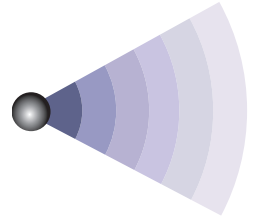


AMERICAN HEARING RESEARCH FOUNDATION SOUNDINGS NEWSLETTER



Chairman's Update

2016 has proven to be an exciting year thus far for the American Hearing Research Foundation (AHRF)!

AHRF is most certainly fulfilling its two vital roles of funding significant research in hearing and balance disorders, and, helping educate the public about hearing loss and balance disorders related to the inner ear.

This year, the Foundation awarded over \$200,000 in research grants to eight different researchers from around the country, including an otolaryngology resident. Additionally, staff has been working to streamline our 2017 grant application process and transition that process to entirely online. Projects funded by the Foundation cover a wide range of research areas and are conducted in the hope that the medical community may better understand how individuals lose hearing and balance functions, how function is regained, and, most importantly, how to preserve the hearing function individuals still have. I am proud to note that since 2010, the Foundation has awarded over \$1.1 million in research grant funds.

Once again, AHRF participated in the MidWinter Meeting of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO), this time held in San Diego, CA. I was delighted to play host to a group of prior and current Foundation grant recipients for a networking dinner to discuss their fields and work.

We are preparing to celebrate the Foundation's 60th with an exciting downtown Chicago reception at the International Museum of Surgical Science and hope that our longtime supporters and benefactors will join us as we recommit ourselves to the work of funding and finding cures for hearing and balance related disorders. Please make plans to attend.

The Board of Directors met earlier this year on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 and had a very informational meeting. Our Research Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 to review the 2017 grant proposals and applications followed by another meeting of the Board of Directors on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 to approve funding for our next round of grant awards.

On behalf of my fellow board members, I wish you the very best for the remainder of 2016.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Muench
Chairman
Board of Directors



Otolaryngology Residency Grant Renamed For The Drazin's



Earlier this year, the Foundation renamed its annual otolaryngology residency grant program after the late Bernard (1915-2004) and Lottie (1916-2015) Drazin. The Foundation's Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve the change at its May 2016 meeting in

recognition and appreciation of the Drazin's planned giving through their familial trust. The change took effect immediately and applies to residency grant proposals received for 2017 fiscal year funding. Each year, the Foundation awards up to five (5) \$1,000 grants to residents. The name change will expire in 2022 unless renewed by the Foundation.


Mrs. Drazin's nephew, Barry S. Brown, PhD, formerly with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and now a senior research scientist with the Friends Research Institute and an adjunct faculty member in the psychology department at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, commented on the Foundation's decision by saying "I am delighted to learn of the Foundation's plan to honor the contribution of my aunt, Lottie Drazin, and to recognize her heartfelt interest in furthering the work of understanding and treatment of hearing disorders. Lottie was a modest woman who would be overwhelmed by this compliment as indeed am I."




Richard G. Muench, longtime Chairman of the Board of Directors, said, "The Foundation is delighted to honor the late Mr. and Mrs. Drazin for their generosity. The Foundation intends to aggressively market the newly renamed Bernard and Lottie Drazin Research Grant Program and looks forward to naming our first recipients in January 2017. The Drazin's planned charitable giving will allow the Foundation to continue our investment into research related to hearing loss and balance disorders." 

What Research has Yielded

Research funded by the American Hearing Research Foundation over the last five years has yielded many key insights into potential medical treatments for hearing loss. AHRF researchers have:

- ◇ Begun screening hundreds of drugs for their potential to influence hair cells and neurons in the inner ear which are lost or damaged in hearing loss. This kind of large drug library screening has never before been performed to test for potential drugs to treat hearing loss.
- ◇ Developed a technique to grow large numbers of hair cells for use in lab experiments, eliminating the laborious and time-consuming process of manually collecting the small numbers of hair cells present in individual cochleas.
- ◇ Has used stem cells to produce spiral ganglion neurons - the neurons responsible to carrying sound information from the hair cells to the auditory nerve. The death of these neurons is a major cause of hearing loss.
- ◇ Developed the first genetic therapy to restore hearing in a mouse model.
- ◇ Identified and described crucial inner ear structures responsible for balance. 

