

## Letter from the President



Steven D. Rauch, M.D.  
2009-2010 President

As summer wanes, our thoughts turn to the ARO abstract deadline. The 2010 MidWinter Meeting will be held in Anaheim, CA, at the Disneyland Hotel. The venue promises to be family-friendly without an overwhelming Disney presence. The ARO Council, site selection team, and management staff are excited about this new venue. We will be especially interested in receiving your feedback about the site on our post-meeting questionnaire. In an effort to treat equitably our members to the east and our members to the west, we plan for the MidWinter Meeting to alternate coasts. We have a firm commitment to the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore for the next three “odd” year (2011, 2013, and 2015) meetings. The Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim has offered us an excellent option to extend our contract for several more “even” years (2012, 2014, 2016). We will only do this if YOU approve. Please let us know!

The 2010 MidWinter Meeting program is already taking shape. The Presidential Symposium is entitled, “Migraine: from Neurobiology to ENT Clinic and Back.” It will feature a stellar panel of experts on the basic science, clinical features, and future directions of a topic that has taken on huge clinical importance in our field but has seen little attention from our own basic science community. There will also be seven other symposia at the 2010 meeting. They include, Synaptic and Intrinsic Plasticity in the Auditory System, New Developments in Understanding Hair-Cell Transduction, Human Otopathology and Basic Science, Signal Processing in First- and Second-Order Vestibular Neurons, Auditory Stream Segregation and Selection, Modeling Neural Responses and Perceptions of Complex Sounds, and Stem Cell Applications for Cochlear Repair. We will also see three workshops: Providing Mentorship to Women and Individuals from Diverse Backgrounds, Tinnitus Research and Treatment: the next frontier, and Why Most Scientists Would Rather Go to the Dentist Than Talk to a TV Reporter. These offerings promise to be as entertaining as they are educational.

Over the last decade the leadership of ARO has spent a huge amount of time on site selection – time that we were unable to devote to other society business. We are optimistic that locking in our hotel choices for the next six years will free up time for these other important efforts. Heading the list is strategic planning. There are several items on the strategic planning agenda. One that is already underway is an overhaul of our committee structure. In addition to a number of standing committees required by our ARO Bylaws, we have accumulated a long list of other committees. In an effort to improve their efficiency and effectiveness we are seeking to pare down this list. I have asked all the existing committee chairs for a summary report of their committee’s activities and

responsibilities. The ARO Council members and I will review these reports to look for opportunities to combine and/or redirect committee activities. For example, the Government Relations Committee and the Media Relations Committee have been combined to create the new External Relations Committee.

While we are striving to reduce the number of committees, we are also striving to increase the participation of the membership. We propose to accomplish this by using many ad hoc Task Forces. Task forces will be empanelled as needed by ARO committees. The task forces will comprise small groups of members with the expertise and energy to accomplish specific short duration/high focus projects (in contrast to the long duration/broad focus of committee membership). For example, if the new External Relations Committee decides that they would like to see another science journalism luncheon at the upcoming MidWinter Meeting, they could create a task force of interested members to develop the agenda and list of speakers. Don’t be surprised if you get a call or email asking for your participation on a task force!

Other strategic planning topics that will receive attention in coming months and years include: how best to increase and serve our domestic and international membership, membership benefits, society advocacy at the national level on behalf of the membership, how best to support our society journal, JARO, how to increase attendance of clinicians at the MidWinter

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Make Your Hotel Reservations for the 2010 ARO MidWinter Meeting

A special hotel rate of \$175/night is available at the Disneyland Hotel for ARO Attendees (based on availability). For reservations, call (714) 520-5005 and mention the ARO group or visit <http://www.aro.org/mwm/mwm.html> and click on the appropriate hotel information link.



Disneyland Hotel  
1150 Magic Way  
Anaheim, California 92802  
USA

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## Letter from the President *(continued)*

Meeting, and how to achieve and maintain the society's financial security. This partial list was generated through your comments on ARO questionnaires and through an introductory strategic planning workshop undertaken by the ARO Council two years ago. All of these matters have been "on our radar" for a long time but have not received the careful consideration and long range planning they deserve. The Council will be participating in another strategic planning workshop in the near future. A report of those activities will be forthcoming.

