



AMERICAN OTOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

139th ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

The American Otological Society's Annual Spring Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, May 20-21, 2006, Chicago, IL. Enclosed is a combined program and abstract book for the meeting. Please bring with you to the meeting.

From the AOS President, Dr. John K. Niparko

Dear AOS Colleague:

Hope your new year is off to a great start. I wanted to bring you up to date on a couple of AOS initiatives that have come to the fore over the past few months.

First, as you are probably aware, three years of hearings and committee meetings of Council members with representatives of the Centers for Medical Services yielded important changes in the criteria for cochlear implant coverage and a policy change that now grants coverage for procedures that provide bone conduction via semi-implantable, osseointegrated implants. While both policy changes ostensibly affect Medicare coverage, we are well aware that such national coverage decisions can affect commercial carrier decisions.

In the summer of 2005, Dr. David Nielsen as Executive Vice-President of our Academy was contacted by the leadership of the American Academy of Audiology to discuss the potential for greater collaboration. The proposal potentially represents a refreshingly new level of interaction between the AOS, the ANS, the AAO-HNS, and the AAA. Several concerns from past interactions have now been addressed. On the horizon are initiatives related to the training, certification, and oversight of audiologic technicians and scope of audiologic practice legislation. Looming large, as well, are proposals of major reforms and potential cuts for audiologic procedures.

A truly collaborative approach can provide synergies that could prove powerful in addressing the challenges we share with audiologists. Council is hopeful that a consistent model of collaboration can be developed in forging a new partnership with our audiologic colleagues.

At our midwinter meeting, the Council also reviewed the investment management of our research and educational funds. We were quite satisfied with the performance of our investments, and we were able to negotiate further reductions in management fees, thus realizing an extremely low fee structure when compared to peer investment options.

With spring around the corner, I do look forward to us getting together for the annual AOS meeting, May 20 and 21, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, IL. The Council approved an exceptionally diverse educational program. Several highly innovative reports of new otologic procedures will be heard. We have also planned an audience response session on stapes surgery, an update on new diagnostic capabilities through CT and MR imaging, and an intriguing scientific session on how we hear, and how we listen. Do plan to take notes on the latter topic to share with your spouse or significant other.

Please note as well, that one of the grand traditions of the AOS—the annual banquet and award of merit ceremony—will be held on Sunday evening, May 21, 6:30 pm in the Regency Ballroom A. Please plan on attending and supporting this important event where we will introduce the new members of the AOS, and marvel at the dance talent that exists within the AOS.

Banquet tickets may be purchased through the COSM registration. Cost of the Banquet is \$125.00 per person for members and invited guests only.

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

Midwinter Council Meeting Highlights

Audit Committee

Drs. Herman Jenkins, Chairman, David Barrs and Moises Arriaga were appointed to serve on the 2006 Audit Committee. The committee will review the financial statements and give a report at the Annual Meeting.

In Memoriam

Members deceased since last meeting: Drs. Richard Bellucci, J. Booth, Catherine Smith and Andrew Morrison.

AOS Membership Update

The membership currently totals 306: 138 Active; 79 Senior; 11 Emeritus; 46 Associate; 21 Corresponding and 11 Honorary.

AOS Bylaws ARTICLE 7. MEETINGS

7.7.0 *Attendance.* 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 member so dropped from membership may be reinstated only by three-fourths vote of the council on presentation of valid justification for such reinstatement.

Membership Development

Eleven new members will be inducted into the Society at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.

Eight Active Members: Drs. Douglas A. Backous, Carol A. Bauer, James E. Benecke, John P. Carey, Steven W. Cheung, Hussam K. El-Kashlan, Lawrence R. Lustig, and Cliff A. Megerian. One Associate Member: Dr. Alec N. Salt. Two Corresponding Members: Drs. Richard T. Ramsden and Masafumi Sakagami.

Award of Merit

The Award of Merit recipient has been selected and will be announced at the banquet on Sunday evening, May 21.

Treasurer's Report

The balance on hand in the AOS Treasury as of January 31, 2006, \$118,512.

Research Fund Report

AOS Research Fund balance as of 1/31/2006 \$8,296,021. The 2005-2006 grants funding totaled \$238,000.

AOS Ties—Need a tie—purchase one from the AOS Administrative Office prior to April 1 or after that time at the Annual Meeting. Cost of tie is \$55.00 plus postage. Wear your tie for the AOS group photo.

AOS Website: The AOS website is not updated due to the departure of the AOS webmaster. Plans are being made to renovate the website. Also, coming will be payment of dues online via the AOS website. Our target date is set for July 1 for payment of members 2006-07 dues. Watch for details in the June newsletter.

In the mailbag:

Dear AOS Members:

I want to make you aware of opportunities to participate in an outstanding program of interest to you, which will take place during COSM, at the Triological Society's scientific sessions.

Our Friday morning session will include a panel presentation on "Current Standards and Latest Developments in Cochlear Implants", chaired by Dr. Tom Balkany with guest panelists Drs. Doug Backous, William Luxford, Julian Nedzelski and Peter Roland. In addition, our invited Ogura Lecturer, Dr. Jonas Johnson, will address changes being confronted in the field of otolaryngology and by all otolaryngologists today.

We are offering concurrent mini-seminars on Sunday and Monday mornings using an interactive format. While these are aimed primarily at residents and Fellows, this educational experience is open to all Triological Society registrants. Sunday's seminars will take place from 7:00-7:50 a.m. and will include "Pediatric Otolaryngology: Common Cases Gone Bad" by Dr. Ellen Friedman, "Vocal Decompensation: Who, Why and When?" presented by Dr. Jamie Koufman, and Dr. Stephen Park will discuss "Rhinoplasty: Essential Pearls and Cases". The Monday seminars will take place from 7:45-8:30 a.m. Dr. Richard Hayden will present "What Do I Do With This? Surgical Dilemmas Not Covered in the Textbook", Dr. Ralph Metson will discuss "Fixing CSF Leaks and Encephaloceles--A No Brainer", and Drs. Rick Pillsbury, Craig Buchman and Peter Roland will present "Cochlear Implants---What's New?".

Also of interest to you will be one of our concurrent sessions on Monday, which will focus on Otology topics. For a complete listing of our program topics and abstracts, as well as the list of our posters, please log onto www.triological.org.

I hope you will be able to join us for some of these excellent sessions.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley M. Shapshay, MD
President