Education


The American Hearing Research Foundation reaches more than 100,000 health consumers and patients seeking quality information on hearing and balance disorders through its website, www.American-Hearing.org, social media accounts, and its print and electronic newsletters. The Foundation provides more than 30 in-depth, physician-authored articles on hearing and balance disorders with links to current research and resources to find additional support. The Foundation occasionally fields specific questions on hearing loss that come in over the telephone and by email and provides responses from our physician board members. 

Shopping with AmazonSmile®


If you enjoy shopping with online retailer Amazon, you can also contribute to AHRF by choosing the American Hearing Research Foundation from their list of recognized charities. Tens of millions of products purchased through AmazonSmile® are



eligible for this giving program.


You can use an existing Amazon account and all of the account settings will be the same. The difference is that a portion of the purchase price will be directed to the Foundation when it is chosen as your designated charity. Periodically, Amazon will offer limited time promotions that increase the donation amount. Certain restrictions apply. The donations made through this program are not tax deductible because the donation is being made by Amazon. Visit <https://goo.gl/By6GCR> to do your shopping today! 

Annual Giving Campaign

The Annual Giving Campaign sustains the current research and educational programs that are vital to increased knowledge about hearing and balance related disorders. The Foundation welcomes contributions of all levels and from all individuals, organizations, and corporations. Gifts to the Annual Giving Campaign will be recognized in our publications and on the website. Please support the Foundation this year, and in years to come. 




Honor and Memorial Gifts

The Foundation acknowledges gifts made in honor or in memory of the special people in our lives. We recognize these special tributes personally, and appreciate the kindness of many generous individuals. Please use the enclosed envelope to provide us with your instructions about notifications. 



Combined Federal Campaign



The American Hearing Research Foundation is a designated charity for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) – recognized as the largest workplace giving campaign in the world that raises more than \$265 million each year – and Community Health Charities (CHC) which annually distributes more than \$60 million of all public sector contributions, making it one of the campaign's largest partners. The Foundation receives contributions through convenient payroll deductions from employees whose employers participate in CFC/CHC. The Foundation is listed on the CFC National List under National/International Organizations, number 10571. For more information, please visit <http://goo.gl/RS3uca>. 

Planned Giving and Charitable Bequests

You can play an important role in helping the Foundation secure its role in research for generations to come. When you remember the Foundation through a gift in your will, known as a charitable bequest, you become part of a special group of supporters whose generosity has made possible some of the most innovative and cutting-edge research projects. Gifts that come from sources other than current expendable income are usually part of an overall estate plan that may take effect during a donor's life or after his or her death. Any amount helps the Foundation with its mission. Individuals can choose to leave a specified sum or a percentage of their estate. Other forms of planned giving include securities, certificates of deposit, life insurance policies, retirement benefits, life income funds, and other similar giving mechanisms. These types of gifts should be arranged by a qualified attorney or financial planner.

Planning a future gift might seem like an unnecessary exercise at this point in your life, but did you know that it's one of the most affordable ways to support your favorite charity? Here are some tips to get started.

The Foundation acknowledges gifts made in honor or in memory of the special people in our lives. We recognize these special tributes personally, and appreciate the kindness of many generous individuals. Please use the enclosed form to provide us with your instructions about notifications.

If you let us know about your intention to make a gift through your will or living trust by completing the Letter of Intent for Estate Gift (found online), we will enroll you in the Legacy Circle, our honored group of friends who help secure the future through their estate planning. This completed form helps us to list your gift correctly in our periodic newsletters and on our website. For instance, it details exactly how you would like your name to appear, or if you would like to remain anonymous. If you would like to list your gift in honor or in memory of a loved one, you can also inform us when submitting the form.

Planned Giving *Continued*

Thank you for considering a gift to the American Hearing Research Foundation in your estate plan. Your generous foresight will ensure that hearing research continues investigating cures!

Thinking of leaving a gift in your will or living trust to the American Hearing Research Foundation?

Are you interested in helping the American Hearing Research Foundation with its mission but feel overwhelmed by the thought of writing another check or giving up your assets today? A simple, flexible and versatile way to ensure research continues for years to come is through a gift in your will or living trust, known as a charitable bequest.


