Rebecca M. Lewis, AuD, PhD

Clinical & Health-System Leader | Audiologist | Clinician-Scientist

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Clinical and health-system leader, audiologist, and clinician-scientist whose work connects patient care, clinical informatics, quality improvement, patient education, research translation, and health-services measurement. As Chief of Audiology at UCSF, provides clinical and strategic leadership for multi-site hearing services while building learning-health-system infrastructure that makes care more measurable, accessible, equitable, and evidence-generating. Scholarship spans auditory neuroscience, tinnitus, hearing technologies, cochlear implants, clinical outcomes, and health-services research, with a consistent focus on translating evidence and innovation into real-world care.

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Chief of Audiology & Program Director of Audiology | UCSF Health | San Francisco, CA **2023-Present**

Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Program Director, UCSF EARS (Equity in Access to Rehabilitative Services).

- Provides clinical and strategic leadership for a multi-site audiology service, with emphasis on clinical quality and standards, program development, workforce capability, patient experience, and interdisciplinary alignment.
- Advances data, measurement, and informatics approaches that strengthen quality improvement, outcomes assessment, equity evaluation, and research-ready clinical practice.
- Leads and contributes to health-services and outcomes research examining how hearing care is delivered, including cochlear-implant evaluation, access, workflow, outcomes, and value.
- Translates emerging evidence in hearing technology, cochlear implantation, tinnitus, and hearing therapeutics into patient and professional education through UCSF programs and national professional service.
- Mentors clinicians and trainees in evidence-based care, systems thinking, quality improvement, clinical research, and professional development.

SELECTED PROGRAM & SYSTEMS-BUILDING LEADERSHIP

UCSF EARS | Multilingual Patient Education & Digital Care Infrastructure

Developed and leads a public platform that combines plain-language education, interactive tools, care navigation, safety routing, and multilingual resources for hearing loss, tinnitus, balance concerns, hearing technology, and communication needs. Designed as reusable infrastructure for patients, families, and clinicians rather than a stand-alone informational website.

Audiology Learning Health System | Clinical Informatics

Develops practical infrastructure that connects routine care, structured data capture, patient-reported outcomes, quality improvement, and research. Work to date includes audiometric data structures, documentation standards, minimum datasets, and clinician-facing workflows designed to make hearing care more observable, measurable, and usable for improvement.

Allied Health Strategy | Measurement & System Integration

Develops cross-disciplinary infrastructure to make allied health care more visible, measurable, and strategically integrated across the health system. Current work focuses on defining shared data standards, clarifying care pathways and service models, improving measurement of access, productivity, outcomes, and clinical effort, and building practical frameworks that support quality improvement, operational decision-making, and learning across allied health disciplines.

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical Research Program Manager (promoted from Clinical Scientist) **2020-2023**

Whisper.ai | San Francisco, CA

- Led clinical research and validation for an adaptive hearing-aid platform, integrating objective, behavioral, and patient-reported measures to evaluate and improve hearing outcomes.
- Developed study protocols and clinical-validation procedures, translated audiologic best practices into product and research decisions, and trained cross-functional colleagues in clinical research and principles of hearing care.

Research Audiologist & Postdoctoral Research Fellow **2019-2020**

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center | Bethesda, MD

Investigated electrophysiologic, auditory, and cognitive measures among military personnel with blast exposure and traumatic brain injury, with emphasis on mechanisms and functional consequences of sensorineural hearing loss.

Clinical Audiologist & Audiology Research Specialist **2018-2019**

Massachusetts Eye and Ear / Harvard Medical School | Boston, MA

Provided clinical audiology care while coordinating collaborative research efforts across the Audiology Division, including research design, project coordination, and clinical-study implementation.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow **2016-2019**

Eaton-Peabody Laboratory, Massachusetts Eye and Ear / Harvard Medical School | Boston, MA

Conducted basic, translational, and clinical auditory-neuroscience research spanning vestibular schwannoma, cochlear inflammation and synaptic injury, tinnitus, and large clinical audiometric datasets.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Audiology (AuD) | University of Washington, Speech and Hearing Sciences | Seattle, WA **2016**

Clinical Audiology: Diagnostics, Amplification, Cochlear Implant Diagnostics and Management, Vestibular Diagnostics

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) | University of Washington, Speech and Hearing Sciences | Seattle, WA **2016**

Auditory Neuroscience; Virginia Merrill Bloedel Hearing Research Center. Dissertation: Defining Atoh1 function and regulation in avian supporting cells during auditory hair cell regeneration. Mentor: Jennifer S. Stone, PhD.

