A full year has passed since COVID-19 hit the United States in full force. Well over half a million Americans and 2 million people across the globe have died with covid. It makes for a sobering backdrop for the upcoming “154th” annual meeting of the American Otological Society. Covid led to the cancellation of our 153rd annual meeting, the first time our annual meeting has been cancelled since 1943, because of World War II. Though COVID-19 remains a very real challenge, we are fortunate that current technology and the heroic efforts of our administrative team—thank you, Kristen and Ashley!—will allow us to hold our meeting in a virtual, web-based format. This will deprive us of the opportunity to rub elbows and reconnect with our peers, but it also provides us significant opportunities. Peers from around the world will now be afforded ready access without time and financial hurdles that conventional meetings pose. People with conflicts will be able to view the recorded program at their convenience.

One of the primary responsibilities and privileges of the AOS president is to organize the annual meeting. I am really excited about the program we have planned. Our Guest of Honor lecture will be presented by Dr. Colleen Le Prell, Professor and Chair of Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Science at the University of Texas, Dallas. Dr. Le Prell will speak to us on noise-induced hearing loss, for which her research has drawn international acclaim. Our second guest lecture will be “Ethical Hazards in Surgical Practice,” by Dr. Casey Jo Humbyrd, Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and Director of the Program in Surgical Ethics at the University of Pennsylvania. The Saumil N. Merchant Memorial lecture, “Unlocking the Inner Ear with Synchrotron Phase-Contrast Imaging” will be presented by Dr. Sumit K. Agrawal, Associate Professor of Neurotology & Skull Base Surgery, London Health Sciences Centre in Ontario. Dr. Kourosh Parham, President of the American Society for Geriatric Otolaryngology has organized a joint panel on geriatric otology. Per usal, we have an excellent slate of free papers.

I would like to thank our 2020-2021 Program Advisory Committee for helping to put this meeting together and moderate our sessions: Drs. Marlan Hansen, Nancy Young, Stephen Cass, Karen Doyle Enright, Larry Lundy, Douglas Chen, Jennifer Maw, Soha Ghossaini, Samuel Levine, Jeffrey Vrabec, David Friedland, and Lorne Parnes.

Please join me in honoring this year’s recipients of the presidential citations: Dr. George T. Singleton, Dr. Larry B. Lundy, and Dr. Samuel C. Levine. These three individuals are being recognized for their exceptional mentorship and contributions to otologic teaching and patient care. They are but a few of a long list of our more senior colleagues that have gone above and beyond, sharing their knowledge and time generously and selflessly with so many of us.

I’d like to thank the entire AOS council—Drs. Carol Bauer, John Carey, Marlan Hansen, Larry Lustig, Nancy Young, Sujana Chandrasekhar, and Bill Slattery—and our administrative team—Kristen Bordignon and Ashley Eikenberry—for all of their efforts over the past year. A lot of work goes on “behind the scenes.” It has been a real honor to serve on the AOS council with this fine crew and to follow in the footsteps of so many amazing otologists.

Warmest regards,
Patrick Antonelli
The Research Advisory Board (RAB) is comprised of seven AOS members, each serving a 7-year term and three consultants, each serving a 5-year term. These individuals are selected from a pool of highly respected otologic researchers. The expertise and dedication of the RAB are critical to the success of the AOS research foundation.

The AOS Council would like to thank the AOS Research Advisory Board for their exemplary service, time and diligence ensuring the AOS funds are allocated to those whose research focus is cutting edge and will be on a trajectory to make a significant contribution to our field. Recommendations for funding have been made by the board who met virtually on March 6, 2021. Thank you to our 2021-2022 grant applicants, you will be notified of final funding decisions in mid-May.

A special mention goes to Dr. John Ogahlai, having concluded his term as the Executive Secretary of the Research Advisory Board. John, your commitment, vast knowledge and leadership has been greatly recognized, thank you! The AOS Council is pleased to welcome Dr. Andrea Vambutas as the incoming Executive Secretary.