By including a charitable bequest to the Foundation in your will or living trust, you are ensuring that we can continue our mission for years to come. Your gift also entitles your estate to an unlimited federal estate tax charitable deduction.

Charitable bequests in your will or estate can be:

- A specific amount;
- Percentage of your estate;
- What remains after other bequests are made; or,
- A conditional gift if your beneficiaries predecease you.

Fill out our Letter of Intent for Estate Gift (found online) to let us know your desire to include the Foundation in your estate plans moving forward.

- Become an educated consumer
- Consider the implications
- Make your wishes clear
- Talk to a professional

It will put your mind at ease knowing your intentions will be carried out in the future. You can feel confident and develop the best plan for you and your family while also supporting hearing-related research for generations to come. 

Community Health Charities

The Community Health Charities' mission is to unite caring donors in the workplace with our nation's most trusted health charities. Through their professional staff network in markets across the country, they can connect employees in the workplace with the programs and services of nearly 2,000 vetted and trusted health charities, including the American Hearing Research Foundation.



In 1957, twelve
national health
c h a r i t i e s

banded together to create the National Voluntary Health Agencies™ (NVHA), creating what is known as a federation. In 1983, the idea of a federation also became appealing to corporations in the private sector who wanted to make it easy for their employees to give to local charities. Similar to the public sector, 13 national health charities banded together to form the Combined Health Appeal® (CHA) to provide support and services to private sector corporations and conduct workplace giving. In 1998 NVHA & CHA merged, making Community Health Charities the largest workplace giving collaborative with a focus on health issues. Over the past five years, Community Health Charities has distributed more than \$400 million to its member charities. For more information, please visit <http://goo.gl/B3Oyc>.

Community Health Charities Event

Foundation Executive Director Brian S. Bailey attended the invitation-only Community Health Charities' (CHC) Health Marketing Insights Forum in Rosemont, IL on May 19, 2016. The purpose was to bring CHC members – of which AHRF is a proud member – together to learn about millennials.

Community Health Charities Event *Continued*

The in-depth workshop featured presentations by:

Derrick Feldmann, President of Achieve, co-author of The Millennial Impact Report and author of *Social Movements for Good: How Companies and Causes Create Viral Change*, who presented information about donor and constituency behavior and how to attract and maintain millennial donors.



Bob McAdam, former Vice President of Corporate and Community Affairs for Darden Restaurants, Wal-Mart and FleishmanHillard, who discussed how to identify strategies and craft messages that evoke support from millennials.



These presenters brought unique expertise to the event and worked directly with attendees to refine their organization's relationship with and outreach to key audiences.

Recently, the Community Health Charities' Board of Directors invited the Foundation's Executive Director Brian S. Bailey to serve as a member of the Member Relations Committee beginning immediately with a term ending June 30, 2017.

The primary purpose of the Member Relations Committee concerns itself with all matters related to the relationship between CHC and its member charities. The committee is responsible for developing and periodically reviewing the strategy and standards for membership in our portfolio of charities, considering how our member charities can best help us and how we can best help them to positively impact the lives of those affected by chronic illness or disease. The committee also reviews product or service needs from Community Health Charities to benefit member charities and identifies products or services from member charities that can benefit the work of Community Health Charities.▶

Association for Research in Otolaryngology

MidWinter Meeting Update

Foundation Chairman Richard G. Muench and Executive Director Brian S. Bailey participated in the Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO) 39th Annual MidWinter Meeting at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Diego, CA in February 2016.

In addition to promoting the Foundation's research grant opportunities, they hosted a dinner for prior and current Foundation research grant recipients on Sunday, February 21, 2016 at the Edgewater Grill located in Seaport Village adjacent to San Diego Bay. The dinner was quite enjoyable and attendees remarked that it was an excellent way for each of them to network and discuss their current research projects and how the Foundation has aided them in that research.



