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Cell type-specific analysis of the inner ear from datasets to the gear

Ronna Hertzano University of Maryland, USA

The mammalian inner ear comprises of a complex epithelium which consists of sensory and supporting cells, as well as a myriad of other cell types (neurons, mesenchyme and vascular endothelium, to name a few). Our group is focused on developing tools to separate these cells for genetic and genomic analyses. The tools range from flow cytometry protocols to cell type-specific translated RNA extraction using the RiboTag mice. In this presentation, the author will review our results from analysis of wild type and mutant mice in an effort to identify new regulatory pathways necessary for hair cell differentiation. Finally, the author will discuss a novel gene expression visualization tool that we are currently constructing, namely the gEAR portal (gene Expression for Auditory Research portal).

rhertzano@smail.umaryland.edu

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