



AMERICAN OTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer, Steven A. Telian, MD

146th ANNUAL SPRING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We wish to thank the 2012-13 AOS President, Dr. Paul R. Lambert, for putting together an outstanding and informational program for the 146th Annual Spring meeting in Orlando, FL.

Presidential Citations were presented to George T. Hashisaki, MD, William M. Luxford, MD, Richard A. Chole, MD, PhD; Harold C. Pillsbury, MD and Judy R. Dubno, PhD.

Dr. Bruce J. Gantz was the Guest of Honor. He spoke on "Acoustic + Electric Speech Processing: What Have We Learned about the Auditory System". Dr. Neil Segil presented the first of two Basic Science lectures, "Can We Restore Lost Hearing? - Molecular Control of Cell Fate and Cell Division in the Development and Regeneration of the Inner Ear". Dr. Michael McKenna presented the second Basic Science lecture, "Progress in Understanding the Etiology of Otosclerosis and Implications for Future Treatment". Dr. J. Eric Lupo was awarded the AOS Resident Travel Award for his abstract "Vibromechanical Assessment of Active Middle Ear Implant Stimulation in Simulated Middle Ear Effusion: A Temporal Bone Study".

In an unprecedented moment in AOS history, the Guest of Honor was selected as the distinguished 2013 *Award of Merit* recipient. Dr. Bruce J. Gantz received the award in recognition of his "contributions too numerous to count to the Specialty of Otorhinolaryngology, the Subspecialty of Otology/Neurotology and the American Board of Otolaryngology". Congratulations on making history, Bruce!

Highlights of the AOS Annual Spring Business Meetings

MEMBERSHIP: The AOS membership now totals 302 members. The AOS inducted eight new members to the Society. They are Drs. Manohar Bance, Adrien A. Eshraghi, John H. Greinwald, Jr., Timothy E. Hullar, Phillip D. Littlefield, Rodney Perkins, Miriam I. Redleaf, and Hinrich Staecker. Welcome aboard colleagues!

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT: Dr. Larry Lustig stated this was a banner year for new members. Since a significant scholarly contribution remains a keystone of the qualifications for AOS membership, Triological Society candidacy and ANS membership pools continue to be the best source of potential new recruits to the AOS. This year, all new Triologic Society inductees with a career focus on Otology were contacted by Dr. Lustig and given information on membership requirements. However, direct invitation from current AOS members encouraging potential new recruits to apply for membership remains the best source for new candidates.

TREASURER'S REPORT

AOS Operating account

Balance on Hand as of 4/5/2013 - \$131,933.80
Total income as of 4/5/2013 - \$147,850.01
Total Disbursements as of 4/5/2013 - \$127,773.38

AOS Research Fund

Checking account balance as of 4/5/2013 - \$40,231.89
Income includes deposits from BNY/Mellon Investment account \$361,247.63. Disbursements include \$321,015.74 in 2012-13 grants funded

Investment Accounts:

The AOS Research Fund value as of 4/5/2013 - \$8,095,265.
The AOS Basic Science Fund as of 4/5/2013 - \$456,296.
The AOS Research and Education Fund as of 4/5/2013 - \$489,475.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Dr. Steven Cheung, chair of the AOS Audit Committee, along with Drs. Jennifer Derebery and Howard Francis reviewed the consolidated financial statements of the American Otological Society, Inc. (AOS) and the American Otological Society Research Foundation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. Though volatility in the equities market and asset allocation in the investment portfolio may have contributed to changes in the financial positions of the AOS and Research accounts, these remain relatively robust. Overall, the Audit Committee found no areas of serious concern.

AOS RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD: Dr. John Carey submitted the AOS Research Advisory Board minutes. Dr. Carey stated the RAB received 13 applications for 2013-2014. The RAB recommended funding for three Clinician Scientist Awards (one renewal), and one research grant (a renewal) for a total of \$294,642. Grant recipients are as follows:

- Akihiro J. Matsuoka, MD, PhD - Northwestern University (CSA)
- Yuri Agrawal, MD - Johns Hopkins University (CSA renewal)
- Larry F. Hoffman, PhD - University of California-LA (Research Grant renewal)
- David Horn, MD - University of Washington (CSA)

Dr. Joel A. Goebel will serve as Chair of the 2013-14 Research Advisory Board and Dr. John Carey remains as Executive Secretary. Dr. Hinrich Staecker was approved by the AOS Council to serve on the RAB for a 7 year term (7/1/2013-6/30/2020) and Dr. Jeffrey R. Holt, PhD from Boston Children's Hospital was approved as the new Consultant for a 5 year term (7/1/2013-6/30/2018).

AAO-HNS BOARD OF GOVERNERS: Dr. Sujana Chandrasekhar, the AOS representative to the Board of Governors, has completed her term as Chair of the BOG this year. She reported that the primary legislative issues facing Otolaryngology/Neurotology involve state by state legislation regarding expanding scope of practice for audiologists. The concern is that the public is being encouraged to view the audiologist as an equivalent alternative to the physician as it relates to hearing health care.

In NY, where physicians are not permitted to dispense hearing aids for profit, the BOG is working to expand the scope of practice to be able to dispense hearing aids.

