



## AMERICAN OTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

### 141<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL SPRING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The American Otological Society recently completed their 141st Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. We wish to thank Dr. Clough Shelton for an outstanding program. The Basic Science Lecture, "Pathological Semicircular Canal Afferent Signals Transmitted to the Brain During Benign Positional Vertigo and Their Biomechanical Origins," was presented by Dr. Richard D. Rabbitt. Dr. H. Ric Harnsberger was selected as the Guest of Honor and presented a talk on "Decision Support in the 21st Century

Presidential Citations were presented to Drs. M. Jennifer Derebery, James L. Parkin and Rodney C. Perkins. Dr. Malcolm D. Graham received the 2008 Award of Merit at the President's Banquet on Saturday evening.

**AOS Annual Spring Business Meetings, May 2-3, 2008, highlights, complete text available on the AOS Website**

**Membership:** The Society is pleased to report a total of 298 members.

The AOS welcomed five Active Members: Drs. Douglas Chen, Daniel Choo, J. Douglas Green, Bradley W. Kesser, and James E. Saunders. One Corresponding Member: Dr. Alain Robier. One Honorary Member: Dr. Naoaki Yanagihara.

#### Treasurer's Report

The balance on hand in the AOS Treasury as of April 21, 2008, 162,703.

AOS Basic Science Lectureship Fund balance as of 4/30/2008 \$243,000. The goal is to build a corpus of \$400,000 to sponsor three basic science lectureships at the AOS Annual Meetings. The profit share of the journal is used to fund this lectureship, and the goal is to have the interest share from the fund pay the travel expenses for the lecturers.

#### Research Fund Report

The market value of the research fund as of 4/30/2008, was \$8,887,000. The value of the research fund on 4/30/2007, was \$9,072,962. This is only a decrease of about 2% and looks good given the state of the economy.

The Council approved funding for two clinician scientist awards, two research grants and one research fellowship grant. The total amount funded for 2008-09: \$314,000.

Dr. John P. Carey was elected to serve as Executive Secretary of the American Otological Society's Research Advisory Board. Dr. Carey will replace Dr. Lloyd B. Minor after the 2009 Research Advisory Board Meeting. Dr. D. Bradley Welling was elected to serve as a trustee member. Dr. Ruth Ann Eatock from Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary was elected to serve as a basic scientist consultant to the Research Advisory Board replacing Dr. Charles Liberman.

**American Board of Otolaryngology:** Dr. Richard Chole presented the ABOto report. The 2008 Written Qualifying Exam was administered to 292 individuals on April 4. The Oral Certifying Exam was conducted on April 5 and 6 by 106 individuals, including ABOto Directors, Senior Examiners and Guest Examiners.

The Neurotology subspecialty examination was held on April 7, 2008. Twenty-six examiners administered the exam to 46 candidates. The next Neurotology exam will be held in April 2010 in Chicago.

Two pathways to permit individuals to take the Neurotology Exam remain open at this time: one for those who have completed an ACGME residency/fellowship training in Neurotology, and one for those who have not completed such training, but who limit their practice to Neurotology. The alternate pathway will close after 2011.

The ABOto is a sponsoring board of the newly established conjoint subspecialty certificate in Sleep Medicine, which means that otolaryngologists are eligible to apply to take the exam. The first exam was given in November 2007, and covered the entire spectrum of sleep disorders focusing on the diagnostic aspects of the specialty. Physicians of all specialties took the same computerized exam. Seventy-eight otolaryngologists took the exam, and the pass rate was 63%. The next Sleep Medicine exam will be given on October 20, 2009.

The Otolaryngology Training Exam was conducted on March 1, 2008, in more than 100 locations. More than 1,300 residents and practitioners participated in the exam. The next OTE is scheduled for Saturday, March 7, 2009.

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) is a quality improvement program being developed by all ABMS Boards. At the present time, 1,635 diplomates of the American Board of Otolaryngology participate in MOC. The program currently applies only to primary certificate diplomates certified in 2002 and thereafter as well as all Neurotology and Sleep Medicine subspecialty

diplomates and all ABOto Directors.

The first MOC Part III examination is scheduled to be available in 2010. A description of the MOC program and its rationale was published in the April 2007 issue of all US otolaryngology journals. Please refer to this document for more information.

**American Academy of Otolaryngology:** Dr. David Nielsen presented the report. The Academy continues to work with the Guidelines Development Task Force, which has representation from every otolaryngology society who are working to prioritize, develop, and implement evidenced-based guidelines, which serve as the foundation for the performance measures for Part IV, MOC and upcoming Maintenance of Licensure for the demand from purchasers of health care.

