



# AMERICAN NEUROTOLOGY SOCIETY

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August 2019

## From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

Elizabeth H. Toh, MD, MBA

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nikolas H. Blevins, MD



It is a distinct honor to serve as President of the ANS. My sincere appreciation goes out to the Long-Range Planning Committee and our membership for providing this opportunity. A particular thank you goes to Dr. Barry Hirsch for the progress and momentum the Society has achieved under his leadership as our immediate past president. I hope to keep our Society on this path as we enter our 55th year. The ANS has never been a stronger force, representing our specialty for the benefit of our patients.

Our core mission remains to improve public health by providing the highest in quality education. Since our success can therefore be judged by our ability to disseminate knowledge, we are engaging in new efforts to curate and disperse educational materials through video repositories, reading lists, surgical skill laboratories, and other focused resources. We are also offering enhanced opportunities to facilitate the flow of information amongst members through the dedicated secure online forum, [DocMatter](#). This allows each of us immediate access to the cumulative knowledge of our member network. Many thanks to Dr. Robert Hong who has taken the lead on this platform. Please don't miss his update on page 2 of the newsletter..

The ANS is proud to announce expanded support for related research. Continued philanthropic gifts and successful financial stewardship have allowed the Research Committee, under Dr. Ronna Hertzano's leadership, to expand the potential number of awards. We salute our past and current recipients, and look forward to providing expanded support for similar high-quality research efforts that will shape our future.

It is a particular honor to announce the founding of the *Noel L. Cohen Award for Significant Contributions to Otolaryngology and Neurotology*. The inaugural presentation will take place at our next Spring Meeting in Atlanta, GA on April 25, 2020. The award has been made possible through the generous donation of the Cohen family, to honor the numerous enduring contributions of Dr. Noel Cohen in perpetuity. Please read more about Dr. Cohen on page 2, authored by Dr. Anil Lalwani, who was instrumental in carrying out Dr. Cohen's bequest.

There is no question that the success of the Society is a direct reflection of the commitment and efforts of our membership. The Executive Council and I would like to thank all who have contributed, and want to be sure that everyone has an opportunity to participate. This is particularly the case as we strive to achieve greater diversity within our Society. Please take a look at the [ANS website](#), Diversity/Inclusion page to learn more about our committees and other opportunities to get involved. We want to hear from you.

Our upcoming "Super Saturday" Fall meeting will present emerging topics and developments shaping the specialty. I know many of us feel this is likely the single most engaging and educational day on our academic calendars. As always, this year's program offers an opportunity to interact with colleagues during a systematic examination of vital topics. This year's event will offer the familiar morning, including the Facial Nerve Study Group, led by Dr. John Leonetti; the Stereotactic Radiosurgery Study Group, coordinated by Dr. Ashley Wackym, and the William House Cochlear Implant Study Group, coordinated by Dr. Craig Buchman.

The Education Committee, under the leadership of director Dr. Howard Francis has planned the afternoon Scientific Session including panels and lectures presented by preeminent clinicians, scientists, and educators. Topics will address specific interests expressed in surveys from prior meetings. Dr. Ronna Hertzano will lead a panel exploring the crucial role of genomics in the practice of neurotology today, and its increasing future impact. This theme will be expanded in the Franklin M Rizer Memorial Lectureship, where Dr. Michael McKenna will share insights related to gene therapy for sensorineural hearing loss. Despite being of critical clinical importance, tinnitus has long been underrepresented and poorly understood. Dr. Carol Bauer and her panel will elucidate our current understanding and management options. Dr. Colin Driscoll will then lead a panel examining the evolving approach to glomus tumors, and new options available for our patients. The program promises something of value impacting the full spectrum of clinical issues we face.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans.  
Nik Blevins

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### ANS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2019-2020

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MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

**NOEL L. COHEN, M.D.****HONORING A LEGACY OF SCIENTIFIC  
AND VISIONARY LEADERSHIP**

Through a generous gift from our late colleague, the American Neurotology Society has established the *Noel L. Cohen, M.D. Award for Significant Contributions to Otolaryngology and Neurotology*. The establishment of the award is a fitting tribute to Dr. Cohen — a gifted physician, surgeon, academician, educator, administrator and a leader. His contributions brought distinction to Otolaryngology & Neurotology, New York University, and our society.

