



From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

Sujana S. Chandrasekhar, M.D.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lawrence R. Lustig, MD



I am excited to greet everyone in anticipation of our upcoming spring meeting in Boston. I am very happy to report that the state of the Society remains as strong as ever. We have largely weathered the financial storm of the last year and the AOS Research Fund will once again support an array of promising projects that we hope will transform the future of hearing health care. Since its inception, the AOS Research Fund has given out over \$7 million and this year, under the outstanding direction of Dr. Andrea Vambutas, we are slated to award additional funds for new innovative research projects, which will be announced this summer.

The upcoming 156th Annual Spring Meeting in Boston is slated to be quite exciting. The Program Advisory Committee (Drs. Nancy Young, Marc Bennett, Matthew Bush, Wade Chien, Hamid Djalilian, Ronna Hertzano, Brandon Isaacson, Akira Ishiyama, David Kaylie, Ana Kim, Walter Kutz, Philip Littlefield, Mia Miller, Alejandro Rivas, Erica Woodson, and George Wanna) worked hard to select the top abstracts for presentation. This year's meeting will be highlighted by two lectures. The Guest of Honor Lecture will be delivered by Professor Karen Avraham PhD, Dean of the Sackler School of Medicine in Tel Aviv. Dr. Avraham has been on the forefront of studying the molecular genetics of hearing loss over the past 25 years. Her lecture, entitled "*Precision Medicine & Gene Therapy for Deafness*" promises to be scintillating. The Saumil N. Merchant Memorial Lecturer will be delivered by Professor Stefan Plontke, Chair of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at the University Medicine Halle (Salle) in Germany. His lecture, "*Intralabyrinthine Schwannomas and Hearing Rehabilitation with Cochlear Implants*" will be a fitting tribute to the memory of Dr. Merchant. In addition to these two outstanding lecturers, we have two panels that are sure to spark a lot of interest. On Saturday we will have a panel led by Dr. David Friedland focusing on Artificial Intelligence in Otology ("*The Future is Now: Innovative AI in Otology*"). The 2nd panel, on Sunday, led by Dr. Matthew Bush, will explore disparities in otology ("*An Overview of Otologic Disparities Across the Lifespan*"). Lastly, I am excited to be honoring a number of individuals who have been important in my personal career, including Dr. Robert Jackler, Dr. Paul Fuchs, Dr. Sam Selesnick, Dr. Hinrich Staecker, and Dr. Ana Kim.

Our Spring meeting will also be the opportunity to welcome our newest members! These include Gregory Basura, MD, PhD from the University of Michigan, Sharon Cushing, MD, MSc from the Hospital for Sick Children Toronto, Arun Gadre, MD from Geisinger Medical Center, Jacques Herzog, MD from Washington University School of Medicine, Huseyin Isildak, MD from Stony Brook Medicine, Darius Kohan, MD from Lenox Hill Hospital/ MEETH - Northwell Health, Aaron Moberly, MD from Vanderbilt University, Stephanie Moody Antonio, MD from Eastern Virginia Medical School, and Rick Nelson, MD, PhD from Indiana University. Please congratulate them and give them a hearty welcome to the Society when you see them in Boston.

I also want to acknowledge the hard work and camaraderie of the AOS council, a close-knit group that works hard all year long to ensure the enduring legacy of our Society. This group currently includes Drs. Sujana Chandrasekhar, David Friedland, Nancy Young, Marlan Hansen, Patrick Antonelli, William Slattery, and Nikolas Blevins, who are not only wonderful colleagues, but great friends. Of course, no President's message would ever be complete without acknowledging the tireless work of Kristen Bordignon and Ashley Eikenberry! Their commitment to the Society is unwavering, and they remain the critical thread that binds us together and keeps us running smoothly day to day and year to year. No amount of thanks is enough for all they do on behalf of the AOS. Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank you, the AOS membership, for allowing me to serve as President of this amazing organization over the past year – this opportunity has truly been one of the highlights of my career.

With warm regards,

Larry

Lawrence R. Lustig, MD

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

Sujana S. Chandrasekhar, MD

I am honored to have served on the AOS Council as S/T for the past 6 years. Our membership roster remains strong, and we are looking forward to welcoming nine new Active Members to the AOS this year. They will be introduced at the Business Meeting and at the AOS Banquet. Don't forget to buy your ticket(s) and pack your tux/gown and dancing shoes! We rely on current AOS members to identify and promote and introduce new people to our Society. Criteria are posted on our website. Please feel free to contact membership liaison Dr. Ana Kim if you would like a 'pre-review' of the qualifications of someone you would like to propose.

