

Session 5	Neural basis for auditory perception
Time	09:30 – 10:00
Name	Katrin Krumbholz (MRC Institute of Hearing Research)
Title	Is auditory stimulus-specific adaptation a correlate of early-warning function or priming?
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Abstract	The brain's response to an auditory stimulus decreases when the stimulus is presented repeatedly, but recovers when the stimulus is changed. This is stimulus-specific adaptation (SSA). In this presentation, I will discuss the two most prevalent models of SSA and report recent experiments by my group aimed at investigating their validity. One model posits that SSA is mediated by activity-induced reduction in neural responsiveness, the other assumes that SSA is brought about by neural sharpening. The results that I will present suggest implications concerning the possible functional role of SSA.