

ATA Awards Inaugural Kent Taylor Texas Roadhouse Tinnitus Research Grant

The ATA Board of Directors was pleased to announce that the first annual “Kent Taylor Texas Roadhouse Tinnitus Research Grant” was awarded to Julia Campbell, AuD, PhD, and assistant professor for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Campbell and her team will apply the \$120,000 grant to investigate auditory gating and its role in the perception of tinnitus. “Gating is a type of automatic filter, suppressing repetitive or unimportant information from reaching conscious perception,” Dr. Campbell said. “This function has been tied to tinnitus severity in adults with normal hearing, but it is unclear how gating may operate in the presence of both hearing loss and tinnitus, which typically occur together.” If decreased gating is highly related to tinnitus even in the presence of hearing loss, it may provide a clinical measure of tinnitus, as well as a potential site for targeted intervention, she added.

The two-year investigation could directly inform evidence-based practice for tinnitus assessment and intervention so that a clinical measure and targeted treatment could become standard care.



Julia Campbell, AuD, PhD, is awarded \$120,000 grant.

The “Kent Taylor Texas Roadhouse Tinnitus Research Grant” was made possible by participating Texas Roadhouse restaurants, which partnered with the ATA during Tinnitus Awareness Week in 2022 to honor their founder Kent Taylor, who struggled with tinnitus the last year of his life. Funds

raised by Texas Roadhouse, which has more than 600 locations in the U.S., were equally allocated between research and tinnitus awareness, which includes support of the ATA’s Tinnitus Advisors Program, which offers 15-minute free consultations to people struggling with tinnitus.

“As a nonprofit exclusively dedicated to supporting people with tinnitus and funding research for cures and better treatments, we are tremendously grateful to Texas Roadhouse, their employees, and their many patrons who believe tinnitus deserves more attention and far more research. We look forward to seeing how Dr. Campbell’s research unfolds, and working with Texas Roadhouse to advance positive change,” said David Hadley, chair of the ATA Board of Directors. 🇺🇸

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