Financially, during these years, as Dickens might say, it has been both the best of times and the worst of times. However, with the steady stewardship of the Council and the help of our financial advisors, the AOS has been able to consistently promote the Mission of our Society, which is 'fostering a dialogue on and dissemination of, information pertaining to advances in evidence based diagnosis and management of otologic and neurotologic disorders.' To that end, the AOS hosts our Annual Meeting that advances scientific and clinical evidence, publishes the *Otology & Neurotology* and *Otology & Neurotology Open* journals, sponsors two Cochrane scholars per year, and provides funding to several researchers every year. We are proud to offer over \$360,000 in research funding annually, and as a Society we are indebted to our Research Advisory Board for their clarity in identifying worthy projects. Our return on this investment is outstanding in terms of further funding and advancing our field. Visit the [AOS website](#) for a list of current grant recipients and a list of Clinician Scientists who have gone on to receive NIH funding. The Council is likewise mindful of the importance of stewardship in our changing world. 25% of our endowment is invested in meaningful socially responsible investments that allow us to be respectful of our corpus – doing well while also doing good.

As someone who once looked up from her English class in High School to see her dad walking by in the hallway, having been summoned by her Trigonometry teacher because she 'wasn't living up to her potential' in Math, it has been humbling to have been entrusted by my colleagues at AOS with this role. I am happy to pass this torch to Dr. David Friedland, who definitely 'exceeds expectations!'

With warm regards,
Sujana

NEW VIRTUAL LEARNING INITIATIVES

Nancy Young, MD, Education Director, and Sujana Chandrasekhar, MD, President-Elect, report that the AOS is planning to host 3 virtual education events in the next year. They will be live and interactive, but of course can be accessed afterwards. Each one will focus on a single topic in Otology/Neurotology, in depth, and last one hour.

We plan to host one in September 2023, one in January 2024, and one in April 2024. We are working on the topics and welcome input from our membership.

Please send your ideas for topics and speakers to the AOS Administrative Office administrator@americanotologicalsociety.org



AOS & ANS COSM SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

SHERATON BOSTON & HYNES CONVENTION CENTER

FRIDAY, MAY 5

ANS Business meeting - 1:00 PM

New member introduction

ANS Scientific Session - 1:30-5:10 PM

Ballroom C-Level 3-Hynes CC

(ANS & AOS Poster award winners announced at 5:05 PM)

2nd Combined Poster Group

ANS, AOS, ALA, ABEA, ASPO (Exhibit Hall D @ Hynes CC)

Poster Viewing: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Meet the Authors Reception: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

WiN RECEPTION (Women in Neurotology) - 6:00-7:00 PM

Location: Commonwealth (Sheraton Boston)

ANS PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION - 7:00-8:30 PM

Location: Independence Ballroom (Sheraton Boston)

(Members/invited guests only-complimentary with paid registration-business casual)

SATURDAY, MAY 6

ANS Business meeting - 7:00 AM

(O&N/Committee Reports)

ANS Scientific Session - 7:30 AM - Noon

Ballroom C-Level 3-Hynes CC

AOS Business meeting - 1:00 PM *(open to all registered attendees)*

New member introduction

AOS Scientific Session - 1:25-5:05 PM

Ballroom C-Level 3-Hynes CC

AOS Member Photograph - 5:15 PM - Location TBD

2nd Combined Poster Group

ANS, AOS, ALA, ABEA, ASPO (Exhibit Hall D @ Hynes CC)

Poster Viewing: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

AOS PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION/BANQUET - GET YOUR TICKET NOW!!

WELCOME/COCKTAILS - 6:30-7:00 PM

Constitution Ballroom foyer (Sheraton Boston)

DINNER/PRESENTATIONS/DANCING - 7:00 - 11:00 PM

Constitution Ballroom AB

(Members/invited guests only-Advanced ticket purchase required)

If you would like to attend the banquet and have not purchased a ticket on the AOS website, please contact [Kristen Bordignon](#)

SUNDAY, MAY 7

AOS Business meeting - 7:00 AM *(open to all registered attendees)*

(O&N/Misc Reports)

AOS Scientific Session - 7:30 AM - Noon

Ballroom C-Level 3-Hynes CC

AOS SPRING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

SATURDAY ATERNOON, MAY 6

GUEST OF HONOR LECTURE

"Precision Medicine & Gene Therapy for Deafness"

