

Thursday, October 29, 2026

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Keynote Presentation

Gene Therapy for Pediatric Hearing Loss

Eliot Shearer, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Eliot Shearer is a pediatric otolaryngologist and cochlear implant/gene therapy surgeon at Boston Children's Hospital. He leads the Translational Hearing Genomics Lab and serves as site principal investigator for three hearing loss clinical trials.

Financial Disclosure: Consultant/Trial Funding/Site Principal Investigator for Regeneron, Consultant/Trial Funding/Site Principal Investigator for Eli Lilly

Non-Financial Disclosure: None

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4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Additional Presentation

Innovating with Care While Embracing Technological Advances

Valerie Sung, MBBS(Hons), FRACP, MPH, Ph.D., GAICD

Associate Professor Valerie Sung is a consultant pediatrician at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital, Principal Research Fellow and Co-Group Leader at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and Honorary Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne. Her clinical and research program on child deafness was recognized by a 2019 L'Oréal-UNESCO Australia For Women in Science Fellowship.

Financial Disclosure: Salaried employee, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital; Grants, National Health and Medical Research Council

Non-Financial Disclosure: Volunteer, Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee, National Health and Medical Research Council, BMC Pediatrics, Childhood Hearing Australasian Medical Professionals Network, AIHW Ear and Hearing Advisory Group, Children's Healthcare Australasia pPREM Steering Committee

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5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Case Presentations: Patients Considering Gene Therapy

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Non-Financial Disclosure: None

Michael S. Cohen, M.D.

Michael S. Cohen, MD, is a pediatric otolaryngologist and Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School. At Mass Eye and Ear, he directs the Multidisciplinary Pediatric Hearing Loss Clinic, performs pediatric cochlear implant surgery, and is part of the GJB2 SONIX gene therapy trial.

Financial Disclosure: None

Non-Financial Disclosure: None

Dylan Chan, M.D., Ph.D.

Dylan Chan, MD, PhD, is a pediatric otolaryngologist and Professor of Pediatric Otolaryngology at UCSF. He is the founding director of the Children's Communication Center. His laboratory studies genetic hearing loss and he is a cochlear implant surgeon and participates in the OTOF gene therapy trial.

Financial Disclosure: Eli Lilly (paid advisor, site PI on clinical trial), Regeneron (paid advisor)

Non-Financial Disclosure: None

Valerie Sung, MBBS(Hons), FRACP, MPH, Ph.D., GAICD

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