Dr. Nielsen reported the legislative and regulatory affairs and the scope of practice continue to be a major issue for the Academy and most specialty societies. Of most importance to Otolaryngology is the issue of continued federal and state legislation and regulation of audiology services. The Academy continues to oppose H.R. 1665 which would expand the scope of practice for audiological services. The Academy is also a charter member of the Steering Committee of the AMA Scope of Practice Partnership which has spent several hundred thousand dollars and committed staff resources to state and federal fights on expanding scope of practice into ophthalmology, psychiatry, anesthesia, obstetrics, and otolaryngology. The Academy also continues to solicit the opinion of AOS and all of the subspecialty societies on what type of resource efforts and money the Academy should commit to this issue.

The Academy's online learning platform (Academy U) has been formally rolled out as a member benefit and already has over 1600 enrollees. Membership dues were increased last year to pay the several million dollars that was pumped into both the development of the Academy U and guidelines development, which will become performance measures. Although a small fraction of content has been converted, work continues to digitalize and create individual learning space for all Academy members. This will eventually create a synergistic method for documenting CME, Part II and Part IV MOC and hopefully performance in practice.

**Audit Committee:** Dr. H. Alexander Arts presented the Audit Committee Report. The Audit Committee consisted of Mosies Arriaga, Michael McKenna and H. Alexander Arts. The committee reviewed the consolidated financial statements of the American Otological Society and the American Otological Society Research fund for the past fiscal year and found everything in order.

**AOS Bylaws Amendment:** The amendment to the AOS bylaws was approved by the membership for Bylaws Amendment-3.2.0 Qualifications and Privileges. The amendment defined the society in terms of what the otologist does in the specialty, otology, neurotology, and lateral skull base surgery.

**Membership Development Committee:** Dr. A. Julianna Gulya presented the report. Over the past year, the MDC identified over two-dozen potential candidates for membership in the AOS. Criteria for this first pass re suitability comprised a survey of the Triological membership and candidate lists, the ANS

membership roster, and journal article authorship. Subsequently, in the second pass re suitability, AOS members in the practice locality of the potential member were contacted for further information, and if appropriate, to act as proposer. A few candidates were considered ready for AOS membership this year, and many have been inducted at this COSM. The vast majority was categorized as "potentially appropriate" needing a varying number of years to meet membership criteria. Current AOS membership criteria, is available on the AOS web site.

**AAO-HNS RUC Surveys**—the AOS is developing a list of members that will respond to work surveys by the Academy. This is important work for how the physician gets paid and is something all physicians need to pay attention to. An e-mail has been sent to the active members, and we have 39 members who are willing to participate. The goal is to have 50+ AOS members responding to the surveys.

**ACGME Neurotology Programs:** The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) is responsible for the Accreditation of post-MD medical training programs within the United States. Accreditation is accomplished through a peer review process and is based upon established standards and guidelines. For a complete update of the approved programs, go to the AOS and ACGME websites.

**AOS Website:** Some new features to the web site have been added. Quicker access to downloadable forms, easier newsletter retrieval, and a new functional events calendar, a new information center page and a frequently asked questions page (FAQ). Some areas are under construction, so if you have any information you want added to these or other areas of the site, please forward the requests to Shirley.

#### Call for Papers

October 15, 2008, is the deadline for submission of abstracts for the 2009 Annual Spring Meeting. We will begin accepting abstracts via AOS website after July 1. Watch for the e-mail announcement. Abstracts accepted for the 2009 meeting will be required to have a completed manuscript submitted to the O&N Journal and AOS Office on or before May 15, 2009. There will be no extension of the May 15 deadline for manuscripts.

#### Membership Dues

Dues for Active Members are \$425.00 (USA) and \$445 (International). Active member dues include a subscription to the O&N journal.

Associate Members dues are \$100.00 (USA and International). Corresponding Members dues are \$200.00 (USA and International). The O&N journal is optional for Associate and Corresponding members and is itemized separately on the dues statement.

**Patrick John Doyle M.D.** Vancouver, BC, passed away on May 21, 2008. Dr. Doyle was a member of the AOS since 1987. Dr. Doyle was co-founder of the Pacific Otolaryngology Foundation dedicated to ear, nose and throat research at University of British Columbia.

**142nd AOS ANNUAL SPRING MEETING** will be held May 29-30, 2009, JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa, Phoenix, Arizona.