Prof. Karen B. Avraham

PANEL

"The Future is Now: Innovative AI in Otology"

David R. Friedland, MD, PhD, Moderator

AOS RESIDENT RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARD

"Metformin Protects Male but not Female Mice Against Noise-Induced Hearing Loss"

Catherine L. Kennedy, MD

University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD

SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 7

SAUMIL N. MERCHANT MEMORIAL LECTURE

"Intralabyrinthine Schwannomas and Hearing Rehabilitation with Cochlear Implants - Lessons Learned About Cochlear Implant and Inner Ear Function"

Prof. Stefan K. Plontke

PANEL

"An Overview of Otologic Disparities Across the Lifespan"

Matthew L. Bush, MD, PhD, MBA, Moderator

AOS RESIDENT RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARD

"Expression of Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor in Human Spiral Ganglia Neurons following Cochlear Implantation"

Emily C. Wong, MD

University of California (UCLA) – Los Angeles, CA

CLINICIAN SCIENTIST AWARD PRESENTATION

"Audiovisual Communication Devices for Improved Speech Perception"

Gavriel Kohlberg, MD

University of Washington

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

**CALL FOR PAPERS!
SEPT 1 - OCT 15, 2023**

**AMERICAN OTOLOGICAL SOCIETY
157th ANNUAL MEETING
CHICAGO, IL
MAY 17 - MAY 19, 2024**

WELCOME NINE NEW AOS ACTIVE MEMBERS!

(in alphabetical order)



Gregory J. Basura, MD, PhD

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Proposed by: D. Bradley Welling, MD, PhD

Seconded by: Steven A. Telian, MD



Sharon L. Cushing, MD, MSc

Toronto, ON, Canada

Proposed by: Robert O'Reilly, MD

Seconded by: Michael Ruckenstein, MD



Arun K. Gadre, MD

Danville, Pennsylvania

Proposed by: P. Ashley Wackym, MD

Seconded by: John W. House, MD



Jacques A. Herzog, MD

St. Louis, Missouri

Proposed by: Craig Buchman, MD

Seconded by: Bruce Gantz, MD



Huseyin Isildak, MD

Stony Brook, New York

Proposed by: Michael Paparella, MD

Seconded by: Hamed Sajjadi, MD



Darius Kohan, MD

New York, New York

Proposed by: Paul Hammerschlag, MD

Seconded by: Ronald Hoffman, MD



Aaron C. Moberly, MD

Nashville, TN

Proposed by: Oliver Adunka, MD

Seconded by: D. Bradley Welling, MD, PhD



Stephanie A. Moody Antonio, MD

Norfolk, Virginia

Proposed by: Hinrich Staecker, MD, PhD

Seconded by: Alan G. Micco, MD



Rick F. Nelson, MD, PhD

Indianapolis, Indiana

Proposed by: Richard Miyamoto, MD

Seconded by: Bruce Gantz, 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. Ana Kim](#) if you have any questions about eligibility.

AOS Membership applications are due on September 1st for consideration of membership/induction the following Spring.

AOS LAUNCHES REVISED GRANT PROGRAM FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS!

The American Otological Society, under the direction of the AOS Research Advisory Board, is pleased to announce a new accelerated review timeline for the grant program specific for medical students (USA or Canada), interested in participating in basic science or translational research in the field of Otology. Interested students may apply for funding for a full year (\$20,000) or a fraction of a calendar year (\$5,000 for 3 months). A total of \$40,000 annually will be allocated for this program. Sponsorship (however not direct mentorship) by an active AOS member is required. Please visit the American Otological Society website for detailed [submission instructions](#).

MEDICAL STUDENT GRANT 2.0 SAVE THE DATES!

Letters of intent will be due October 1, and invitations to submit a full grant application will be sent by November 1. Completed grants will be due December 15. An accelerated review process will be instituted, and funding announcements are anticipated to occur by March 1, 2024.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Research Advisory Board (RAB) met in person on March 4, 2023 in New York City. Twenty-eight LOI's were received and the Board invited 20 applicants to submit a full application. The Board received 15 new grants and 1 Clinician Scientist Award renewal. Sixteen grants were reviewed onsite. The Board will recommend funding seven grants for a total of \$382,000, making the total AOS grant funding nearly \$7.5 MILLION to date.

