. This workshop is open to all and was developed for anyone who currently reviews or would like to begin reviewing manuscripts for scientific journals in our field. The goal is to help reviewers become more effective and impactful in their scientific reviews. This will be an outstanding active learning opportunity.

Social Events

The AAS Opening Reception will be held on Thursday evening, following the Carhart Memorial Lecture, on-site at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort outdoors in the Canyon Green. We will offer appetizers, beverages, and entertainment.

Each day of the conference, lunch will be provided outdoors in the Canyon Green. Please enjoy these opportunities to catch up with old friends and colleagues, and to develop new connections and collaborations.

Program Committee

We are truly grateful to AAS Executive Director Darla Eastlack for her expertise, time, and energy in planning, organizing, and making sure the annual meeting continues to be so outstanding and runs so smoothly. We are also incredibly appreciative of the many individuals who served on the AAS Program Committee and peer-reviewed the 256 abstracts that we received this year. Specifically, our special thanks go to the following:



PROGRAM CHAIR'S LETTER

Samira Anderson
Julie Arenberg
Adam Bosen
Irina Castellanos
Theresa Chisolm
Riley DeBacker

Lori Dreisbach
Dave Fabry
Matt Fitzgerald
David Friedmann
Jason Galster
Tina Grieco-Calub

O'neil Guthrie
Rachael Frush Holt
Ben Hornsby
Lisa Hunter
Kaylah Lalonde
Kara Leyzac

Teddy McRackan
Gabrielle Merchant
Heidi Nakajima
Carrie Nieman
Andrew Oxenham
Valeriy Shafiro
Terrin Tamati

We would especially like to thank and congratulate all of the trainees, new investigators, and established investigators who will be presenting at our meeting. Your ongoing participation and investment in AAS make our society and its conference the outstanding source of support for interdisciplinary translational auditory and vestibular science that it continues to be. Thank you also to the AAS Board and Darla Eastlack for their ongoing support. We look forward to seeing you during the 2026 Annual Meeting!

Aaron C. Moberly, MD
2026 Program Chair





Visit <https://www.amauditorysoc.org/program> for abstracts and program updates.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

- 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Ear & Hearing Editorial Board Meeting CAMELBACK VISTA BOARDROOM
- 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM AAS Executive Board Meeting CAMELBACK VISTA BOARDROOM
- 1:00 PM – 5:30 PM Registration CONVENTION DESK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

- 7:45 AM – 5:00 PM Registration CONVENTION DESK
 - 8:00 AM – 8:10 AM Opening Comments MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC
AAS President: Rachael Frush Holt, PhD
President-Elect and Program Chair: Aaron C. Moberly, MD
 - 8:10 AM – 9:10 AM Translational Research I MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC
Moderator: Laura Dreisbach, PhD
- Using Acoustic Modeling to Understand Middle-Ear Pathologies and Improve Diagnosis and Treatment
Susan E. Voss, PhD
Achilles Professor of Engineering, Smith College, Northampton, MA



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

9:20 AM - 11:40 AM

CONCURRENT PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

PODIUM SESSION I: OTOTOXICITY/NOISE/INFECTION MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC

Moderator: David R. Friedmann, MD

- 9:20 AM - 9:40 AM Provider Perspectives on Ototoxicity Management Practices in Non-Tuberculosis Mycobacterium Centers
Carmen C. Brewer, PhD, Consultant Research Audiologist, Hyattsville, MD
- 9:40 AM - 10:00 AM Impact of Sepsis and Gentamicin Exposure on Auditory Function in Preterms
Peter S. Steyger, PhD, Bellucci Translational Hearing Center; Creighton University, Omaha, NE
- 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM ECHO: A Data Resource for Cancer, Hearing, and Outcomes Research
Katharine A. Fernandez, AuD, PhD, NIDCD/NIH, Bethesda, MD
- 10:20 AM - 10:40 AM BREAK**
- 10:40 AM - 11:00 AM Disentangling Noise Exposure, TTS Symptoms, Hearing Thresholds and Hearing Difficulties
Douglas S. Brungart, PhD, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD
- 11:00 AM - 11:20 AM Risk Factors for Cochlear Synaptopathy: Aging, Noise Exposure and Ototoxicity
Nele De Poortere, AuD, PhD, Ghent University, Dept. of Information Technology, Zwijnaarde, Belgium
- 11:20 AM - 11:40 AM Exploration of HBEGF in Otitis Media with Gene Analysis
Madeline E. Gibson, AuD, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA

