

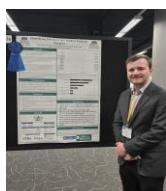


*For Immediate Release –May 11, 2026*

## **American Cochlear Implant Alliance Announces Student Poster Winners for CI2026 Chicago**

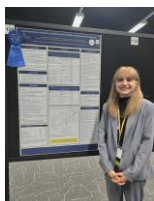
**Washington, D.C.:** American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACI Alliance) congratulates the student poster winners for CI2026 Chicago held last week in Chicago. The student poster competition was chaired by Michael Scott AuD and posters were reviewed by hearing health professionals across the care continuum.

The CI2026 poster winners are:



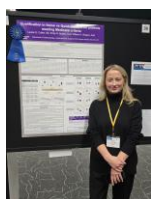
**Tristin Aguiar, Medical College of Wisconsin**  
“Identifying Barriers To CI Surgery”

Tristin is a medical student entering his 4th year at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Moving forward, he will be pursuing residency in otolaryngology.



**Gabriella Cote, Quillen College of Medicine**  
“Audiovisual Sentence Recognition In CI Candidates”

Gabriella is currently a third-year medical student at the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University with aspirations of pursuing Otolaryngology and a career as a physician-scientist.



**Lauren Cullen, NYU Cochlear Implant Center**  
“Qualification In Noise Vs Quiet: Results For Patients Meeting Medicare Criteria”

Lauren is currently an AuD student at The University of Texas at Dallas and recently completed her fourth-year externship at the NYU Cochlear Implant Center.

Student participation continues to be an ACI Alliance organizational priority as we work to increase clinical and research involvement in CI, and we look forward to welcoming students to next year’s meeting CI2027 San Diego.

ACI Alliance is a not-for-profit membership organization created with the purpose of eliminating barriers to cochlear implantation by sponsoring research, driving heightened awareness, and advocating for improved access to cochlear implants for patients of all ages across the US.



[www.acialliance.org](http://www.acialliance.org)