

Kristal Mills, a doctoral student in CSDI has received one of only two national 2008 Student Investigator Awards from the American Academy of Audiology. The purpose of the proposed research is to assess auditory function in *Nox3* and *Nox1* mouse strains. Research protocol includes the measurement of auditory brainstem response and otoacoustic emissions at various ages for homozygotes, heterozygotes and wildtype controls.

Ms. Mills' study will provide a better understanding of auditory function in two mutations known to cause congenital vestibular deficits. The findings will further the understanding of normal and abnormal inner ear development, genetic factors that may affect development, and will expand our knowledge of genetic hearing and balance disorders. Ultimately, the findings may lead to better diagnosis and treatment for inner ear disorders.

Kristal will be studying under the direction of Dr. Sherri Jones.