PODIUM SESSION II: COCHLEAR IMPLANTS MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM DEF

Moderator: Julie Arenberg, PhD

- 9:20 AM - 9:40 AM The Apical Mechanics of the Implanted Guinea Pig Cochlea
New Investigator Travel Award Recipient Presentation
George W. Burwood, PhD, Oregon Hearing Research Center, Dept. of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR
- 9:40 AM - 10:00 AM Bilateral Speech Interference with Single-Sided Deafness Cochlear Implants
Joshua G. W. Bernstein, PhD, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD
- 10:00 AM - 10:20 AM Age-Related Adaptive Musical Sound Quality Responses to Electrode Deactivation
Brooke L. Barry, BS, University of California, San Francisco, CA
- 10:20 AM - 10:40 AM BREAK**
- 10:40 AM - 11:00 AM How Prosodic Pitch is Perceived: Insights from Vocal Mimicry
David M. Landsberger, PhD, New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY
- 11:00 AM - 11:20 AM Development and Validation of Patient-Specific Predictive Models for CIQOL Outcomes
Theodore R. McRackan, MD, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

11:20 AM – 11:40 AM DNN Hearing Aids Improve Speech but Don't Disqualify CI Candidacy
René Gifford, PhD, Hearts for Hearing, Oklahoma City, OK

PODIUM SESSION III: COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES SOLSTICE HALL

Moderator: Matthew Fitzgerald, PhD

9:20 AM – 9:40 AM Improving Communication Sciences and Disorders Diversity through Undergraduate Research Training
Matthew J. Goupell, PhD, University of Maryland-College Park, College Park, MD

9:40 AM – 10:00 AM Characterizing Cochlear Health in Hypertension
Rachael R. Baiduc, PhD, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO

10:00 AM – 10:20 AM Hearing Loss and Emotional Distress in U.S. Older Adults
New Investigator Travel Award Recipient Presentation
Jessica S. West, PhD, Duke University, Durham, NC

10:20 AM – 10:40 AM BREAK

10:40 AM – 11:00 AM Effects of Hearing Intervention on Biomarkers of Neurodegeneration in ACHIEVE
James Russell Pike, New York University, New York, NY

11:00 AM – 11:20 AM Challenges to Perceiving the End of a Conversational Turn
New Investigator Travel Award Recipient Presentation
Abbey L. Thomas, PhD, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

11:20 AM – 11:40 AM Documenting the Impact of Chronic Tinnitus with Pupillometry and Microsaccades
Nicholas P. Giuliani, AuD, PhD, James H. Quillen VA Medical Center; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM LUNCH OUTDOORS CANYON GREEN

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM Reviewer Training Workshop MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC
Interested in learning how to be an effective reviewer? This workshop, hosted by members of the Ear and Hearing Editorial Board, will offer active learning opportunities for current and prospective reviewer trainees to write impactful reviews.

12:45 PM – 1:00 PM POSTER SESSION I SETUP – PUT UP POSTERS HORIZON PAVILION

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Student Travel Award Poster Forum MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM DEF
8 posters selected on merit & diversity
Moderator: Brittan A. Barker, PhD

The Quick Speech-in-Noise Test: Does Practice Matter?
Gabriella Brown, BA, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Sociodemographic Factors Related to Hearing Loss Stratified by Rural/Urban Residence
Nasya S. Tan, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Evaluation of Screening Tools to Identify Somatosensory Tinnitus
Melissa Mikkelson, BA, National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research, Portland, OR



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Neural Correlates of Time-Compressed Discourse Comprehension Across Age Groups

Taylor A. Teague, BS, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Cochlear Implant Perception of Contrastive Focus is Tied to Pitch Access

Harley J. Wheeler, AuD, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Effects of Semantic Context on Neural-Activation Patterns in CI Users

