9:10-10:00 Keynote: From First Sounds to Classroom Success: Supporting Auditory Access Across Development

When access to sound is a priority for children and their families, several factors can affect access to sound, even with well-fitted hearing aids. The purpose of this presentation is to explore barriers to sound access in children across development, with a focus on infants and teenagers. Specifically, in infants, one barrier to sound access is a poorly fitting earmold. This presentation will focus on an embedded clinical trial exploring methods for delivering earmolds to caregivers more quickly. In teenagers, one barrier to sound access is limited control over hearing aids. Modern hearing aids have powerful noise-management systems that can improve speech recognition and listening comfort; however, teenagers may have limited access to these technologies, particularly at the moment when they are most needed (e.g., in school). This presentation will also review evidence related to options for controlling noise-management strategies in teenagers.

Bio: Erin Picou is a professor in the department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. At Vanderbilt, Erin conducts research related to hearing aids for adults and children. She also trains graduate students in clinical and research programs.