Dr. Chandrasekhar thanked the ANS and the AOS for their swift response to the pediatric ENT board certification questionnaire. The ANS/AOS respondents were 81% opposed, 18% in favor and 1% abstained. Results will be reported to the Board of Directors of the Academy in the near future. The American Board of Otolaryngology is in discussion with ASPO leadership about this issue, but does not want to risk undermining the primary certificate.

OTOLOGY/NEUROTOLOGY EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Dr. Bradley Kesser reported that the AOS, jointly with ANS, sponsored its first live webinar on March 7, 2013. AOS Past President, Dr. Clough Shelton presented "Management of Complications of Mastoidectomy." The live streaming platform may become an effective method to bring fresh educational material to residents and practitioners. Additional webinars will be sponsored in the future.

For **Part II of Maintenance of Certification (MOC)**, the ABOto has created Self-Assessment modules, to be completed by practitioners yearly. Modules are available at the ABOto MOC website (<https://moc.aboto.org/Default.aspx>). There are currently 7 modules available. For **Part IV of MOC**, Performance Improvement Modules (PIMs) guide Diplomates through the classic quality improvement cycle to identify strengths and areas for improvement in practice. The PIM consists of three stages. In stage A, the participant enters selected data about patients he/she has treated. The data points are based on accepted guidelines or measures. In stage B, the participant receives feedback on areas of strengths and areas that could be improved. In stage C, the participant enters data on subsequent patients to demonstrate improvement. This process is non-punitive, and is used to provide useful feedback to the diplomate.

AMERICAN BOARD OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY: Dr. D. Bradley Welling presented the ABOto report. Highlights of the report include the following data:

- Maintenance of Certification Examination (MOC) Part III – the third Otolaryngology MOC exam was administered in 2013 with a high pass rate.
- Qualifying Examination – 290 candidates passed and 24 failed the September 2012 written exam.
- There is discussion regarding potential realignment of the ABOto Oral Examination to include more pediatric cases.
- Sub-certification in Pediatric Otolaryngology has been requested by ASPO and is under consideration by ABOto
- The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) has approached the ABMS about joint DO/MD credentialing. The Board responded to the ABMS as follows: "The ABOto is not categorically opposed to a unified accreditation system, but it needs assurances that the process will not lower the quality of training, which is a key component of our fiduciary responsibility to the public. The minimum standards for all programs (MD and DO) will be the current ACGME standards.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY: Dr. David Nielsen updated the Council on the activities of the Academy. Dr. Nielsen stressed the importance of creating an endowment focused on the preservation and advancement of the discipline of otopathology. The number of labs, temporal bone banks, and investigators committed to this critical discipline is at an all-time low. The AAO-HNS Foundation Paparella Award has been restructured to focus on otopathology, and ultimately will seek to develop a research grant mechanism through the Academy's CORE grants. Dr. Nielsen presented this concern to the AOS Council, who indicated support for seeking solutions to preserve and grow the number of laboratories and the amount of temporal bone research, which is so foundational to our subspecialty. The AOS Council will address the need for otopathology lab support at the next Council meeting in February.

AOS COUNCIL 2013-2014: The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for 2013-2014, which was subsequently approved by the membership:

President: Dr. John W. House; President-Elect: Dr. D. Bradley Welling; Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Steven A. Telian; Education Director: Dr. Debara L. Tucci; Council Members: Drs. Herman A. Jenkins, Paul R. Lambert, Samuel H. Selesnick and Roberto A. Cueva.

Drs. Richard T. Miyamoto and Michael E. Glasscock III, were elected to serve on the 2014 Award of Merit Committee.

AOS BYLAWS-REVISIONS: A copy of the proposed bylaw amendments accompanied by a rationale document was emailed to 177 Active and Senior members on June 13, 2013. Nearly 1/3 of the eligible voting members cast votes via SurveyMonkey, and the revisions passed unanimously. Please keep in mind that the AOS will monitor and enforce the attendance policy for Active members which states, "*Any active member who has absented himself or herself from three consecutive annual meetings without reason satisfactory to the Council shall be dropped from membership in the Society and shall be notified to that effect by the Secretary-Treasurer. Any former member so dropped from membership may be reinstated only by three-fourths vote of the council upon presentation of valid justification for such reinstatement and payment of the initiation fee.*"

CALL FOR PAPERS: The deadline for submission of abstracts for the 2014 AOS Annual Meeting held in Las Vegas, NV, May 16-18, 2014 is **October 15, 2013**. Abstracts will be accepted beginning July 8, 2013 via the AOS website. Once again, a limited number of posters will be selected for presentation this year. Primary authors will select *Oral, Poster, or Either* when submitting their abstract. All authors must comply with the instructions outlined on the abstract submission page, <http://americanotologicalsociety.org/abstractinstruct.html>

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP: Membership applications are due September 1, 2013. Please refer potential candidates to the AOS Website for application and instructions: www.americanotologicalsociety.org

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Invoices for membership dues are included with this newsletter. Please pay your dues in a timely manner, within 30 days of receipt.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR AOS CORRESPONDENCE

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