

NAME: Amanda Lauer, PhD

Location: Baltimore, MD, USA

Title: George T. Nager Professor & Vice Director for Faculty Affairs, Department of Otolaryngology-HNS, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; secondary appointments in Neuroscience & Functional Anatomy & Evolution

Education:

1999, 2000: BS, MS Psychology St. Josephs University, Philadelphia

2006: PhD, Psychology/Integrative Neuroscience, University of Maryland, College Park

Post-Doctoral: Center for Hearing and Balance, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Prior service to ARO:

- Animal Research Committee (2013-2016)
- Diversity Committee (2016-2019)
- Panel participant, Navigating the Grant Landscape as a Trainee, San Diego, CA (2018)
- Panel participant, Women in Science Roundtable, Baltimore, MD and San Jose, CA (2019, 2020)
- Student Poster Blitz judge, San Jose, CA, virtual (2020, 2021)
- spARO Mentorship Program mentor (2021-2022)
- Communications Committee (2023-2024)
- Associate Editor, Journal of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology (2021-2024)
- Finance Committee (2021-2026), Chair 2023-2026

Research Interests: My research focuses on understanding how auditory dysfunction relates to peripheral and brainstem changes across the lifespan and with noise exposure, understanding how the brain affects auditory function, resilience, and plasticity via innate efferent noise-control pathways, and studying comparative otopathology in traditional animal models, wild species, and human temporal bones. This work has been funded through grants from the NIH, NSF, multiple foundations, institutional awards, and philanthropic gifts. My lab emphasizes a team science approach, collaborating with colleagues across departments and schools at Johns Hopkins, the University at Buffalo, the Instituto de Investigaciones en Ingeniería Genética y Biología Molecular (INGEBI) in Buenos Aires and elsewhere. In addition to my research, I am an active educator for both basic scientists and clinician-scientists. I taught for years in the Biology of the Inner Ear course in Woods Hole, MA and co-directed the Neurobiology of Hearing course in Salamanca, Spain. I currently serve as the Co-Director of the NIH-funded Johns Hopkins Research Training Program in Otolaryngology for residents and medical students. I am also an elected Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and have served on a number of research advisory and grant review committees.

Clinical Interests: I am not a clinician, but my interest in clinical otologic disorders and neurological conditions affecting hearing and balance drives my basic science lab research. Over the years, I have come to admire clinicians' ability to effectively diagnose treat complex otologic conditions without being able to directly see what's going on in the ear and without knowledge of many of the mechanisms. Still, there is much to be learned about the strange things that can happen to the ear and brain. Thus, I've worked to re-establish and grow human temporal bone research at Johns Hopkins in collaboration with an outstanding team of clinician-scientists.

Personal interests: I enjoy gardening, handcrafts, walking my greyhound, reading, and volunteering for environmental/habitat restoration efforts in my community. I love to visit small towns around the world, and sampling local delicacies wherever I go is a favorite activity. Interesting snacks often make their way to the lab from my excursions!

Statement of Goals: I have been attending ARO Midwinter Meetings since I was a first year grad student, way back when we convened in St. Pete's Beach (who else misses attending the meeting in shorts and flip flops, playing darts at the Swigwam, and dodging the pigeons in the open-air poster sessions?). This society has been instrumental in my professional and scientific development. My students and postdocs have similarly benefitted from the welcoming spirit and high-caliber scientific interactions, and they return to the lab feeling energized and inspired after every meeting. In my role as Chair of the Finance & Investments Committee, I have established an excellent working relationship with Parthenon Management and learned so much from the other committee members during our discussions. I am honored to be nominated for the Secretary/Treasurer role and look forward to continuing to serve as a steward of ARO. We have a really special organization, and I hope to further strengthen our financial position in partnership with Council and the Finance & Investment Committee so that it remains strong for future generations of basic and clinician-scientists during these turbulent times.