Bachelor of Science (BS) | University of Washington, Speech and Hearing Sciences | Seattle, WA **2008**

NATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

American Academy of Audiology (AAA)

Board of Directors, Member-at-Large (elected; term through September 2028) **2025-Present**

Member, Council of Clinical and Scientific Excellence **2025-Present**

Professional Development Council - Member; Chair-Elect (2023-2024), Chair (2024-2025), Past Chair (2025-Present) **2022-Present**

Appointed Task Force Member, The Role of the Audiologist in the Provision of Pharmaceutical Agents **2018-2019**

American Board of Audiology (ABA)

Board of Directors - Board Member; Chair-Elect (2021-2022), Chair (2022-2023), Immediate Past Chair (2023-2024) **2020-2024**

American Tinnitus Association (ATA)

Member, Tinnitus Advisory Group **2026-Present**

Moderator, Educational Webinars **2025-Present**

Scientific Grants Project Officer **2021-2024**

Tinnitus Learning Health Network (TLHN)

Senior Tinnitus Clinical Advisor & Pre-Design Sessions Moderator; founding clinical advisor supporting standardized care pathways, outcome priorities, and learning-health-system design **2025**

Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO)

External Relations Committee - Member (2019-2020); Co-Chair (2020-2024) **2019-2024**

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)

Member, SIG 6 (Hearing Research) Coordinating Committee **2024-2025**

EDITORIAL & SCHOLARLY SERVICE

Associate Editor, Frontiers in Audiology and Otology **2022-Present**

Research Topic Editor, Technology and Devices as Tinnitus Solutions, Frontiers in Audiology and Otology **2026**

Invited Member, Editorial Committee, Hearing Health Foundation **2019-2024**

SELECTED HONORS, AWARDS & RESEARCH SUPPORT

President's Award, American Academy of Audiology	**2024**
NIH Loan Repayment Program, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD/NIH)	**2017-2019**
Student Investigator Research Grant, American Academy of Audiology Foundation	**2014-2015**
Science Communication Fellowship, Pacific Science Center	**2013-2014**
Individual Predoctoral National Research Service Award (F30 DC012228-04), NIDCD/NIH; Principal Investigator	**2012-2016**
Auditory Neuroscience Training Fellowship, Institutional NRSA (T32 DC005361-09), NIDCD/NIH	**2010-2012**

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Kim EK, Pullakhandam K, Barry B, Zhang MH, Reed MP, Arenberg JG, Page C, Lewis RM, Jiam NT. Optimizing Cochlear Implant Care: A Time-Driven Activity-Based Costing (TDABC) Analysis of Audiologist and Otolaryngologist Workflow. Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. 2026;174(4):1072-1079. doi:10.1002/ohn.70155 *Lewis and Jiam are co-senior authors.*

Kaufman L, Zhang MH, Singh A, Abdulbaki H, Lewis RM, Jiam NT. Healthcare System Factors Affecting Preoperative Evaluation and Surgical Conversion in Adult Cochlear Implant Candidates. Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. 2026;174(3):809-816. doi:10.1002/ohn.70121

Gilbert ML, Limb CJ, Kim EK, Deroche MLD, Lewis RM. Perception of Extreme Musical Dissonance in Cochlear Implant Users Using a Novel Listening Task. Frontiers in Audiology and Otology. 2025;3:1554784. doi:10.3389/fauot.2025.1554784

Lewis RM, Gilbert ML, Beim JA, Oxenham AJ, Limb CJ. Using Musical Pitch Interval Comparisons to Assess Cochlear Implant Frequency-to-Place Maps. Frontiers in Audiology and Otology. 2025;3:1565883. doi:10.3389/fauot.2025.1565883

Gilbert ML, Lewis RM, Deroche MLD, Jiam NT, Jiradejvong P, Mo J, Cooke DL, Limb CJ. Speech, Timbre, and Pitch Perception in Cochlear Implant Users With Flat-Panel CT-Based Frequency Reallocations: A Longitudinal Prospective Study. Otology & Neurotology. 2025;46(9):e384-e394. doi:10.1097/MAO.0000000000004595

Yellamsetty A, Lewis RM. Evaluation of Outcomes in a Clinical Trial: Comparing Self-Fit Hearing Aids and Hearing Aids Fit With Best Practices. Frontiers in Audiology and Otology. 2024;2:1397604. doi:10.3389/fauot.2024.1397604

Lewis RM. From Bench to Booth: Examining Hair-Cell Regeneration Through an Audiologist's Scope. Journal of the American Academy of Audiology. 2021;32(10):654-660. doi:10.1055/s-0041-1731700