Abigail Mollison, BS, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Olivocochlear Function in Normal-Hearing Adults with Versus Without Speech-in-Noise Difficulties

Kirsten Osborn, BS, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL

Spatial Hearing Profiles in Normal, Acute Simulated, and Chronic Unilateral Hearing Loss

Sara Momtaz, AuD, PhD, Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, NE

2:00 PM – 4:55 PM

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

2:00 PM – 2:55 PM

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES, SESSION 1

2:00 PM – 2:25 PM

First Round

Session 1A

Advances in Smartep – Recording and Objective Analysis of Speech Evoked Auditory Evoked Potentials **MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC**
Rafael E. Delgado, PhD, Intelligent Hearing Systems Corp.

Session 1B

Beyond Keywords: How COSI 2.0 Enhances Patient-Centered Care with AI-Driven Goal Setting **MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM DEF**
Harvey B. Abrams, PhD, Jabra Enhance

Session 1C

A New In-the-Ear Hearing Aid Integrating Rechargeability, Connectivity, On-Board AI, and Flexible Fitting: Technical and Clinical Evaluation of Oticon Zeal™ **SOLSTICE HALL**
Sébastien Santurette, PhD, Centre for Applied Audiology Research, Oticon A/S

2:30 PM – 2:55 PM

Repeat of Sessions

3:00 PM – 3:55 PM

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES, SESSION 2

3:00 PM – 3:25 PM

First Round

Session 2A

Two Paths to Better Hearing: What Distinguishes the Sound Design of Two Leading Brands **MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC**
Brian J. Taylor, AuD, WS Audiology

Session 2B

Acoustic Model Optimization: Enhancing First-Fit Accuracy and Clinical Efficiency in Hearing Aid Fittings **MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM DEF**
Maddie Olson, AuD, Starkey

Session 2C

The Clinical Benefits of Infinio Sphere **SOLSTICE HALL**
Kevin Seitz-Paquette, AuD, Sonova



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

3:30 PM – 3:55 PM	Repeat of Sessions
4:00 PM – 4:55 PM	TECHNOLOGY UPDATES, SESSION 3
4:00 PM – 4:25 PM	First Round
Session 3A	Preferences in Hearing Aid Selection MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC <i>Eric Branda, PhD, WS Audiology</i>
Session 3B	Listening Experience Spotlight: New Evidence on Auracast Performance MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM DEF <i>Jill Mecklenburger, AuD, GN Hearing</i>
Session 3C	Genetic Testing and Counseling as Part of the Audiologic Assessment SOLSTICE HALL <i>Sara Neumann, AuD, Hearts for Hearing, Akouos, A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company; In accordance with the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America code on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals (PhRMA Code), CEU cannot be provided for this session</i>
4:30 PM – 4:55 PM	Repeat of Sessions

5:00 PM – 6:15 PM **CARHART MEMORIAL LECTURE** **MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC**
Moderator: Lisa L. Hunter, PhD
Introduction: Andrew J. Oxenham, PhD

Sing, Ear of Charming Echo
Christopher Shera, PhD, Department of Otolaryngology and Physics & Astronomy, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM **OPENING RECEPTION** **CANYON GREEN**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

7:45 AM – 1:30 PM	Registration CONVENTION DESK
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AWARD PRESENTATION MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC <i>Moderator: Ryan McCreery, PhD</i>
	From Controlled Environments to Clinical Reality: Evaluating How We Hear with Two Ears <i>Coral Dirks, AuD, PhD, CCC-A, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN</i>
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Translational Research II - Killion Lecture MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC <i>Moderator: Carrie Nieman, MD</i>
	Transforming Hearing through Evidence, Policy, and Awareness <i>Frank Lin, MD, PhD, Professor of Otolaryngology and Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD</i>