Attendees included Amanda Lauer (2011), PhD of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Zhengqing Hu (2011), MD, PhD of Wayne State University School of Medicine; Anna Lysakowski (2012), PhD of University of Illinois at Chicago; Stephen M. Maricich (2012), PhD, MD of University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Christine T. Dinh (2014), MD of University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; Katherine J. Rennie (2014), PhD of University of Colorado School of Medicine; M'hamed Grati (2014), PhD of University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; Michael G. Heinz (2014), PhD of Purdue University; Tejbeer Kaur (2014), PhD of Washington University School of Medicine;

Sandeep Sheth (2015), PhD of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine; Justin Aronoff (2016), PhD of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Lina A.J. Reiss (2016), PhD of Oregon Health & Science University; and, Samira Anderson (2016), AuD, PhD of University of Maryland, College Park.

Additionally, Bailey presented an overview of the Foundation and the guidelines and processes in awarding grants at the event's annual "Get Your Research Funded" panel on Monday, February 22, 2016, along with representatives from the US military, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, Research Fund of the American Otological Society, Hearing Health Foundation, American Neurotology Society, and Action on Hearing Loss.



run because

In May 2014, the Foundation entered into a fiscal sponsorship agreement with Katie Mertz for her program “*run because*,” which accepts online donations for her participation in marathons around the country. All proceeds from the program are remitted to a restricted fund held by the AHRF and used for the purpose of funding research related to Meniere’s disease.

Later in 2014, Mrs. Mertz, an attorney and Assistant Director of Pro Bono and Public Service at Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, WI, was nominated and approved for a seat on the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

The photographs below are from the April 30, 2016, marathon in Columbus, OH. According to Mrs. Mertz, “It ended up being a great race raising \$1,040 and also being one of my fastest races!”



On October 9, 2016, Mrs. Mertz will run a half marathon in Hartford, CT.

run because Continued

run because is a nonprofit organization raising support for and awareness of Meniere's disease one half marathon at a time.

Not well known, Meniere's is a disorder of the inner ear that affects hearing and balance and causes vertigo, tinnitus, and hearing loss. It is unpredictable and difficult to diagnose and manage. Meniere's is also progressive. Unfortunately, the cause of Meniere's Disease is currently unknown—as is a possible cure.

run because is partnered with the AHRF and 100% of donations go toward Meniere's research. As a result of their partnership, the American Hearing Research Foundation has funded additional Meniere's research grants.

Katie Mertz founded **run because** to raise money by running half marathons, with the goal of running one in each state plus Washington, DC. To date, she has run 14 races and raised over \$18,864.00 for Meniere's research.

run because in Katie's Words



Katie Mertz wasn't a runner. "In fact, I didn't like running. However, in the spring of 2013, I was inspired by a close friend who ran her first half marathon the weekend after the tragedy in Boston to raise money and awareness of the Parkinson's Disease from which her mom suffered. In September 2013, I completed my first half marathon and was surprised by my regret that it was over. During my training, my mom had begun to suffer from increasingly bad episodes of Meniere's disease, which she had been diagnosed with 11 years earlier. Previously, the episodes had been few and far between, but now her daily life was repeatedly impacted. I saw the effects firsthand as she constantly feared the next episode. Not well known, Meniere's disease is a disorder of the inner ear that affects hearing and balance and


causes vertigo, tinnitus, and hearing loss. It is unpredictable and difficult to diagnose and manage. Currently, very few organizations are dedicated to funding research and raising awareness of Meniere's disease. **run because** was created to keep me accountable to my goal of raising money for Meniere's disease research by running 51 half marathons, one in each state plus DC by age 50. I ran my first half because I didn't know if I could. Now I run because I can. And by running, I can bring awareness and support to finding a cure."

Interested in supporting Katie and helping find a cure for Meniere's disease?

Please visit <http://runbecause51x50.wix.com/run-because>

Keep up with Katie's progress by visiting her Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/runbecause. 

Geneva Harper (1919 - 2015)

The American Hearing Research Foundation would like to thank the family and friends of the late Geneva Harper, a longtime resident of Peoria, IL, who passed away on April 22, 2015. Mrs. Harper was 96 years old. The Foundation was a beneficiary in Geneva's will. Her generosity will go towards funding research for years to come. 



Milken Institute's Public Health Summit



In early March 2016, Foundation Executive Director Brian S. Bailey attended the first-ever Public Health Summit sponsored by the Milken Institute. This invitation-only event saw the leaders of the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control on the same stage together. It was an extraordinary grouping. But just as extraordinary was the convening at the Summit of decision-makers in diverse sectors that address public health from different perspectives: colleges and schools of public health; consumer product companies; diplomatic corps; disease research organizations; employers; expense management and behavioral health companies; government officials – Congress and the administration; health insurers; health providers (clinicians, hospitals, and health commissioners); NGOs and international agencies; pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies; philanthropists and foundations; and retailers.



