

Important research news from the Shea Ear Clinic!

At the American Neurotology Society Spring Meeting, Dr. Brian J. McKinnon's team presented their latest ongoing research on the development of a novel cochlear implant thin film array electrode. The American Neurotology Society is a national organization of neurotologists, physicians with special training in disorders and diseases of the hearing and balance system; this year's annual meeting was held in Orlando, FL April 12-13, 2013. Cochlear implants can make remarkable positive changes to those who do not hear, and much effort is being made to increase the benefit for those users. One area of work is to produce thinner electrodes that can stimulate more areas of the inner ear; thin film arrays are a novel approach being tested by Dr. Brian J. McKinnon's team, which is now a collaborative effort between the Shea Ear Clinic, Medical College of Georgia of Georgia Regents University, and Georgia Institute of Technology.

This presentation discussed the success the team had in stimulating a deafened inner ear to perceive sound in an animal model. These experiments allow researchers to better understand the applications and limitations thin film arrays may have as inner ear electrodes, and allow for exciting new possibilities for those who cannot hear.