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC

Membership Update: Rachael Frush Holt, PhD, AAS President
Life Achievement Award: Robert Burkard, PhD, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY
 Ear and Hearing Update: Ruth Litovsky, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
Ear and Hearing Editors' Award: Motor Competence in School-Aged Children at Risk of Vestibular Loss: An Overview. Van Hecke, Ruth; Dhooge, Ingeborg; Dhondt, Cleo; Martens, Sarie; Sucaet, Marieke; Vanaudenaerde, Saartje; Rombaut, Lotte; De Leenheer, Els; Van Hoecke, Helen; Deconinck, Frederik J. A.; Maes, Leen. *Ear & Hearing*. 46(5):1222-1234, September/October 2025. | DOI: 10.1097/AUD.0000000000001659
Ear and Hearing Editors' Award: Resting-State Functional Connectivity Predicts Cochlear-Implant Speech Outcomes. Esmaelpoor, Jamal; Peng, Tommy; Jelfs, Beth; Mao, Darren; Shader, Maureen; McKay, Colette M. *Ear & Hearing* 46(1):p 128-138, January/February 2025. | DOI: 10.1097/AUD.0000000000001564
Ear and Hearing Readers' Choice Award: The Benefits of Hearing Aids for Adults: A Systematic Umbrella Review. Tang, Diana; Tran, Yvonne; Bennett, Rebecca J.; Lo, Charles; Lee, Jien Nien; Turner, Jessica; Gopinath, Bamini. *Ear & Hearing*. 46(3):563-570, May/June 2025. | DOI: 10.1097/AUD.0000000000001620

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

POSTER SESSION I PRESENTATIONS HORIZON PAVILION

Presenters with odd numbered posters should plan to present between 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Presenters with even numbered posters should plan to present between 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Presenters are also free to be available at any other time the poster is on display.

12:30 PM – 12:45 PM

POSTER SESSION I STRIKE – TAKE DOWN POSTERS HORIZON PAVILION

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

LUNCH OUTDOORS CANYON GREEN

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

NIH INFORMATION SESSION MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC

*Moderator: Rachael Frush Holt, PhD
 Presenters: Kelly King, AuD, PhD; Hua Ou, MD, PhD*

There are many new policies and procedures at NIH – these changes, their relevance to early career researchers, and NIDCD’s training and career development program will be discussed. This session will also include information on the NIH Office of Data Science Strategy and their current funding opportunities.

1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

CONCURRENT PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

PODIUM SESSION IV: DIAGNOSTICS AND SPEECH PERCEPTION MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC

Moderator: Tina M. Grieco-Calub, PhD

- 1:30 PM – 1:50 PM Conducting Evidence-based Community-engaged Research: Accessible Precision Audiology Research Center
Alexandra R. Mai, AuD, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
- 1:50 PM – 2:10 PM Characterizing Hearing Across the Lifespan in Individuals with Down Syndrome
Heather Porter, AuD, PhD, Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, NE
- 2:10 PM – 2:30 PM Development and Evaluation of the Intelligibility-Based Repeat-Recall Test (i-RRT)
Christopher Slugocki, PhD, WS Audiology, Office of Research in Clinical Amplification (ORCA-USA), Lisle, IL



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

- 2:30 PM – 2:50 PM Extended High-Frequency Audibility, Masked Speech Recognition, and Scene Awareness
Brian B. Monson, PhD, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL
- 2:50 PM – 3:10 PM** **BREAK**
- 3:10 PM – 3:30 PM Automatic Speech Recognition for Scoring of Audiologic Tests
Matthew Fitzgerald, PhD, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
- 3:30 PM – 3:50 PM NASEM Committee Recommendations on Measuring Outcomes in Adult Hearing Interventions
Sherri L. Smith, AuD, PhD, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC
- 3:50 PM – 4:10 PM Primary Care Hearing Program for Underserved Older Adults: Feasibility Trial Results
New Investigator Travel Award Recipient Presentation
David R. Friedmann, MD, NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY
- 4:10 PM – 4:30 PM Disentangling Speech-Noise Separability from Noise Suppression Aggressiveness Using Behavioral Testing
New Investigator Travel Award Recipient Presentation
Eric M. Johnson, AuD, PhD, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV

PODIUM SESSION V: AMPLIFICATION MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM DEF