"Our Public Health Summit continues work that the Milken Institute has done for decades on the impact of advances in medical research and public health, both to improve lives and foster prosperity," says Institute CEO Michael Klowden. "Our focus on public health is driven by the fact that the U.S. spends roughly 90 cents of every health dollar on treatment, and only a dime on prevention and research. While discovering cures is a major scientific achievement, it's even more effective to prevent disease in the first place."

In all its events and programs around the world, the Milken Institute seeks to encourage collaboration and coordination among such wide-ranging groups. And when it comes to public health, we believe the schools of public health should be at the center of the dialogue. By encouraging that interaction, the Milken Institute Center for Public Health is helping bring to population-level health the same focus that has allowed medical research to extend and enhance lives of individuals so remarkably over the last century. The Milken Institute's goal is to advance life-saving public health efforts worldwide by creating a more unified consensus among public and private institutions so they can deploy their resources most effectively. The Summit reaffirmed this commitment to protecting and preserving health for all citizens. Mr. Bailey was honored to be able to join some of the most influential domestic health policy decision makers for this event. You can view the entire Summit program and videos at

www.publichealthsummit.org.



Mr. Bailey (left) pictured with Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, Director of the National Institutes of Health at the summit.

You're Invited to Celebrate AHRF's 60th Anniversary

You're Invited to a Cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres Reception on Thursday, September 22nd from 5:30 to 8:30 PM CDT with remarks at 7:00 PM recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hearing Research Foundation. This event will be at the International Museum of Surgical Science, 1524 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60601.



International Museum of Surgical Science

Please RSVP by Friday, September 16th online at www.American-Hearing.org/60th-Anniversary-Reception, via e-mail at RSVP@American-Hearing.org or by telephone at (630) 617-5079.



Bailey Named Foundation Executive Director

At its May 18, 2016 meeting, the Foundation's Board of Directors unanimously voted to appoint Brian S. Bailey as the Executive Director of the American Hearing Research Foundation.



Mr. Bailey is an account executive with Apex Management & Special Events, Inc., a boutique association management firm based in Elmhurst, IL. He joined Apex with significant experience in association management, contract management, services marketing, strategic messaging and planning. A public policy and public affairs professional, his expertise extends to state and federal government relations including direct and indirect lobbying and policy analysis with a specific focus on healthcare policy. An adept coalition builder, he promotes excellent client/stakeholder relations and has regularly advised elected officials, corporate executives, and professional trade association and society leadership. Mr. Bailey comes to the American Hearing Research Foundation having been previously employed in positions of increasing responsibility, from working for a contractual state lobbying firm, staffing a highly visible congressional campaign, to leading

state and regional efforts of a major national subspecialty medical association and managing its PAC, as well as heading a state-based nonprofit professional trade association. He has an extensive background in event planning and execution across the medical, scientific, and energy communities. A native Marylander, he earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).

Bailey remarked, "I look forward to continuing to work with the Board of Directors, particularly Chairman Muench and Treasurer Knight, as we further the work of the Foundation by funding research to eventually cure hearing loss – a disorder affecting 20% of Americans. I am honored by their confidence in my abilities."

Brian can be reached directly at Brian@American-Hearing.org and/or (630) 617-5079. 

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Executive Director

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E-mail: Info@American-Hearing.org

www.American-Hearing.org

A non-profit foundation dedicated to scientific research, and the preventive care and cure of deafness.



Sign-up for the Foundation's listserv by e-mailing
Info@American-Hearing.org

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Giving to the General Fund

Contributions to the AHRF's Annual Giving Campaign support the Foundation's general fund which underwrites research grants and special projects. General funds sustain the core programs that are central to the Foundation's mission. Donations to the Annual Giving Campaign can also be restricted to use for research into certain areas such as Meniere's disease. Gifts are accepted online at the Foundation's website and by mail. There are several levels from which to choose:

- Chairman's Circle - \$5,000 and above
- Research Champion - \$1,000 to \$4,999
- Research Supporter - \$100 to \$999
- Friends of the Foundation - \$99 or under



*These designations are based on the 2016 calendar year.

