Debarb L. Tucci, M.D.

Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor and a privilege to be a member of this great organization and to serve as your President this year. Membership in our organization has been a highlight of my professional career, and I have greatly enjoyed the collegiality and enhanced knowledge that are an integral part of our meetings and other interactions. In his message last summer, then President Brad Welling noted that the AOS was founded in 1868. The AOS was in fact the first otolaryngology society; we predated both the AAO-HNS which was founded in 1896, and the Triological Society, founded in 1895. Our rich history reflects tremendous progress in the care of our patients with otologic disorders. Much of this progress has been funded by AOS research grants, which have totaled over $6 million awarded since 1991. The AOS Research Fund will continue to be a major and important funding source for cutting edge research in hearing and balance research, with a recently expanded portfolio that includes topics spanning the breadth of our field. As we approach our 150th meeting in 2017, the written history of the AOS will be updated to include 1993 to the present. If you have items to contribute please contact Dr. Ron Konrad who is leading this effort.

On May 20-21, 2016 we will hold our 149th annual meeting in Chicago, Ill. Our Guest of Honor will be Dr. Blake Wilson, co-recipient (with Drs. Ingeborg Hochmair and Graeme Clark) of the Lasker DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award in 2013 for development of the modern cochlear implant. Dr. Wilson’s talk will be accompanied by a tribute to Dr. Bill House and his tremendous contributions, given by Dr. John House. Our Saumil Nalin Merchant Memorial Lecturer will be Dr. Andy Groves, Professor in the Departments of Neuroscience and Molecular & Human Genetics at the Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Groves is a developmental biologist who has done pioneering work to develop new approaches to hair cell regeneration. I have asked Dr. Groves to critically assess the current approaches to treatment of hearing loss, including potential roadblocks and promise of each approach. This promises to be an informative and engaging lecture.

The abstract submission site is open. We look forward to your contributions, which always ensure a dynamic and high caliber meeting. We will have more opportunity for presentation this year, as we will be able to accept 40 abstracts for poster presentation. The Program Committee will include Poster Judges, who will select the best AOS posters for awards. I look forward to the academic year ahead, culminating in another outstanding AOS meeting during COSM.

With best wishes,
Deb
Since the AOS Council announced removal of the restrictions constraining research topics to Meniere’s disease or otosclerosis, there was a substantial increase in the number of research and clinical trial grants submitted this year. The AOS Research Advisory Board reviewed 17 grants and recommended 7 grants for funding in the amount of $360,681.00. The AOS Council approved the following grants for 2015-16.

**Gregory Basura, M.D., Ph.D.** - “Multi-Sensory Modulation of Tinnitus Correlates in Primary Auditory Cortex” - University of Michigan - $80,000 (Clinician Scientist Award - renewal)

**Richard K. Gurgel, M.D.** - “Exploring the Impact of Hearing Loss on Impaired Cognition in Older Adults” - University of Utah - $79,892 (Clinician Scientist Award)

**Jeffrey W. Kysar, Ph.D.** - “Development of RWM Microneedle Array for Intracochlear Drug Delivery” - Columbia University - $55,000 (Research Grant renewal)

**Zachary D. Urdang, B.S.** - “Neutrophil Contribution to Endotoxemia Enhanced Cochlear Aminoglycoside Uptake” - Oregon Hearing Research Center - $17,700 (Fellowship - renewal)

**Yew Song Cheng, BmBch., B.Sc.** - “A Study of the "Third Window" Phenomenon using Inner-ear Pressure Measurements” - $40,000 - Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary (Fellowship)

**Henry Ou, M.D., M.S.** - “Exploring Mechanisms of Synergistic Ototoxicity in Anti-Cancer Drugs” - University of Washington – $33,089 (Research Grant)

**Aaron K. Remenschneider, M.D., M.P.H.** - “Optimized 3-Dimensional Printed Tympanic Membrane Prosthesis” - $55,000 - Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary (Research Grant)

The AOS Council would like to thank the members of the 2015-16 AOS Research Advisory Board for their exemplary service to the AOS mission; Dr. John P. Carey, Executive Secretary; Drs. D. Bradley Welling, Jay T. Rubinstein, Marlan R. Hansen, Keiko Hirose, Hinrich Staecker, John S. Oghalai, as well as our consultants, Drs. Donna Fekete, Stefan Hellar, and Jeffrey R. Holt. The AOS Research Advisory Board is comprised of seven AOS members serving 7-year terms and three consultants serving 5 year terms.

If you would like to submit a grant for consideration in 2016-17, a letter of intent must be submitted to by December 31, 2015, one month prior to the January 31, 2016 deadline for the application. The letter of intent must state the grant mechanism for the proposal, the Principle Investigator and Institution(s) for the work, provide a working title, and contain an abstract of no more than 500 words to summarize the proposal. The grants and letter of intent are to be submitted via email to Dr. John Carey, Executive Secretary of the AOS Research Fund at jcarey@jhmi.edu and to Kristen Bordignon, AOS Administrator, administrator@americanotologicalsociety.org Please visit the AOS website for instructions and the application. http://americanotologicalsociety.org/information.html

**SAUMIL NALIN MERCHANT MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP ESTABLISHED**

The Saumil Nalin Merchant Memorial Lecture in Otolaryngology is an endowed fund designated to support a basic science lecture at the American Otological Society Annual Meeting in memory of Dr. Saumil N. Merchant and his remarkable contributions to the field of otology. Dr. M. Charles Liberman, of Harvard Medical School, chosen by AOS President, Dr. D. Bradley Welling, presented the first Merchant lecture titled, “Hidden Hearing Loss: Permanent Cochlear Nerve Loss after Temporary Noise-Induced Threshold Shift” at the 148th Annual AOS meeting on April 26, 2015 in Boston, MA.

Dr. Merchant was an outstanding clinician/scientist and contributed much to our understanding of middle ear mechanics and histopathology of the human temporal bone. He was also a superb clinician, surgeon and human being.
A BANNER YEAR FOR AOS AS WE WELCOME 11 NEW MEMBERS IN 2015
(Applications and instructions are available on the AOS website. The deadline to apply is September 1st.)

HAMID DJALILIAN, MD
University of California-Irvine

JOSEPH DIBARTOLOMEO, MD
The Ear Foundation
Santa Barbara, CA

JONI K. DOHERTY, MD, PhD
Shohet Ear Associates
Seal Beach, CA

PAUL W. GIDLEY, MD
University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center

ANDREW J. GRIFFITH, MD, PhD
NIDCD, NIH
Bethesda, MD

GEORGE T. HASHISAKI, MD
University of Virginia

JOHN D. MACIAS, MD
Macias Otology
Phoenix, AZ

BRIAN J. MCKINNON, MD
Shea Ear Clinic
Memphis, TN

BRIAN PERRY, MD
Ear Medical Group
San Antonio, TX

KONSTANTINA STANKOVIC, MD, PhD
Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary

GEORGE WANNA, MD
Vanderbilt University
A special thank you to Dr. D. Bradley Welling for putting together an outstanding program for the 148th Annual meeting held April 24-26, 2015 in Boston.

Pictured right, Dr. Welling introduced Dr. Joseph B. Nadol as the Guest of Honor; his presentation was entitled, “An Imperative for Otology”.

Dr. Paul Lambert presented Dr. Jeffrey P. Harris with the distinguished Award of Merit in recognition of his national leadership, research contributions to Otology, and mentorship of students, residents, and otolaryngologists.

Pictured left: Dr. Jeffrey Harris with wife, Susan

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