Dr. Cohen's education and training were marked by distinction. He received his B.A. from the University Heights College in the Bronx in 1951. Subsequently, in 1955, he received his M.D. from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. It was in Holland that he met his wife, Baukje. Between 1957 to 1959, Noel served as Lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve. He first joined the NYU family in 1959 as an ENT resident and, following completion, he stayed on as faculty in 1962.

At NYU, Dr. Cohen's career flourished as did NYU under his leadership. Little known is that early in his career, Noel was an accomplished thyroid surgeon before choosing the path that would lead him to become one of the leading cochlear implant and acoustic neuroma surgeons. A natural leader, Dr. Cohen became Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology in 1980, a position he held until 2003 — an impressive 23 years! In 1997-1998, he served as Interim Dean of NYU School of Medicine.

Under his leadership as Chair, the department grew in national and international stature. He established the NYU Cochlear Implant Center and built it into one of the largest clinical and research cochlear implant programs in the world. His landmark VA Cochlear Implant study established the superiority of multichannel cochlear implants over single-channel device. He was one of the early pioneers in the clinical application of auditory brainstem implants. In addition to cochlear and brainstem implants, he built one of the largest acoustic neuroma programs on the East Coast.

A distinguished surgeon and speaker, he was highly sought after as guest, participant, and lecturer, throughout the world. In 2003, in recognition of his many contributions to medicine, he was awarded an Honorary M.D. from University of Freiberg. Though he will forever be remembered for his innumerable contributions, his friends and colleagues will fondly remember him for his kindness and humanity. The establishment of the Noel L. Cohen Award is a wonderful tribute to our late friend and colleague and will forever associate his name to significant contributions in Otolaryngology & Neurotology. It will serve to honor those amongst us whose contributions reflect an enduring commitment to scientific innovation and medical advancement in our field.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anil K. Lalwani, MD

**ANS SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE**

**Robert S. Hong, MD, PhD**  
**ANS /O&N Social Media Chair**

**ANS DocMatter**

The ANS DocMatter Community was officially launched this past spring at the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings (COSM). This secure online forum allows for the open discussion of challenging cases and clinical issues that we face in otology and neurotology. Since its inception, the community has experienced tremendous growth, with 158 ANS members having joined and more requesting access every day. Lively discussions initiated by community members have touched on a wide range of topics, including unusual cases of cochlear implant extrusion, bilateral facial paralysis, BAHA wound complications, superior semicircular canal dehiscence in an only hearing ear, placement of cochlear implants in patients with VP shunts, and pulsatile tinnitus secondary to aberrant carotid artery.

Access to ANS [DocMatter](#) is a benefit exclusive to ANS members. If you would like to participate, please email Molly Calhoun at [mcalhoun@docmatter.com](mailto:mcalhoun@docmatter.com), the Lead Clinician Advocate from DocMatter for the ANS Community, requesting access. All you have to do is ask to participate, and the DocMatter support team will take care of the rest.

**"Otolaryngology & Neurotology" on Facebook and Twitter**

Since 2017, Otolaryngology & Neurotology, the official journal of the American Neurotology Society and the American Otological Society has published weekly visual abstracts on *Facebook* and *Twitter* highlighting articles accepted for publication in the journal. The journal published the first visual abstract on social media by an Otolaryngology journal in October of 2017. These visual abstracts are linked directly to the actual article on the O&N website. These strategic efforts, spearheaded by Dr. Lawrence Lustig (Editor-in-Chief) and Dr. Robert Hong (Social Media Editor), have allowed the journal to emerge as a leader in social networking in the field of Otolaryngology. To date, the journal has accrued almost 3,000 followers on Facebook and 2,000 followers on Twitter from countries across the world. The visual abstracts routinely garner up to 10,000 views per post. To follow the journal online, please visit [www.otology-neurotology.com](http://www.otology-neurotology.com) and click on the Facebook or Twitter icons to join or simply click on the images below to be directed to the Facebook and Twitter pages.



O&N has set aside funds to use for the development of the journal. Watch for another call for applications for a *Cochrane Scholarship* in the coming weeks.

### DEBARA L. TUCCI, MD, MS, MBA NAMED DIRECTOR of NIDCD



In May 2019, NIH announced that it has selected Dr. Debara Tucci as the next Director of the NIDCD. One of 27 NIH Institutes and Centers, the NIDCD focuses on conducting and supporting research in the normal and disordered processes of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech and language.

She will begin her tenure at NIDCD this fall.

