



## Founders Week

### Researcher of the Year



#### RONNA P. HERTZANO, MD, PHD

*University of Maryland School of Medicine*  
 Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Dr. Hertzano is a highly respected otolaryngologist, surgeon, educator, and researcher who holds a secondary appointment in the University of Maryland School of Medicine's (UMSOM) Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology and is an affiliate faculty member of UMSOM's Institute for Genome Sciences.

With significant grants from the National Institutes of Health and other sources, her research is focused on developing new therapeutics to prevent and treat genetic and acquired hearing loss. Dr. Hertzano's lab has three main focus areas: cell-type specific molecular pathways in inner ear development; sex differences in hearing and the molecular basis of acquired hearing loss; and tools for sharing, visualizing, and analyzing multi-omic data.

As a clinician, she focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the ear, with an emphasis on hearing restoration. She also has a strong interest in mentorship, and her research team includes undergraduates, graduate students, medical students, residents, audiologists, and postdocs. She is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, American Neurotology Society, American Otology Society, Association for Research in Otolaryngology, Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum, Maryland Society of Otolaryngology, and the Society for Neuroscience.

Dr. Hertzano was born in Israel and received her medical degree and PhD in human molecular genetics and

biochemistry from Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University. She completed her residency in otorhinolaryngology-head and neck surgery at UMSOM before joining the school as an instructor in 2011. She was promoted to assistant professor in 2012, associate professor in 2016, and professor in 2021.

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