



# American Neurotology Society

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August 2015



## From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

Moisés A. Arriaga, MD, MBA, FACS

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John T. McElveen, Jr., MD



It was Lord Acton who once said, “History is not a burden on the memory, but an illumination of the soul.” With the upcoming meeting in Dallas being the actual 50th Anniversary of the American Neurotology Society, we as a Society have an opportunity to reflect on our past, honor some of those who have gotten us to where we are and prepare ourselves for an ever changing future.

This year, in honor of our 50th Anniversary, the ANS will be presenting the “House-Hitselberger Lifetime Achievement Award” to a select group of neurotologists. This award is meant to honor the legacy of the two giants in our field, Dr. William F. House and Dr. William E. Hitselberger, and to recognize those individuals who have demonstrated a lifetime of exemplary surgical expertise, a commitment to clinical research and a willingness to share their knowledge with others.

I had the good fortune of being close friends with both Bill House and Bill Hitselberger. Each of them was dedicated to clinical research. Last year, under the leadership of Dr. Anil Lalwani, the ANS established a research endowment spearheaded by Dr. Hillary Brodie to help fund innovative research in Neurotology. It would be a real tribute to both “Bills” to complete the endowment for this fund at our 50th Anniversary meeting in Dallas. I hope each of you will support this initiative. Please use the pledge form included in this newsletter. The names of the individuals contributing will be displayed at the upcoming meeting.

Over the past 50 years a tremendous amount of change has taken place within our specialty and there is no reason to expect that the next 50 years will be any different. Jim Rohn, an American entrepreneur and motivational speaker summed it up nicely when he said, “If you don’t design your own ... plan, chances are you’ll fall into someone else’s plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much!” With the current medical environment, this quotation is particularly apropos. One of the changes that impacts each of our practices is the transition to the electronic medical record. I have asked Dr. Jack Shohet, Chair of the ANS Socioeconomic Committee to work with the members of his committee to create a survey to assess the impact of EMR on our practices. This will be sent out October 1st. Please take time to complete this very important survey.

Although we currently have 557 members representing 18 countries, it is becoming increasingly clear that within the current healthcare environment there is strength in numbers. Consequently, it is essential that the ANS work closely with the Academy to further our mutual goals. The ANS is very fortunate that the Executive Vice President of the Academy, Dr. Jim Denny, shares this vision. In recognition of our collaborative efforts with the Academy, this newsletter includes the inaugural feature of the “Academy Corner” where our members will be updated on Academy developments relevant to neurotology. In addition, I have asked Dr. Craig Buchman to work with the ANS Young Members Group to develop a neurotologic video resource in conjunction with the Academy. I would also encourage each of you to attend the Academy’s “Power of Data: Creating a Data Registry for Otolaryngology” which takes place in Hall B from 10-11:30 on Sunday following the opening ceremony. You will have an opportunity to personally meet Dr. Jim Denny, who will be moderating this session.

Let me conclude with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi. He once said, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” The changes that we have seen in the past 50 years have been substantial and members of the ANS have been at the forefront of many of them. Going forward it will be incumbent on each of us “to be the change” we wish to see in our future, and despite all the obstacles before us, I think that future is bright.

All the best,  
John T. McElveen, Jr. M.D.

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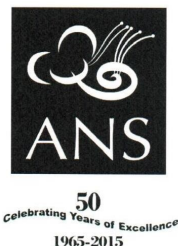
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MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

The ANS Executive Council has advised the ABOto of its concerns over the proposed CAQ. The following letter was sent to the ABOto outlining the ANS concerns.



**John T. McElveen, Jr., M.D.**  
President

President, Carolina Ear & Hearing Clinic  
Director, Carolina Ear Research Institute

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May 7, 2015

Paul R. Lambert, M.D.  
President  
American Board of Otolaryngology  
5615 Kirby Drive, Suite 600  
Houston, TX 77005-2444

Dear Dr. Lambert,

As a sponsoring society of the ABOto, the American Neurotology Society hereby expresses two major concerns regarding the potential subspecialty certification in Pediatric Otolaryngology.

1. Lack of distinction between the Pediatric Otolaryngology certificate and the General Otolaryngology certificate.
2. Public misinterpretation of qualifications for individuals with the Pediatric Otolaryngology subspecialty certification.