One of the most exciting things to happen in recent years is the birth of spARO, the student, postdoc, and medical resident chapter of ARO. A society within a society, these energetic and enthusiastic young trainees are the future of our fields and the future of ARO. They are already making their presence felt at our MidWinter Meetings with a number of sessions and social events. Please keep an eye out for their activities in the future. And please show them your support.

The Journal of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology, JARO, is alive and well. Under the outstanding editorial leadership of Ruth Anne Eatock, JARO has grown steadily in scope, size, quality, and impact factor. The society has renewed its contract with publisher Springer-Verlag. The journal is fully available in an online version and the number of members requesting a print edition is dwindling. I would like to acknowledge and thank Publication Committee Chair, Deb Tucci, and her committee for their work in overseeing JARO and our contract negotiations with Springer.

While I am on the topic of thanks, I want to mention two other groups without whom ARO would not be able to function: our team from Talley Management and the members of the ARO Council. Our Executive Director, Darla Dobson, and the rest of the Talley staff, Lisa Astorga, Alex Springer, Donna Colavita, and Laura Newcomb, have been with our society for quite a few years. We know them well and we depend on them heavily. Whether it is assisting with site selection, managing finances, getting us the best deals for meeting venues and A-V equipment, or overseeing meeting registration and abstract publication, they never let us down. Likewise, the members of the ARO Council and its officers are a group of your peers whose commitment to the well-being of this society reaps benefits for us all. It has been my great pleasure and honor to work with them over the years and to serve this year as President.

I am happy to report that the ARO is thriving. It is doing so because of the active participation and support of you, the members. When opportunities arise for you to expand this participation, I hope you will take them. Whether by abstract and symposium submissions to the MidWinter Meeting, task force activities, or committee membership, we need your contributions to our community. I look forward to seeing you all in Anaheim in February.

## ARO 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual MidWinter Meeting

February 6-10, 2010  
The Disneyland Hotel  
Anaheim, California, USA

***Important Note: The meeting will begin Saturday morning, February 6 and will end Wednesday, February 10.***

Travel Awards are available.  
Visit the MWM section of the ARO website for details.  
<http://www.aro.org/mwm/mwm.html>

## ARO Symposia, Workshops and Special Events for 2010

### Presidential Symposium

- Migraine: From Neurobiology to ENT Clinic and Back

### Workshops

- Diversity and Minority Affairs Committee Workshop: Providing Mentorship to Women and Individuals from Diverse Backgrounds
- Patient Advocacy Workshop: Tinnitus Research and Treatment: The Next Frontier
- Media Relations Committee Workshop: Why Most Scientists Would Rather Go to the Dentist Than Talk to a TV Reporter

### Symposia

- Synaptic and Intrinsic Plasticity in the Auditory System: Mechanisms and Functional Significance
- New Developments in Understanding Hair-Cell Transduction
- Human Otopathology and Basic Science: Partners in Translational Research
- Signal Processing in First- and Second-Order Vestibular Neurons
- Auditory Stream Segregation and Selection
- Modeling Neural Responses and Perceptions of Complex Sounds
- Stem Cell Applications for Cochlear Repair – From Proof-of-Principle to Therapy

## Call for Abstracts

The Association for Research in Otolaryngology invites you to electronically submit an abstract for the 33<sup>rd</sup> MidWinter Meeting being held at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California. Please visit the ARO website to submit your abstract by clicking on the submission link. The abstract site will open on September 1, 2009. The deadline to submit is October 1, 2009. <http://www.aro.org>.

## 33<sup>rd</sup> MidWinter Meeting: The Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California



Association for  
Research in  
Otolaryngology

33<sup>rd</sup> Annual MidWinter Meeting  
February 6-10, 2010

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstracts may be submitted:  
September 1, 2009 to  
October 1, 2009 (midnight EST)

The Association for Research in Otolaryngology (ARO) invites you to electronically submit an abstract for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual MidWinter Meeting being held at the *Disneyland*<sup>®</sup> Hotel in Anaheim, CA.

