



## AMERICAN OTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

### 143rd ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

The American Otological Society's 143rd Annual Spring Meeting will be held at the Paris/Bally's, May 1-2, 2010, Las Vegas, NV. Enclosed is a Program and Abstract book to bring with you to the meeting.

**From the AOS President, Dr. Bruce J. Gantz**

Dear AOS Members:

This year's AOS program will high-light two special lectures and a panel that will address the selection criteria cochlear implant selection criteria for adults and children. Our Guest of Honor, Ed Rubel one of the pioneers in inner ear regeneration, will address the group on what is the next step in Hearing Habilitation". The Basic Science Lecture will be presented by Richard Smith entitled "Genetic Testing for Deafness- How it Will Impact Your Management of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons". The Program Committee has selected 35 papers to be presented from 81 submitted abstracts. Presentations and discussions focused on Basic Science, Vestibular Schwannoma, and Clinical Trials and Clinical Research will wrap up the day

The Black-Tie President's reception and Dinner/Dance for AOS members, guests and presenters will be Saturday evening, May 1st. Bring a partner and have some fun in Vegas! The Award of Merit recipient has been selected and will be announced at the banquet at 8:45 p.m. Tickets are available for AOS members and their guests when registering for the AOS/COSM.

The AOS Scientific Program continues Sunday morning, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 a.m. with a series of presentations ranging from Otosclerosis and Conductive Hearing Loss to Cochlear Implant Clinical Research. The Program will conclude with a panel of very experienced cochlear implant surgeons entitled "Cochlear Implant Candidacy in 2010" led by Dr. John K. Niparko.

Two new active members, Drs. Keiko Hirose and Harold Kim, will be inducted into the AOS membership at the Annual Business Meeting, Saturday, May 1st at 12:30 p.m.

### 2010 Midwinter Council Meeting Highlights

**2010 Audit Committee:** Dr. A. Alexander Arts was appointed as chairman. Committee members – Drs. Lawrence R. Lustig and David Haynes. The committee will audit the books and report at the Council meeting and Business Meeting in Las Vegas

**Membership Report:** 299 AOS Members, an increase of 3 from last year. 146 active; 76 senior; 14 emeritus; 36 associate; 16 corresponding; 11 honorary members.

Member deceased: Dr. Antonio De La Cruz—7/31/2009.

**Treasurer's Report 1/31/2010**

AOS Checking Account balance \$240,665.59

AOS Research Fund balance \$7.5 million

AOS Basic Science Lectureship Fund balance \$355,545

**O&N, Inc.:** Dr. Rick Friedman was appointed to a second three-year term on the O&N, Inc. Board of Directors. Dr. Jay Rubinstein was appointed to serve a three-year term on the O&N Inc.

**AOS Transactions:** The Council voted to discontinue the AOS Transactions. Following the meeting the Editor-Librarian will write a summary of the highlights of the scientific sessions, which will be placed on the AOS website. The scientific sessions will no longer be recorded.

**2010 Award of Merit:** Dr. Clough Shelton reported a recipient has been selected for the 2010 Award of Merit. The recipient will be revealed at the Banquet on Saturday evening, May 1.

**Board of Governors:** The Council appointed the following individuals to the AAO-HNS Board of Governors: Legislative Representative – Dr. Joel Goebel. Public Relations Representative – Dr. Jose Fayad.

**AOS Basic Science Lectureship Fund:** The lectureship fund is now fully funded at \$364,000. Four to six thousand dollars is used each year to fund the basic science lectureship.

The Council voted to set up a new AOS Education and Research Fund with the profit share from the O&N, Inc. The Council agreed to set-up the fund with \$100,000 and every year review and decide how much O&N money will be deposited into the fund. The Research and Education Fund money will be used for Education and Research and for the annual meeting. This fund will not be part of the AOS Research Fund.

**ACCME:** The ACCME accepted the AOS Progress Report and the AOS was brought into compliance with the ACCME's current accreditation expectations. AOS current accreditation term will expire on November 30, 2012.

#### **AOS Board of Governors Report:**

Sujana Chandrasekhar, MD

There have been a couple of significant CMS changes which affect otology in particular - especially the VNG coding.

1. CMS (Medicare) MANDATED that a new bundled code be created for parts of the VNG. As of January 1, 2010, codes 92541,41,44, and 45 are lumped into a single code, 92540. This occurred despite the Academy's best efforts to prevent it.

2. Also as of January 1, 2010, CMS has done away with consult codes. Again, the Academy advocated vigorously against this. Through our Academy's advocacy, some of this value is incorporated in the global packages of surgical codes that include follow-up visits. And, CMS is redistributing the RVUs into the New Patient and Follow-up Codes. While this is not ideal, it is not as bad as it seems.

I strongly encourage all of us to take a couple of deep breaths, step back, and think about the fact that we have really good representation in Washington and at the state legislative levels. Scope of practice issues directly affecting otology have been at the forefront in Academy lobbying efforts.

I am asking each of you to do the following:

1. renew your Academy membership
2. contribute to the Academy PAC - at least \$365, but over \$500 is better (personal - not corporate - checks please)
3. become a Millennium Society member for \$1000 per year
4. get more involved by
  - a. attending the BOG Spring Meeting March 21 and 22 at the Academy headquarters
  - b. signing up for the legislative action networks

c. talking to your representatives at home about what it is to practice medicine in this climate. (the Academy staff can give you talking points and any data that you desire for such a meeting)

d. attending the BOG meetings at the Annual Meeting in Boston in September. The committee meetings are held on the Saturday before the Opening Ceremony, and are open to all AAO-HNSF members.

#### **Membership Applications**

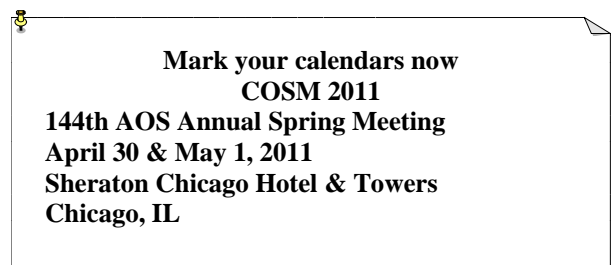
The AOS only accepts electronic submission of membership applications. The application is available on the AOS website or from the AOS Administrative office, email [segossard@aol.com](mailto:segossard@aol.com). All attachments are to be submitted electronically. Proposer letters can be signed and saved as a .pdf document and e-mailed.

#### **Call for Papers**

Abstract submissions are submitted electronically through the AOS website. Abstracts will be accepted beginning **July 1, 2010 through October 15, 2010** for the 2011 AOS Annual Spring Meeting. Abstracts are limited to 250 words or less and the title may not exceed 10 words (excluding a, an, of, etc...). In order to comply with the updated ACCME regulations, a conflict of interest/disclosure form must be signed by **each contributing author before the abstract may be submitted**. Further instructions regarding abstract submission will soon be available on the AOS web-site.

#### **American Otological Society Website:**

[www.americanotologicalsociety.org](http://www.americanotologicalsociety.org)



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