



F · L · A · S · H
FRIDAY SEMINARS IN SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING

Bruton Conferences are Sponsored by the David Bruton, Jr. Endowed Lecture Series in Communication Disorders

Benedict Voit

Truly Deaf-Defying: Qualia Oto's Push Towards a Superior Cochlear Implant

Cochlear Implant functionality has improved markedly over the past several decades, with CIs likely being the most successful neural prostheses to date since their first commercialization in the 1980s. Major CI improvements over the past half-century are primarily related to front-end processing, with the CPUs now smaller, more powerful, and maintaining a better battery life. However, superior baseline performance has been hampered because improvements in back-end processing have been almost non-existent.

[Qualia Oto, Inc.](#) – a company focused on materials development to improve the capacity and efficacy of cochlear implants – offers a novel solution. By utilizing our shape-memory polymers (SMP) as a dynamic element that induces intentional self-curling of the CI electrode arrays in the inner ear, we can facilitate gentle and gradual repositioning of the implanted arrays from the lateral wall (better for atraumatic insertion) to the modiolar wall (providing advanced focal placement) without trauma. In this talk, Mr. Voit will discuss Qualia Oto's position within the industry as well as the company's success of turning experiments from a UT Dallas lab into products in the business world.



[Benedict Voit](#) is a serial entrepreneur, having worked for more than a half-dozen fast-growing startups and small businesses. He currently serves as CFO and COO at Qualia Oto with roles in finance, marketing, strategy, operations, and management. He concurrently works as the CFO or advisor for an additional five startup companies which have spun out of UTD in the past five years. Mr. Voit recently joined the Board of Trustees for the Foundation for the Callier Center and Communication Disorders.

Mr. Voit is a proud alumnus of the University of Texas at Dallas, graduating in 2008, summa cum laude, with a BA in political science and economics; at UT Dallas, he was a Eugene McDermott Scholar and an Archer Fellow. He earned his MBA, highest distinction, from the University of Michigan in 2015.

Date/Time: Friday, April 25, 12 noon to 1 pm

Location: MS Teams and Room A229