Abstracts can be submitted electronically at [www.aro.org](http://www.aro.org)



## Call for Symposium and Workshop Proposals for ARO 2011 MidWinter Meeting



*Sharon G. Kujawa, Ph.D.*  
*Chair, Program Committee*

The ARO Program Committee is presently soliciting proposals for Symposia and Workshops for the 2011 MidWinter Meeting.

*Symposia* are organized as a series of oral presentations on a theme. Preference will be given to proposals that strive for timely syntheses across or within existing disciplines or explorations of new approaches that will expand research in new directions. Speakers from outside the usual ARO circle are encouraged insofar as they might contribute a novel perspective. Note that the ARO will reimburse coach-class travel expenses and will pay a small honorarium for non-ARO-member symposium and workshop speakers.

*Workshops* can be on topics of interest to a focused subgroup of ARO members or might focus on a particular technical innovation. Workshops often are scheduled for late afternoon or early evening.

The Program Committee encourages participation in symposia and workshops by non-U.S. scientists.

Proposal submission involves two steps: submission of a Letter of Intent followed by solicitation of a Formal Proposal. Letters of Intent are requested with a strict due date of **Sunday, February 7, 2010, at 5 pm**. The letter can be emailed (preferred) or hand-delivered to the Program Committee chair or to the ARO Registration desk (attn: Alex Springer) at the 2010 MidWinter Meeting. The late due date for proposals is intended to accommodate symposia that might arise from discussions in the first day or two of the MidWinter Meeting - earlier submission is encouraged if possible.

The Letter of Intent should include:

- Name of the organizer with contact information, including email
- The session title
- A brief (<300 word) description of the theme and target audience
- A tentative list of speakers (4 to 7), with descriptive titles of their topics. Indicate whether each speaker has been contacted and agreed to participate. Not all speakers need to have committed at this point.

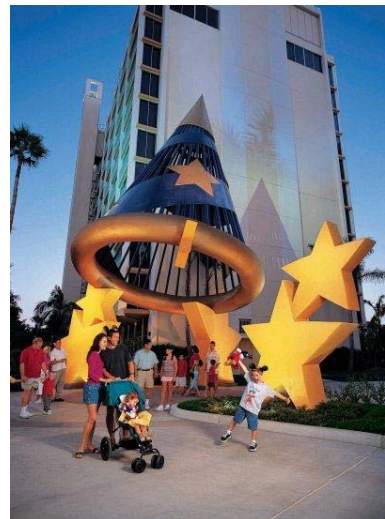
The program committee will meet during the 2010 MidWinter Meeting to select the topics of interest. Formal proposals will then be solicited. The formal proposals will include agreements to participate from all the speakers, brief preliminary abstracts for each talk, a time schedule, etc. Solicited formal proposals will be due on March 17, 2010. The Program Committee will evaluate the proposals shortly thereafter and will make the final selections. Note that the final abstract for each symposium or workshop talk will be due at the regular abstract submission time, September 1 - October 1, 2010.

Send Proposals to:

Sharon G. Kujawa  
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary  
243 Charles St., Boston, MA 02114  
Phone: 617-573-6382, FAX: 617-573-3023  
Email: [sharon\\_kujawa@meei.harvard.edu](mailto:sharon_kujawa@meei.harvard.edu)

E-mail is preferred.

## Childcare Services at the Disneyland Hotel



For attendees interested in bringing children, guest services at the hotel will provide a list of childcare providers. The list will be made available to attendees after the attendee has signed a waiver for the hotel. The attendee can then contact the childcare provider directly to arrange services. For additional information or to obtain a waiver form, please contact the guest services department at (714) 956-6425.

## Future ARO MidWinter Meetings

### February 6-10, 2010

Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California

### February 19-24, 2011

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland

### February 4-8, 2012

Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California \*

### February 16-21, 2013

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland

### February 8-13, 2014

Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California \*

### February 21-26, 2015

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland

\* Pending ARO approval



*(L to R): David Lim, Laurel Carney, Robin Davis, Karen Avraham, Paul Fuchs, Peter Santi, Steven Rauch, Jay Rubinstein*

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