Moderator: Francis Kuk, PhD

- 1:30 PM – 1:50 PM Everyday Hearing: A Week in the Life of Young Children with Hearing Loss
Evelien Dirks, PhD, NSDSK | Tilburg University, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 1:50 PM – 2:10 PM Benefits of Early Device Fitting Persist into Late Adolescence
Viji Easwar, PhD, National Acoustic Laboratories, Baulkham Hills, Australia
- 2:10 PM – 2:30 PM Survey of Amplification Practices for Adults with Normal Pure-Tone Thresholds
Alyssa Davidson, AuD, PhD, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD
- 2:30 PM – 2:50 PM Concurrent fNIRS, EEG, and Perception Reveal DNN Noise Reduction Advantages
Ann Clock Eddins, PhD, Communication Technologies Research Center, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
- 2:50 PM – 3:10 PM** **BREAK**
- 3:10 PM – 3:30 PM Relating Hearing Loss, Cocktail Parties, and Social-Emotional Health
Erik Jorgensen, AuD, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
- 3:30 PM – 3:50 PM Health-related Quality of Life Benefits of Hearing Aid Use
Carole E. Johnson, AuD, PhD, Hearing Evaluation, Rehabilitation, and Outcomes (HERO) Laboratory, Edmond, OK
- 3:50 PM – 4:10 PM Hearing Health among Older Korean Americans: Findings from K-HEARS Screen
Carrie L. Nieman, MD, Johns Hopkins Cochlear Center for Hearing & Public Health, Baltimore, MD
- 4:10 PM – 4:30 PM Benefits of Auditory Rehabilitation for Interaural Asymmetry (ARIA) in Children
Deborah Moncrieff, PhD, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

PODIUM SESSION VI: PHYSIOLOGY AND OBJECTIVE MEASURES SOLSTICE HALL

Moderator: Michelle L. Hicks, PhD

- 1:30 PM – 1:50 PM DPOAE Input-Output Functions in Preterm Neonates
Angela Garinis, PhD, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR
- 1:50 PM – 2:10 PM Tuning in Tiny Ears: Optimizing Extended-High-Frequency DPOAE Levels in Newborns
Laura Dreisbach, PhD, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
- 2:10 PM – 2:30 PM Polygenic Factors Affect Young Adults’ Middle Ear Muscle Reflex Thresholds
Valerie A. Ingalls, BA, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
- 2:30 PM – 2:50 PM Unphased: The Medial Olivocochlear Reflex Doesn’t Care About Binaural Phase
Sriram Boothalingam, PhD, National Acoustic Laboratories and Macquarie University, Australia
- 2:50 PM – 3:10 PM** **BREAK**
- 3:10 PM – 3:30 PM Hidden Hearing Loss: Cochlear Synaptopathy May Remain Elusive in Humans
Srikanta K. Mishra, PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- 3:30 PM – 3:50 PM Subcortical Encoding of Temporal Envelopes Facilitates Speech Stream Segregation
Anu Nair, PhD, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
- 3:50 PM – 4:10 PM Electrophysiological Measures of Binaural Hearing at the Brainstem Level
New Investigator Travel Award Recipient Presentation
So Eun Park, AuD, PhD, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN
- 4:10 PM – 4:30 PM Low-Frequency Cochlear Compressive Nonlinearity Altered by Extended High-Frequency Hearing Loss
Sajana Aryal, MS, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

2:50 PM – 3:10 PM **POSTER SESSION II SETUP – PUT UP POSTERS** HORIZON PAVILION

4:45 PM – 6:00 PM **EARLY CAREER CONCURRENT PODIUM PRESENTATIONS**
New Investigator Travel Award Recipient Presentations

EARLY CAREER PODIUM SESSION I MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM ABC

Moderator: Theodore R. McRackan, MD

- 4:45 PM – 5:00 PM Outcomes of a Pilot Screening Program for Age-Related Hearing Loss
Lauren K. Dillard, AuD, PhD, Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
- 5:00 PM – 5:15 PM Target-Shift and Target-Motion Release from Masking Using Continuous Speech
Heesung Park, PhD, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- 5:15 PM – 5:30 PM Development of a Hearing Loss-Focused Music Enjoyment Instrument
Alexander Chern, MD, Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

