



American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery Foundation Working for the Best Ear, Nose, and Throat Care

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August 7, 2008

Paul A Fuchs, PhD
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Dear Dr. Fuchs,

As you know, research is the future of our specialties, and the AAO-HNS Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO in Chicago, September 21-24, 2008, is sure to be a great venue for learning the latest information pertinent to Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. **I would like to encourage you to share the program brochure with the Associations for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO) membership.**

Over the last few years, attendance at the Basic and Translational Research Forum (formerly called the Research Forum) has continued to increase. This demonstrates the interest in research and is gratifying to me. As well, translational research continues to be an area that is of great interest to otolaryngologists and the National Institutes of Health. Towards our goal of continuing to improve the transfer of the latest basic and translational research information to our membership, we have made an important addition to our program.

The standard format for oral and poster research presentations will continue to take place as in years past. This popular forum has been and will continue to be an excellent environment for faculty, fellows, residents, and medical students to present their latest work in basic and translational research. However, Tuesday morning will be dedicated to a **mini-program** consisting of invited speakers well-regarded in their individual areas of research.

The topic of the mini-program will change annually, and the focus of this year's mini-program is **hair cells and disorders of hearing and balance**. The goal of the mini-program is to start at the basic science level of a disease (i.e. hair cell dysfunction), walk through the steps of how this produces disease (hearing loss and imbalance), and then to review the strategies to treat the disease that are currently in development. Thus, we hope to present a true representation of translational research within this one area of research within our specialty.

As well, the **Neel lectureship** is dedicated towards illustrating translational research within our specialty. It will cover both the basic science of cochlear implant strategies and the clinical science of speech and language outcomes after cochlear implantation. The speakers, Drs. Wilson and Miyamoto, are both vibrant and knowledgeable about these topics and this should make a great blend between the basic and clinical sciences.

Thus, these sessions offer excellent and accessible examples of how translational research has been and is currently being done in our field. Both the mini-program and the Neel lectureship have been designed to be understood by and valuable to practicing otolaryngologists. I hope this information is helpful and stimulates a large number of attendees for these sessions. Please feel free to contact me for any questions at jso@bcm.edu.

With warm regards,

John S. Oghalai, MD

2008 Foundation Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO: September 21-24, Chicago, IL, U.S.A.