The Foundation also appreciates the support of the following organizations:

Bank of America United Way Campaign
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Cardinal Health Foundation
Community Health Charities
Fidelity Charitable Donor-Advised Fund

Indiana State Employees' Community Campaign
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Lottie Drazin Revocable Trust
Network for Good
run because
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign

Are you following the Foundation on Twitter?



@HearingResearch

Have you liked the Foundation on Facebook?



www.Facebook.com/HearingResearch

2016 Research Grant Recipients

The American Hearing Research Foundation (AHRF), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, awarded eight (8) grants totaling \$201,000 for FY16, its 60th anniversary.



(Dr. Anderson (center) is flanked by Arielle Abrams (left), an undergraduate student, and Calli Fodor (right), a graduate Doctor of Audiology student.)

Samira B. Anderson, AuD, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Hearing
& Speech Sciences
University of Maryland

Grant: \$20,000

“Effects of Aging, Hearing Loss, and Hearing Aid Compression Settings on Midbrain Processing of Temporal Speech Contrasts”

Dr. Anderson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Hearing & Speech Sciences at the University of Maryland. After practicing as a clinical audiologist for 26 years, she decided to pursue a PhD degree in Auditory Neuroscience at Northwestern University to better understand the hearing difficulties experienced by her patients. She obtained her PhD in December 2012 and joined the faculty at the University of Maryland in January 2013. Dr. Anderson's research focuses on the effects of development, aging, and hearing loss on central auditory processing and neuroplasticity, using electrophysiology as her primary assessment tool.



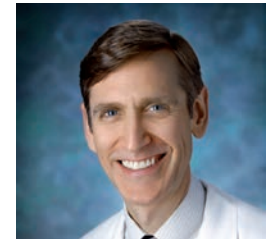
Justin E. Aronoff, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Speech
& Hearing Science
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Grant: \$40,000

“The Importance of Coordination for Binaural Cochlear Implant Processors”

Dr. Aronoff is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech & Hearing Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His research focuses on cochlear implants, with particular interest in bilateral implantation. His work examines how information is combined across the ears and how to divide information between two ears for optimal cochlear implant performance. He developed special software that enables him to create custom processors for cochlear implants, and co-developed a new test to assess whether the processors increase spectral resolution, a key requirement for improving the ability to understand speech in noisy environments. He earned his PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Southern California in 2007.



John P. Carey, MD

Chief, Division of Otolaryngology, Neurotology
& Skull Base Surgery
Professor, Department of
Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
John Hopkins School of Medicine

Grant: \$20,000

“Investigation of Salivary Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP) in Vestibular Migraine”

Dr. Carey is a Professor and Director of the Division of Otolaryngology, Neurotology, and Skull Base Surgery in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at Johns Hopkins Medicine. He specializes in the health and diseases of the inner ear that affect both balance and hearing mechanisms. As a clinician, Dr. Carey is a national expert in superior canal dehiscence syndrome, Menière's disease, vestibular migraine, and other causes of vertigo. As a researcher, his interests include the normal vestibular reflexes and how they change with age, the ototoxic effects of gentamicin, the use of intratympanic steroids for Menière's disease, the diagnostic utility of vestibular evoked myogenic potential testing, and the mechanisms of vestibular migraine. He has authored or co-authored over 120 peer-reviewed publications, 10 book chapters, and three invited reviews. He earned his medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine and completed residencies in general surgery and otolaryngology at Virginia Mason Medical Center and University of Washington Medical Center, respectively, and an otolaryngology fellowship with the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

2016 Grant Recipients *Continued*



Lina A.J. Reiss, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Otolaryngology -
Head & Neck Surgery
Oregon Health & Science University

Grant: \$20,000

***“Role of Lateral Wall Changes
in Hearing Loss After Cochlear
Implantation”***

Dr. Reiss has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) since 2010. She also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Previously, Reiss was a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Iowa where she conducted research in the Hybrid cochlear implant clinical trials. Reiss earned her doctorate in Biomedical Engineering with a focus on neurophysiology of sound localization circuits in the auditory brainstem from Johns Hopkins University in 2005. Her current research focuses on improving cochlear implant outcomes using both animal models and studies of human auditory perception.