Lubner RJ, Barbarite E, Kondamuri N, Knoll RM, Ota HG, Lewis RM, Franck K, Remenschneider AK, Kozin ED. Hearing Vital Signs: Mobile Audiometry in the Emergency Department for Evaluation of Sudden Hearing Loss. Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. 2020;163(5):1025-1028. doi:10.1177/0194599820935420

Parthasarathy A, Romero Pinto S, Lewis RM, Goedicke W, Polley DB. Data-Driven Segmentation of Audiometric Phenotypes Across a Large Clinical Cohort. Scientific Reports. 2020;10(1):6704. doi:10.1038/s41598-020-63515-5

Lewis RM, Jahn KN, Parthasarathy A, Goedicke WB, Polley DB. Audiometric Predictors of Bothersome Tinnitus in a Large Clinical Cohort of Adults With Sensorineural Hearing Loss. Otology & Neurotology. 2020;41(4):e414-e421. doi:10.1097/MAO.0000000000002568

Katsumi S, Sahin MI, Lewis RM, Iyer JS, Landegger LD, Stankovic KM. Intracochlear Perfusion of Tumor Necrosis Factor-Alpha Induces Sensorineural Hearing Loss and Synaptic Degeneration in Guinea Pigs. Frontiers in Neurology. 2019;10:1353. doi:10.3389/fneur.2019.01353

Ahmed SG, Abdelnabi A, Maguire CA, Doha M, Sagers JE, Lewis RM, Muzikansky A, Giovannini M, Stemmer-Rachamimov A, Stankovic KM, Fulci G, Brenner GJ. Gene Therapy With Apoptosis-Associated Speck-Like Protein, a Newly Described Schwannoma Tumor Suppressor, Inhibits Schwannoma Growth In Vivo. Neuro-Oncology. 2019;21(7):854-866. doi:10.1093/neuonc/noz065

Sagers JE, Brown AS, Vasilijic S, Lewis RM, Sahin MI, Landegger LD, Perlis RH, Kohane IS, Welling DB, Patel CJ, Stankovic KM. Computational Repositioning and Preclinical Validation of Mifepristone for Human Vestibular Schwannoma. Scientific Reports. 2018;8(1):5437. doi:10.1038/s41598-018-23609-7

Lewis RM, Keller JJ, Wan L, Stone JS. Bone Morphogenetic Protein 4 Antagonizes Hair Cell Regeneration in the Avian Auditory Epithelium. Hearing Research. 2018;364:1-11. doi:10.1016/j.heares.2018.04.008

Lewis RM, Hume CR, Stone JS. Atoh1 Expression and Function During Auditory Hair Cell Regeneration in Post-Hatch Chickens. Hearing Research. 2012;289(1-2):74-85. doi:10.1016/j.heares.2012.04.008

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL & PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Lewis RM. 20Q: Auditory Biotechnologies - Finding Their Way to the Clinic. AudiologyOnline. Article 28618.	**2023**
Lewis RM, Sherlock LP. Who's Calling the ATA's Support Line and How Is It Helping? Tinnitus Today. Winter 2021:22-26.	**2021**
Lewis RM. Regenerative Therapies: Targeting Hearing Loss and Tinnitus. Tinnitus Today. Winter 2019:13-18.	**2019**
Lewis RM, Rubel EW, Stone JS. Regeneration of Auditory Hair Cells: A Potential Treatment for Hearing Loss on the Horizon. Acoustics Today. 12(2):40-48.	**2016**

SELECTED TEACHING, SPEAKING & PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Organizer, UCSF Audiology Update XVI, UCSF Office of Continuing Medical Education	**2026**
Guest Speaker, ASHA Early Career Professionals Program - Tinnitus	**2026**
Organizer, UCSF Audiology Update XV, UCSF Office of Continuing Medical Education	**2024**
Facilitator, "How to Get Published," American Academy of Audiology Annual Conference	**2024**
Organizer, "Say What? Your Hearing & Ear Health!", Association for Research in Otolaryngology / Brain Public	**2024**
Volunteer Mentor, Association for Research in Otolaryngology	**2021-2023**
Team Teaching, Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology PhD Program, Harvard Medical School	**2017-2019**

SELECTED MEDIA & INTERVIEWS

STAT News - Interview on the ACHIEVE study, hearing intervention, and cognitive decline	**2023**
Ask the Hearing Doctors - Spotlight on the American Tinnitus Association	**2023**

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

ABA Certified, American Board of Audiology	**2016-Present**
Certificate Holder - Tinnitus Management (CH-TM), American Board of Audiology	**2018, 2024**
Certificate Holder in Audiology Precepting (CH-AP), American Board of Audiology	**2025**
Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association	**2019-Present**
Member, Association for Research in Otolaryngology	**2018-Present**
Member, American Academy of Audiology	**2016-Present**