If you would like to submit a grant for consideration of funding in 2024-2025, a letter of intent and biosketch, including details regarding other existing support, must be submitted by November 1, 2023. The next funding cycle begins July 1, 2024. The letter of intent must state the desired grant mechanism for the proposal (CSA, Clinical Investigation, Fellowship grant, or Research Grant), the Principal Investigator and Institution(s), a working title and abstract and include Specific Aims and a proposal summary.

Complete applications will be invited from selected applicants based on RAB review of the letters of intent. Applicants will be notified whether they are invited to submit a full application the first week of December. Completed applications must be received by January 31, 2024.

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 portfolio. We wish to express our gratitude to Dr. Tim Hullar and Dr. Gwenaëlle Geleoc for their time and expertise as they rotate off the Board.

AOS RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD 2022-2023

Andrea Vambutas MD, Executive Secretary

Timothy E. Hullar, MD, Trustee

Steven D. Rauch, MD, Trustee

Daniel Tollin, PhD, Trustee

Samuel Gubbels, MD, Trustee

Ronna Hertzano, MD, Trustee

Wade W. Chien, MD, Trustee

Gwenaëlle Geleoc, PhD, Consultant

Amanda Lauer, PhD, Consultant

Lina A. J. Reiss, PhD, Consultant

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea

Andrea Vambutas, MD, Executive Secretary

Research Fund of the American Otological Society

AOS COUNCIL 2022-2023

PRESIDENT

LAWRENCE R. LUSTIG, M.D.

NEW YORK, NY

SECRETARY-TREASURER /

PRESIDENT-ELECT

SUJANA S. CHANDRASEKHAR, M.D.

NEW YORK, NY

SECRETARY-TREASURER ELECT

DAVID R. FRIEDLAND, M.D., PH.D.

MILWAUKEE, WI

EDUCATION DIRECTOR

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CHICAGO, IL

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GAINESVILLE, FL

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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IOWA CITY, IA

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WILLIAM H. SLATTERY III, M.D.

LOS ANGELES, CA

NIKOLAS H. BLEVINS, M.D.

STANFORD, CA

A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT! THANK YOU MEMBERS OF THE 2023 PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE!

Drs. Nancy Young, Marc Bennett, Matthew Bush, Wade Chien, Hamid Djalilian, Ronna Hertzano, Brandon Isaacson, Akira Ishiyama, David Kaylie, Ana Kim, Walter Kutz, Philip Littlefield, Mia Miller, Alejandro Rivas, Erica Woodson & George Wanna

AOS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Kristen Bordignon & Ashley Eikenberry

Administrative Team

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St. Petersburg, FL 33703

Ph: 217-638-0801; Fax: 727-800-9428

administrator@americanotologicalsociety.org

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE “ACTIVE MEMBER” TO “FELLOW” OF THE AMERICAN OTOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Becoming a member of the American Otological Society requires significant achievements and contributions in the field of Otology. In the interest of recognizing these contributions and achievements, a proposal was introduced at the last AOS business meeting in Dallas to change the term used to describe Active members of the AOS, to Fellows of the AOS (FAOS).

This change would bring it in line with other professional societies, such as the American College of Surgeons. Through the use of **FAOS** title, members would promote the AOS, as well as their own achievements.

a. Active Members (from the bylaws)

- i. Shall have earned a Doctor of Medicine degree or the equivalent acceptable to the Council.
- ii. Shall have been certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology or by an equivalent certifying body acceptable to the Council.
- iii. Shall have engaged primarily in the practice of at least one of the following disciplines: otology, neurotology, or lateral skull base surgery for eight or more years following the completion of their training.
- iv. Shall have demonstrated a degree of knowledge and ability in at least one of the following disciplines: otology, neurotology, or lateral skull base surgery to warrant consideration for membership.
- v. Shall have carried out their patient care responsibilities with professional competence, intellectual honesty, and high ethical standards.
- vi. Shall have an outstanding record of scholarly achievement including teaching and independent initiative in contributing to at least one of the following disciplines: otology, neurotology, or lateral skull base surgery. Accordingly, the Proposer's letter should evaluate scholarly achievement with respect to:
 - Impact, innovation and quality of contributions
 - Generating new knowledge of significance to otology
 - Mentorship and excellence in teaching
 - Leadership roles and program building
 - Clinical distinction as an otologist
 - Contributions to the goals of the American Otological Society
- vii. Shall have the right to vote and to serve on the Council.

Per the AOS bylaws, voting is open to all Active and Senior members. Please cast your vote and share your comments via this [Survey Monkey link](#) by Friday, April 21. The results will be announced at the 1st AOS business meeting in Boston on Saturday, May 6th.