

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH: *Applications to Hearing Loss*

Symposium Background

Annually, beginning in 2010 with a symposium in honor of Peter Dallos, the Knowles Hearing Center holds a one-day symposium in the fall. The symposium is conceived to attract an audience of researchers and clinicians that extends beyond Northwestern University. A specific topic is chosen in order to appeal to top investigators and clinicians, worldwide, who are interested in that selected subject. The topic changes from year to year, so over its course the symposia will appeal to a diverse audience and not become repetitious. This year the topic of the Third Annual Symposium is: **Translational Research: *Applications to Hearing Loss***.

Symposium Abstract

Translational research refers to the interplay between basic science and clinical observation that aids the movement of scientific discoveries successfully into the marketplace for widespread practical application.

Translational research has moved communication sciences, audiology, and otolaryngology forward by developing and refining prostheses, assistive listening devices, and testing instrumentation thereby greatly improving our ability to diagnosis, treat, and rehabilitate hearing loss. The goal of this symposium is to update and inform faculty and students, clinicians, researchers, and the hearing healthcare industry about the latest translational research being applied to hearing loss. We have gathered together an exceptional group of internationally acclaimed speakers who are leaders in translational research. Of special importance to attendees interested in translational research, each speaker will not only talk about their research but also relate their personal narrative about the challenges and rewards experienced during the process of getting innovations to market. In total, the symposium will keep everyone abreast of translational research applied to hearing loss as well as inform and inspire researchers and clinicians alike about how to successfully participate in bringing research to its practical use for patient benefit.

This daylong symposium presents not only an exceptional educational opportunity but also a chance to renew friendships, build new relationships, and create a stronger emphasis on translational efforts in engineering, psychology, cellular and molecular biology, otology, and audiology based on common interests and experiences and our need to move our professions forward.

Symposium Goals

The Knowles Hearing Center's mission is to foster an interdisciplinary environment of research, scholarship, training, and clinical services aimed at bringing the joy of hearing to those denied its pleasure and preventing others from suffering its loss. Several goals important to the mission of the Knowles Hearing Center are pursued by the symposium. The Annual Symposium serves to:

- Give special recognition to those who have significantly advanced hearing, audiology, and otology by inviting them to present
- Support the Center's mission to foster excellence in hearing research, teaching, training, and clinical service
- Make easily available to a broad audience, including scientists, educators, students, clinicians, and the hearing healthcare industry, the latest advances in laboratory and clinical hearing sciences
- Create an increased opportunity, at a convenient location and modest cost, for a broad audience to hear distinguished speakers present and discuss the significant advances for which they are known
- Bring together the hearing/audiology/otology intellectual community, especially in the Midwest, to benefit from the symposium and to establish a stronger realization of common interests and paths of mutual benefit going forward.
- Increase visibility for Northwestern University, its Communications Sciences and Disorders Department, and the Knowles Hearing Center.