Sarah E. Ross, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Neurobiology
University of Pittsburgh

Grant: \$40,000

***“Molecular Genetic Approaches
to Understand the Ontogeny of
the Dorsal Cochlear Nucleus”***

Dr. Ross is an Assistant Professor of Neurobiology and Anesthesiology at the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her PhD from the University of Michigan and completed her post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School. She has a strong background in molecular genetic approaches to understand sensory integration and has recently become very interested in the integration of sound. The Ross Lab at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center uses electrophysiological, optogenetic and behavioral approaches to understand the neural circuits that underlie sensory integration and has made substantial progress investigating the role of Bhlhb5 in the development of the dorsal cochlear nucleus.



(Dr. Skoe (right) is joined by her fellow investigators Christine Hare (left) and Jennifer Tufts (center))

Erika Skoe, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Speech, Language
& Hearing Sciences
Psychology Department Affiliate
Cognitive Science Program Affiliate
University of Connecticut

Grant: \$20,000

***“Neurophysiological Indices
of Hidden Hearing Loss in
Musician”***

Dr. Skoe is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences at the University of Connecticut. She is a faculty affiliate of the Department of Psychological Sciences, the Cognitive Science Program, and the newly formed Connecticut Institute for Brain and Cognitive Science. She received a BA in German and linguistics from the University of Wisconsin, an MA in linguistics from the University of Wisconsin, and a PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Northwestern University. Dr. Skoe's research examines how the brain encodes sound and how this encoding process evolves throughout the lifespan in response to sensory deprivation and enrichment. She has been studying the benefits of music instruction on central auditory function for nearly a decade and her research in this area has been published in *Nature Neuroscience*, the *Journal of Neuroscience*, and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, among others.

2016 Grant Recipients *Continued*



Virginia A. Smith-Bronstein, MD

3rd Year Resident

Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Grant: \$1,000

“Protective Benefits of Fluvastatin on Noise Induced Hearing Loss in Guinea Pigs and Mice”

Dr. Smith-Bronstein Virginia grew up in Seattle, WA taking advantage of the mountains to go hiking, skiing and camping as a young kid with her brother and sister. She was inspired at a young age to consider going into the field of medicine given her father's love of being an emergency medicine physician. Given her independent spirit, she decided to make the jump to the East Coast for college and attended Swarthmore College. With a major in Biology and a minor in French Language, she was able to spend four months of her junior year attending the Universite de Grenoble while living with a French family. Following graduation from college, she moved to Boston to work as a research assistant in a lab in Harvard's Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology. After several years of studying murine pulmonary development and tracheal epithelial regeneration she began medical school at University of Southern California's (USC) Keck School of Medicine. During her third year of residency she joined an ongoing research project in a Northwestern University otolaryngology. It was there that she started working on noise induced hearing loss in guinea pigs and mice and specific medications to protect against the damage.



Jing Zheng, PhD

Associate Professor

Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

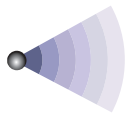
Grant: \$40,000

“The Impact of Outer Hair Cells on Efferent Synaptogenesis”

Dr. Zheng is an Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery and a Fellow of the Hugh Knowles Hearing Center at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. She has many years of experience in conducting research in molecular biology and proteomics especially research pertained to prestin. Her lab discovered prestin (Zheng et al., Nature, 2000) and have been studying it since then as evident by peer-reviewed papers published under projects I administered. The proposed works are based on preliminary data collected in the lab. In the proposal, the lab will focus on investigating prestin's active roles in nerve innervation. Furthermore, she and her colleagues are part of a larger research institution that is devoted to biomedical research. The core facilities in Northwestern University provide essential services including new generation RNA sequencing, proteomics service, biological imaging, structural biology, and transgenic and targeted mutagenesis services. In summary, the research environment is highly conducive to the successful completion of this investigation because of complementary experience and expertise of the team. Dr. Zheng earned her PhD in Physiology from Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI in 1992.

The Foundation looks forward to publishing status updates in the *Soundings* newsletter on the research being conducted by current and former grant recipients.

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