Jiale (Liz) Zhu

Pittsburgh, PA — jialezhu12@gmail.com — 984-261-7637

Research Interests

Auditory neuroscience; auditory electrophysiology (ABR/EFR); speech-in-noise perception; cochlear and neural function; cochlear synaptopathy; translational auditory science

Education

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA — Aug 2025–Present
Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) — GPA: 3.925/4.0

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC — Aug 2022–May 2025
B.A. in Linguistics; Minors in Speech and Hearing Sciences and Data Science — GPA: 3.6/4.0
Honors: Dean's List

University of Nottingham Ningbo China, Ningbo, China — Sept 2020–Jun 2022
English and Applied Linguistics — GPA: 3.8/4.0
Honors: Dream Scholarship; Academic Excellence Scholarship

Research Experience

TRANSLATES Research Training Program — Jun 2026–Present
Research Trainee, University of Pittsburgh — *Pittsburgh, PA*
Research Mentors: Hari Bharadwaj, Ph.D.; Aravind Parthasarathy, Ph.D.; Samantha Hauser, Ph.D.

- Conduct a within-subject study evaluating the feasibility and reliability of auditory brainstem response (ABR) recordings collected in a mobile research van compared with traditional laboratory environments.
- Collect suprathreshold click-evoked ABRs and assess the effects of recording environment on response morphology, Wave I and Wave V measures, and recording quality.
- Process and visualize electrophysiologic data and conduct statistical comparisons of ABR measures across repeated laboratory and mobile recording conditions.
- Contribute to a broader mobile auditory assessment protocol incorporating behavioral audiometry, speech-in-noise testing, and physiologic measures of auditory function.

Speech Perception and Auditory Research Laboratory (SPARC) — Aug 2024–May 2025
Research Assistant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — *Chapel Hill, NC*
Principal Investigator: Emily Buss, Ph.D.

- Assisted with research examining auditory perception and spatial hearing, including the use of auditory location cues under challenging listening conditions.
- Conducted participant research visits involving informed consent, otoscopy, hearing screening, and experimental auditory testing.
- Collected behavioral speech-perception and speech-in-noise data using specialized laboratory equipment and standardized experimental protocols.

Language Development Lab — Oct 2023–May 2025
Research Assistant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — *Chapel Hill, NC*
Principal Investigator: Misha Becker, Ph.D.

- Conducted developmental language research examining children's acquisition and understanding of emotion vocabulary and completed research sessions with more than 50 child participants.
- Developed experimental materials, including a 56-page illustrated storybook, and collected and organized quantitative and qualitative data on participants' linguistic and emotional responses.

CLIMB — May 2024–Sep 2024
Research Assistant, San José State University — *San José, CA*

- Assisted with experimental research on divergent thinking and developed computerized experimental stimuli using PsychoPy.
- Collected pilot data and conducted statistical analyses in R to evaluate findings and refine experimental procedures.

Teaching Experience

CSD 2073: Voice Disorders — Spring 2026
Grader / Course Assistant, University of Pittsburgh — *Pittsburgh, PA*

- Supported course instruction through grading and evaluation of student coursework in accordance with instructor guidelines.

CSD 1022: Transcription Phonetics Fall 2025
Grader / Course Assistant, University of Pittsburgh *Pittsburgh, PA*

- Supported course instruction through grading and evaluation of student coursework in phonetic transcription.

Clinical Experience

UPMC Eye & Ear Institute Vestibular Clinic Aug 2025–Jan 2026

- Participated in supervised audiologic and vestibular evaluations for adults presenting with hearing, dizziness, and balance concerns.
- Performed audiologic and vestibular assessments including pure-tone and speech audiometry, immittance testing, otoacoustic emissions, cVEMP, oVEMP, and videonystagmography (VNG), including oculomotor, positional/positioning, and caloric testing.
- Interpreted audiologic and vestibular findings and developed skills in clinical documentation, patient counseling, and evidence-based diagnostic decision-making.

Pre-Operative Hearing Screening Program Jan 2026–May 2026

- Conducted supervised pre-operative hearing screenings and communicated findings to patients and healthcare providers.

Phase Up Hearing Screening Program Aug 2025–May 2026

- Conducted pediatric hearing screenings in school and community settings to support early identification and hearing-health outreach.

Leadership & Service

Graduate Student Mentor Jun 2026–Present
University of Pittsburgh Doctor of Audiology Program *Pittsburgh, PA*

- Mentor incoming AuD students and provide academic and professional support during their transition to graduate training.

Mandarin Clinical Interpreter Feb 2024–May 2025
Student Health Action Coalition (SHAC) *Chapel Hill, NC*

- Provided Mandarin–English interpretation between healthcare providers and patients in a student-run free medical clinic, facilitating communication of medical information and care instructions.

Research & Technical Skills

Auditory Electrophysiology: ABR acquisition and waveform analysis; latency and amplitude measurement; interpeak latency; residual-noise and signal-to-noise analysis

Audiologic & Vestibular Methods: Pure-tone and speech audiometry; speech-in-noise testing; tympanometry; acoustic reflexes; OAEs; cVEMP; oVEMP; VNG; oculomotor, positional, and caloric testing

Research & Data Analysis: Human-subject research; experimental design; behavioral and electrophysiologic data collection; statistical analysis; data visualization; R; Python; PsychoPy; IHS SmartEP

Languages: Mandarin Chinese (Native/Bilingual); English (Fluent)