- 5:30 PM – 5:45 PM Hearing Aid Benefit in Adults: Interactions Between Temperament and Self-Efficacy
Kristina Bowdrie, AuD, PhD, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH
- 5:45 PM – 6:00 PM Mapping the Multisystem Burden of Tinnitus: Subtype-Specific Comorbidity Patterns Across the Health Phenome
Mitra Britton, PhD, Montclair State University, Bloomfield, NJ
- EARLY CAREER PODIUM SESSION II** MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM DEF
Moderator: Virginia Ramachandran, PhD
- 4:45 PM – 5:00 PM Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emission (DPOAE) with Tympanometry and Conditioned Play Audiometry (CPA) Protocols for Preschool Hearing Screening: A Comparative Study
Rhodieleen Anne Roque de la Cruz, MD, Western Visayas Medical Center, Iloilo, Philippines
- 5:00 PM – 5:15 PM Perceived Self-Competency in Children Who Are Hard of Hearing
Kathryn Wiseman, AuD, PhD, Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, NE
- 5:15 PM – 5:30 PM Deep Learning Extraction of Audiogram Data from Electronic Health Records
Peter R. Dixon, MD, Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
- 5:30 PM – 5:45 PM Phoneme-level Processing Deficits Reveal Speech Perception Challenges in Middle-age
Jacie McHaney, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- 5:45 PM – 6:00 PM Extended High-Frequency Loss Reveals Subclinical Cochlear Dysfunction Beyond Suprathreshold Processing
Lina Motlagh Zadeh, PhD, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

“PERSPECTIVES ON MENTORING” HAPPY HOUR EVENT CAMELBACK VISTA

All Trainees - including prospective students, students, postdoctoral fellows, and residents - attending the conference are invited to participate. Attendees will gather at round tables to discuss topics related to the mentoring process. Discussions will be facilitated by current postdoctoral fellows affiliated with AAS. A cash bar and light snacks will be available during the event. While registration to participate in the event is required, there is no fee.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

- 7:45 AM – 2:45 PM Registration CONVENTION DESK
- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Translational Research III MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM DEF
Moderator: Heather Porter, AuD, PhD, CCC-A
- Maturation of Speech Recognition in Noisy Environments
Lori Leibold, PhD
Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha, NE



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

POSTER SESSION II PRESENTATIONS HORIZON PAVILION

Presenters with odd numbered posters should plan to present between 9:00 am – 10:00 am. Presenters with even numbered posters should plan to present between 10:00 am – 11:00 am. Presenters are also free to be available at any other time the poster is on display.

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM

POSTER SESSION II STRIKE – TAKE DOWN POSTERS HORIZON PAVILION

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

LUNCH OUTDOORS CANYON GREEN

12:00 PM – 2:30 PM

SPECIAL SESSION: COCHLEAR IMPLANTATION AND NEURODEVELOPMENT

MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM DEF

Moderator: Aaron C. Moberly, MD

Understanding Memory and Learning Challenges in Children with Hearing and Balance Impairments

Karen A. Gordon, PhD, CCC-A, Reg CASLPO

Cochlear Americas Chair in Auditory Development; Bastable-Potts Health Clinician Scientist in Hearing Impairment; Professor, Dept. of Otolaryngology-HNS, University of Toronto; Archie’s Cochlear Implant Laboratory, Toronto, Canada

Differences Between Children and Adults with Cochlear Implants: A Neurophysiologic Perspective

Julie Arenberg, PhD

Director of Research and Education for Audiology at Mass Eye and Ear, Associate Professor, Harvard Dept. of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, and the Herb Silverstein Chair of Otolaryngology/Neurotology, Boston, MA

Non-auditory Consequences of Developmental Hearing Loss

Andrej Kral, MD, PhD

Institute of AudioNeuroTechnology & Dept. of Experimental Otolaryngology, Clinics of Otolaryngology, Hannover Medical School, Germany & Australian Hearing Hub, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Macquarie University, Australia

Thinking Fast and Slow: Speed of Information Processing, Executive Functioning, and Language Development in Children with Cochlear Implants

William G. Kronenberger, PhD

Arthur B. Richter Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

SUMMARY AND ADJOURNMENT MERIDIAN GRAND BALLROOM DEF





SAVE THE DATE!



The 54th Annual Scientific & Technology Conference will be held
at the Kimpton Miralina Resort & Villas in Scottsdale, Arizona
April 15-17, 2027