Dr. Tucci began her long and illustrious career in healthcare as an audiologist in the Department of Otolaryngology at University of Virginia Health System (UVa). Her interest in hearing health led her to pursue a medical degree from UVa and subsequently, an academic career as a clinician scientist in Otolaryngology and Neurotology at Duke University. Dr. Tucci's federally funded research on hearing loss earned her the prestigious *Edmund Prince Fowler Award for Excellence* in Basic Science Research from the Triological Society in 1998.

At Duke, Dr. Tucci co-founded the Duke Hearing Center and directs their cochlear implant program. Through her collaborations with the Duke Clinical Research Institute, Duke Global Health Institute and the Lancet Commission on Global Hearing Loss, she continues to expand her efforts to improve access to hearing health care in the US and around the world.

Dr. Tucci has served as President of the ANS, AOS and ARO in addition to numerous leadership positions at Duke, AAO-HNSF, NIDCD and other national organizations.

Alongside a busy academic clinical practice, teaching responsibilities, research endeavors and administrative leadership roles, Dr. Tucci has managed to earn a MBA degree from Duke and successfully raise 3 young adult children with her husband, while traveling the world in search of new adventures and opportunities.

At her core, Dr. Tucci is motivated by a passion to improve the health and well-being of those individuals we care for. As Director of the NIDCD, she aspires to support a broad portfolio of research in hearing and communication disorders and develop a better infrastructure for advancing healthcare access and delivery.

The ANS congratulates Dr. Tucci on her recent appointment and looks forward to her continued leadership in medicine.

### ANS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE ADDRESS

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### ANS YOUNG MEMBERS CORNER



The **2nd Annual Neurotology Boot Camp** took place May 17 – 19, 2019 at the Stryker facility in Salt Lake City. The course was a great success and a fun opportunity to interact with members of this impressive fellowship class. The attendees included 16 incoming American neurotology fellows and 4 current Canadian fellows. The course directors (i.e. drill instructors) were Drs. Daniel Zeitler and Dr. Matthew Bush. Additional faculty support was provided by Drs. Yuri Agrawal, Teddy McRackan, Sarah Mowry, Betty Tsai, and Cameron Wick. This annual course will take place again in the Spring of 2020.

Prospective fellows should stay tuned for the exact date. The course is structured to provide the incoming fellows with surgical pearls, tips on navigating life as a fellow, and build camaraderie both within the fellowship class as well as with young members of the ANS.

The annual Young ANS Social Event will take place from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Tomas Bistro in New Orleans following the Super Saturday program. This location is a very short walk from the Hilton and serves classic New Orleans cuisine. As in years past, the event is open to all young ANS members, current fellows, or interested residents. There will be cocktails, food, and time to socialize with your peers. Dr. Jeff Sharon will moderate an entertaining NPR-style **"Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me"** interactive portion as well. We hope to see you there.

Finally, the Young ANS committee would like to thank Dr. Maura Cosetti for her long-standing dedication to the group. Her tenure as Co-Chair has come to an end and the new committee members look forward to building upon the foundation that Dr. Cosetti and others have created. Taking her place as new committee Co-Chair will be Beth McNulty. We are thrilled to have Dr. McNulty on board and look forward to seeing current members or interested members for a fun night in New Orleans.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cameron Wick, MD, Co-Chair  
Beth McNulty, MD, Co-Chair

### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### 55<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ANS SPRING MEETING

(in conjunction with COSM)

Hilton Atlanta (Housing opens Nov 1)

Atlanta, GA

April 24-26, 2020

#### Abstract Submission Deadline - October 15, 2019

Midnight PT

Please visit the ANS website for detailed submission instructions

<https://www.americanneurotology.com/ans-abstract-form-submission-page-2020>

#### AWARDS AVAILABLE

NICHOLAS TOROK VESTIBULAR AWARD

TRAINEE AWARD

NEUROTOLOGY FELLOW AWARD



**ANS FALL SCHEDULE at-a-glance****"Super Saturday" - September 14, 2019****Hilton New Orleans Riverside****GRAND BALLROOM C - Main Building, 1st Floor****STUDY GROUP SESSIONS****Facial Nerve Study Group**

7:00 - 8:10a.m.

**Stereotactic Radiosurgery Study Group**

8:20 - 9:50a.m.

**William House Cochlear Implant Study Group**

10:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

**Lunch Break**

12:00 - 12:45p.m.

*The ANS is grateful to the following companies for their support of the study groups. With funds, a box lunch is provided for registered ANS attendees immediately following the CI Study group.*

**SCIENTIFIC SESSION & BUSINESS MEETING****ANS Business Meeting**

12:45 - 1:05p.m.