If you would like to submit a grant for consideration of funding in 2022-2023, a letter of intent and biosketch, including details regarding other existing support, must be submitted by November 1st of the year prior to funding. The next funding cycle begins July 1, 2022. The letter of intent must state the desired grant mechanism for the proposal. (CSA, Fellowship grant, Research Grant), the Principal Investigator and Institution(s), a working title and abstract and include Specific Aims and a proposal summary (2 page limit).
WELCOME FIVE NEW AOS ACTIVE MEMBERS!
(in alphabetical order)

Yuri Agrawal, MD, MPH
Johns Hopkins
Baltimore, MD
Proposers: Howard Francis, MD, MBA
Steven A. Telian, MD

Benjamin T. Crane, MD, PhD
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY
Proposers: Howard Francis, MD, MBA
Akira Ishiyama, MD

Akira Ishiyama, MD
University of Maryland
Baltimore, MD
Proposers: David J. Eisenman, MD
Debara L. Tucci, MD, MS, MBA

Michael Hoa, MD
Georgetown University Hospital
Medical Officer, NIH/NIDCD
Washington, DC
Proposers: M. Jennifer Derebery, MD
Fred F. Telischi, MD

Mia E. Miller, MD
House Ear Clinic
Los Angeles, CA
Proposers: M. Jennifer Derebery, MD
Roberto A. Cueva, MD

AOS MEMBERSHIP
We encourage our AOS members to reach out to qualified applicants and encourage them to apply for membership. For a list of qualifications and the online application, please visit the AOS website: https://www.americanotologicalsociety.org/aos-membership-information-application
You may also reach out to our membership liaison, Dr. David Friedland, if you have any questions about eligibility.

AOS Membership applications are due on September 1st for consideration of membership/induction the following Spring.
VIRTUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS!
AOS IS LIVE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021
(ALL TIMES IN CENTRAL)

9:00 AM - WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
Patrick J. Antonelli, MD

9:10 AM - GUEST OF HONOR LECTURE
"Noise-Induced Hearing Loss: Pathophysiology, Treatment, and Prevention"

11:15 AM - INVITED LECTURE
"Ethical Hazards in Surgical Practice"

12:25 PM - “UP CLOSE & PERSONAL” INTRODUCTION of the 12 NEW MEMBERS from 2020 & 2021 by Sujana Chandrasekhar & Bill Slattery

12:55 - LUNCH BREAK

1:45 PM - BUSINESS MEETING

2:00 PM - SAUMIL N. MERCHANT MEMORIAL LECTURE
"Unlocking the Inner Ear with Synchrotron Phase-Contrast Imaging"

4:28 PM - AOS/ASGO PANEL - “What’s New in Geriatric Otology?”

5:30 PM - INTRODUCTION OF INCOMING AOS PRESIDENT
Marlan R. Hansen, MD

Do you want to be considered as a presenter for the next AOS meeting?!

CALL FOR PAPERS!
AUG 15th - OCT 15th, 2021
AMERICAN OTOTOLOGICAL SOCIETY
155th ANNUAL MEETING
DALLAS, TX
APRIL 29—MAY 1, 2022

Set your watch at 5:30 PM C.T.!!
Don’t miss this special announcement
Who will it be!?

THE 2020 AWARD OF MERIT RECIPIENT!
&
The 2021 AWARD OF MERIT RECIPIENT!

All AOS members will receive a commemorative publication about the prestigious Award of Merit by U.S. mail after the meeting. This special issue details the history of the award and replaces what would have been the live presentations of the 2020 Award of Merit by Past President Dr. Roberto Cueva and the 2021 Award of Merit by Past President Dr. Carol Bauer, at each AOS Banquet. The awardees’ information will be posted on the AOS website in sync with the “LIVE” announcement by Dr. Marlan Hansen at our virtual meeting on Sunday April 11 at 5:30 pm CT.

ONLINE CME CREDIT MANAGED BY ACS/COSM

Online CME credit will be granted to all registered attendees. You must be a registered COSM attendee to receive the CME evaluation. The AOS Administrative Office will not be managing CME evaluations or credit this year. Registration: https://cosm.md/registration-information/

COSM VIRTUAL POSTER SESSION BEGINS APRIL 7, 2021
NEW! Earn CME for viewing posters!