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Johns Hopkins engineer wins U.S. Navy's 2012 Young Investigator Research Award

Mounya Elhilali, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Whiting School of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, was among 26 scholars nationwide selected to share in \$13.7 million in research funding through the Office of Naval Research's Young Investigator Program. The award will fund Elhilali's project, "Active Listening: Closing the loop between sensation, perception and behavior," research poised to tackle one of the major unsolved problems in neuroscience: how our brains are able to effortlessly recognize sounds.

Dr. Elhilali earned her bachelor's degree in software engineering from Al Akhawayn University in Morocco in 1998. She went on to receive her master's degree and doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Maryland at College Park, in 2003 and 2004 respectively. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Systems Research at the University of Maryland from 2005 to 2007. In 2008, she joined the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the

Whiting School at Johns Hopkins. In 2009, she received a National Science Foundation early CAREER award. Dr. Elhilali is a member of the Acoustical Society of America

Office of Naval Research young investigators are college and university faculty who have attained tenure-track positions in the past five years. The purpose of the awards is to fund early-career academic researchers whose scientific pursuits show exceptional promise for supporting the Navy and Marine Corps while also promoting their professional development. The program began in 1985 and has grown steadily to include a total of 579 recipients who represent 120 institutions of higher education.



Eric Wood named President of INCE/USA

Eric J. W. Wood, director of Acentech's Noise and Vibration Group, has been named president of the Institute of Noise Control Engineering of the USA (INCE/USA). Mr. Wood has served INCE/USA as a vice president and board member. He also serves as president of the INCE Foundation

At Acentech, Mr. Wood directs and provides technical contributions to

engineering and environmental projects related primarily to the measurement, evaluation, and control of noise and vibration during the design, construction, and operation of major energy systems and transportation and industrial facilities. Acentech Inc. is a multi-disciplinary acoustics, audiovisual systems design, and vibration consulting firm providing a wide range of services. The company serves a diverse group of clients from its offices in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Trevoise, Pennsylvania; and Westlake Village, California.

Eric Wood received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Hartford, with additional study at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Northeastern University. He is widely published in the noise and vibration control field and has presented at numerous conferences and seminars. He is co-author of the recent book *Sound Ideas: Acoustical Consulting at BBN and Acentech*.

In addition to his involvement with INCE/USA, Mr. Wood is a fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and a member of both the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the International Institute of Acoustics and Vibration.

The Institute of Noise Control Engineering of the USA (INCE/USA) is a non-profit professional organization with the mission to promote engineering solutions to environmental, product, machinery, industrial and other noise problems. The Institute publishes the Noise Control Engineering Journal (NCEJ) and sponsors the NOISE-CON series of national conferences. INCE/USA is a member society of the International Institute of Noise Control Engineering (I-INCE), an international consortium of organizations with interests in acoustics and noise control. INCE/USA together with I-INCE publish Noise/News International for practicing noise and vibration control engineers worldwide.



Michelle Vigeant awarded an NSF CAREER grant

Michelle Vigeant, assistant professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department and Acoustics Program in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA) the University of Hartford, has been awarded a Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The NSF CAREER grant is the most prestigious award for a junior faculty member in engineering and the sciences, and it is sought by researchers from top science and engineering programs around the country.

Dr. Vigeant was awarded \$400K over a five-year period for her project, "Importance of Late-Sound-Field Properties and Listener Envelopment to Room Acoustic Quality and Design." The overall goal of the project is to investigate the sense of acoustics quality in concert halls and to find a measurable quantity that can be used to quantify the acoustics of halls. The project includes taking measurements in a number of concert halls in both the United States and Europe. The project will include research opportunities for approximately 15 undergraduate students in the Acoustics

Program at the University of Hartford. Women students in particular will be recruited to work on the project, as women remain under-represented in the engineering profession. The grant proposal also includes educational outreach in local area elementary and middle schools to expose young students to science and to a woman scientist role model by interacting with the students through educational activities. In addition, through a collaboration with the Acoustical Society of America's Education Committee, Vigeant will create activity kits to introduce students to the topics of sound through interactive, hands-on activities.

Vigeant earned a Ph.D. in engineering, focusing on architectural acoustics, from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and she received a BSc in mechanical engineering from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. Her research interests include architectural acoustics, specifically room acoustics measurement parameters and computer modeling. She is a member of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA), American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the American Society for Engineering Education. She served as co-editor, with David T. Bradley and Erica E. Ryherd of *Acoustical Design of Theatres for Drama Performance: 1985-2010*, published by ASA in 2010.

The NSF's Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations.

ONR names research teams to help reduce jet noise

The deafening roar of supersonic

aircraft can cause hearing damage to sailors and marines on flight decks, so the Office of Naval Research (ONR) is funding a new project to help reduce jet noise.

"The noise problem falls into two categories: noise exposure on the flight deck and noise impact on the communities surrounding air bases," said Dr. Brenda Henderson, deputy manager for the Jet Noise Reduction project, part of ONR's Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) program. "We're funding the development of tools that we'll need to help control jet noise in tactical aircraft."

With support from ONR's Basic Research Challenge program—which funds basic research in new areas not already covered by other programs—the Jet Noise Reduction project is a long-term effort. Jointly funded with NASA, ONR is awarding grants and contracts to eight teams—six academic institutions and two commercial companies—to develop noise-reduction technologies, as well as measurement and prediction tools and noise source models to dampen the noisy jet plumes that emanate from naval aircraft.

Awards totaling more than \$4 million were given to teams at Brigham Young University, California Institute of Technology, Cascade Technologies, Innovative Technology Applications Co., University of Illinois, University of Mississippi, Pennsylvania State University and Virginia Tech.

The research and tools produced by the eight teams in this project will help to create new approaches to noise-mitigation technology aimed at reducing levels of jet exhaust noise that, when combined with hearing protection, will result in safer noise environments for sailors and marines. In addition, the lower jet exhaust noise levels will aid in reducing noise complaints reported in communities near military bases.