**ANS Scientific Program****"Frontiers in Neurotology 2019"**

1:05 - 5:35p.m.

**REGISTER BY AUGUST 19 FOR  
EARLY DISCOUNT!**

Registration required for all attendees, please register in advance on the ANS website.

**6TH ANNUAL YOUNG MEMBERS EVENT****Saturday, September 14th****6:00 - 8:00p.m.****Cocktails, New Orleans Food, and Entertainment**

Theme: "Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me"

Moderator: Dr. Jeff Sharon

Location: Tomas Bistro

6:00-8:00 P.M.

Address: 755 Tchoupitoulas St.  
New Orleans, LA

Please contact Dr. Cameron Wick for additional details or questions, [cameron.wick@wustl.edu](mailto:cameron.wick@wustl.edu)

This event supported by

**ANS RESEARCH GRANT**

The ANS Research Committee and the ANS Executive Council selected Dr. Dunia Abdul-Aziz as the 2019 research grant recipient for her grant titled, "Targeting Epigenetic Modifying Enzymes for Hair Cell Regeneration". Dr. Abdul Aziz proposed to study the protein LSD1 (which functions to modify DNA structure – an 'epigenetic modifier') with regards to its role in supporting hair cell differentiation and regeneration using both an organoid system (in vitro) and damage induced by diphtheria toxin in genetically engineered adult mice.

Dr. Abdul-Aziz received her bachelor's degree in biochemical sciences from Harvard University and her medical degree from Harvard Medical School, jointly with MIT, as part of the combined Health Sciences and Technology (HST) program. She completed her internship in general surgery at Mass General, followed by her residency in otolaryngology and fellowship in neurotology skull base surgery at Mass. Eye and Ear/Harvard Medical School. She now serves on the faculty of Harvard Medical School as an Instructor in Otolaryngology.

Her clinical interests include hearing loss, chronic ear disease, eustachian tube disorders, vestibular disorders, and tumors and other diseases involving the lateral skull base. She has also developed the clinical skills for management of superior semicircular canal dehiscence and performance of transcanal endoscopic ear surgery. Concurrent with her clinical activities, she is involved in basic science research focused on sensory hair cell regeneration, seeking to understand and target fundamental developmental pathways to restore hearing.

The purpose of the American Neurotology Society (ANS) Research Grant is to encourage and support academic research in sciences related to the investigation of otology and neurotology. Appropriate areas of research include diagnosis, management, and pathogenesis of diseases of the ear and/or skull base. Grants that focus on addressing clinical gaps are especially encouraged. Grants may involve cell/molecular studies, animal research, or human subjects research.

The maximum award request is \$25,000 per year (US dollars) and is annually renewable on a competitive basis. **The ANS is pleased to expand our research efforts and offer up to three \$25,000 grants for the next funding cycle!** Indirect costs (overhead) are not allowed. Grants are available to physician investigators in the United States and Canada only. *We particularly encourage those individuals without a history of K08, R03, R21, or R01 funding to apply.*

If you would like to submit a grant for consideration in 2020-21, the deadline for applications is March 1, 2020. Email a cover letter and application to Dr. Ronna Hertzano, [RHertzano@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:RHertzano@som.umaryland.edu), Chair of the ANS Research Committee and ANS Admin, Kristen Bordignon. Submission instructions may be found on the ANS Website.

**ONLINE CME CREDIT IS A HUGE SUCCESS!  
WE WILL DO IT AGAIN and ADD MOC CREDIT!**

**ANS WILL LAUNCH AN ONLINE CME EVALUATION FORM AND CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE FOR ANS SUPER SATURDAY, ON SEPTEMBER 14 IN NEW ORLEANS, LA.**

**THE ANS SCIENTIFIC SESSION HAS BEEN DESIGNATED 4.0 AMA PRA CATEGORY 1 CME CREDIT HOURS AND 4.0 MOC POINTS.**

THERE ARE NO CREDIT HOURS FOR THE STUDY GROUPS.

At the close of the meeting, ALL REGISTERED ANS ATTENDEES. will receive an email from the ANS website with detailed instructions on how to complete your required CME evaluation form, report your hours, and download a CME certificate of attendance for your records. Attendees will have two weeks to complete their CME evaluation. We will continue to report your hours to ACS and record your attendance. **(Registered means you have PAID THE ANS REGISTRATION FEE or have been approved to receive COMPLIMENTARY ANS REGISTRATION.** This applies to members, nonmembers, and any registrants requesting CME credit.