

Rose Marie Rine, PT, PhD directs the Vestibular, Balance and Gait Laboratory (VBGL) at the University of North Florida specializing in investigations of vestibular function and its effect on balance, gait and development. She has joint appointments at Nemours Children's Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida, and Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology of Mayo Clinic School of Medicine. Dr. Rine has an extensive resume to include over 24 years teaching and research, more than 30 articles and book chapters and 35 years as a Physical Therapist.

In 2005 – 2006, she completed work on a SBIR Phase I study for Advanced Vestibular Evoked Myogenic Potential (VEMP) Screening and test system. The major goal was to optimize testing techniques for adults and children to include monitoring and assuring adequate baseline muscle activity to accept stimulus trials, and the use of feedback to subjects/patients regarding the level of muscle activity. Dr. Rine was Program Director at University of Miami in collaboration with Intelligence Hearing Systems (IHS). Currently, Dr. Rine has been awarded the Phase II grant, with funding as of January 1, 2008, again with IHS. The primary objectives of the study are to obtain normative data on adults and children, optimize protocol and establish reliability and validity of the test.

In November 2006, Dr. Rine began a project with faculty at Nemours Children's Clinic to examine the vestibular dysfunction and related impairments in children with chronic otitis media with effusion.

Dr. Rine is the Team Leader for the Vestibular Domain of the NIH Toolbox for Assessment of Neurological and Behavioral Health. The primary objective of this 5 year study is to provide a valuable resource across NIH and the scientific community, by ensuring that assessment methods will be capable of comparison with existing and completed studies. The Toolbox will be developed under the leadership of the Center for Outcomes, Research and Education and Northwestern University (including the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the Feinberg School of Medicine, and the School of Communication), working primarily with collaborators at the University of Washington, University of Pittsburgh, UCLA, and Kessler Medical Rehabilitation Research and Education Corporation, along with consultants and field testing partners based at 28 additional academic and hospital based research centers.