#### 1. Lack of distinction

By its nature, the field of Pediatric Otolaryngology cuts across many of the broad scope of practice areas in Neurotology as well as General Otolaryngology. For those areas where subspecialty certificates exist, the ABOto has clearly distinguished these from the general certificate. For Neurotology, the dura has been a clear anatomic differentiator. This differentiation serves the public well in that it clearly identifies a subgroup of practitioners with special training, skill set(s) and expertise that are not part of the training and certification required for the General Otolaryngology certificate. In contrast, we are unaware of such a distinction for "Pediatric Otolaryngology". We believe that unless a clear distinction is established, ambiguity will be created and the value of the General Otolaryngology certificate undermined. This is not to say that we do not value the expertise and contribution of our "Pediatric Otolaryngology" colleagues, particularly as it relates to the pediatric airway. Pediatric Otolaryngologists in this space are clearly the thought leaders, possess unique technical qualifications, and serve the public good through their management of these complex and challenging airway conditions.

#### 2. Public misinterpretation of qualifications

We are most concerned that the pediatric sub-certification may have the unintended consequence of misinforming the public regarding these physicians' expertise. As an example, surgeons limiting their practice to surgery of the temporal bone, clearly treat more adult and pediatric patients with complex otologic pathologies than surgeons who treat the full spectrum of Otolaryngology/ Head & Neck disorders in the pediatric population. The general public can misinterpret the Pediatric Otolaryngology Certificate of Added Qualifications and believe that a less experienced surgeon has superior qualifications to perform a given otologic procedure, when in fact these individuals may be substantially less qualified.

We feel that the above concerns must be addressed before any consideration is given for a Pediatric Otolaryngology Certificate of Added Qualifications. This position is supported by the full 2015-2016 ANS Executive Council as listed below.

Respectfully,

John T. McElveen, Jr., M.D.  
President, ANS

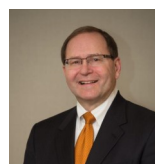
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**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
OTOLARYNGOLOGY-  
HEAD AND NECK SURGERY**

## "THE ACADEMY CORNER"

Dear Colleagues,



This has been an exciting year for the Academy! With the need for collaborative action within the house of otolaryngology never greater, the AAO-HNS hosted a specialty wide unity conference in March.

As we approach our Annual Meeting September 27-30 in Dallas, there are a number of changes on the horizon. At this year's meeting we are introducing a new format that integrates the Scientific Program and Instruction Courses. Instruction Courses are now included in the registration fee. We are also featuring a coding and ICD-10 workshop preceding the start of the meeting.

We are rolling out the new *AcademyU®*, the AAO-HNS Foundation's otolaryngology education source, which will be available following the meeting. This will allow additional educational content to be disseminated through multiple devices and permit interactive learning activities increasing the availability and flexibility of our educational offerings.

We will also be introducing our first otolaryngology-based Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR). The registry, called Regent, will be presented at a Miniseminar immediately following the Opening Ceremony. After completion of a pilot program, we anticipate the registry will be up and running early next year. The data collected will allow quality reporting as well as multiple other functions our members will need in the future. Please join us in Dallas.

With warm regards,

James C. Denny III, MD  
Executive Vice President/CEO  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS

### REMINDER!

#### ANS biannual blast email to membership:

If you would like to send a survey, query the membership, share meeting announcements, or post a classified ad in the biannual group email to the ANS members, please submit request to Kristen Bordignon, the ANS Administrator by September 15 for inclusion in the subsequent email "blast on October 1, 2015" Please include a brief introduction and the link to the survey. NO GRAPHICS or PHOTOS please.



50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY RESEARCH FUND PLEDGE FORM

Suggested pledge levels

<b>IT Therapy Level</b>	\$500.00	<b>Skull Base Surgery Level</b>	\$5,000.00
<b>Gamma Knife Level</b>	\$1,000.00	<b>Neurotologist Level</b>	\$10,000.00+
<b>Cochlear Implant Level</b>	\$2,500.00		

I choose to honor this commitment over a period of 1, 2, or 5 years. Payments will be made on an annual basis at the donor's discretion. The ANS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, thus the donation is tax deductible. Payments may be sent to the ANS Administrative office, 4960 Dover St NE St. Petersburg, FL 33703. Online CC payments may be made via the ANS website.

☐

ONE YEAR

☐

TWO YEAR

☐

FIVE YEAR

DONOR PRINTED NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DONOR SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY RESEARCH FUND EFFORTS

One year ago, the American Neurotology Society launched the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Research Fund to coincide with the celebration of our society's milestone anniversary in 2015. To date, we have received \$52,750 and \$108,000 in pledges. If you've made a pledge but have not sent your payment, please do so at your earliest opportunity. Our goal is to raise \$250,000.00 from our membership and industry partners before the end of the calendar year. We need your help, we are nearly half way there! Please use the form above and return it to the ANS Administrative office with your payment.

## AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR AS THE ANS WELCOMES 27 NEW MEMBERS in 2015!

Applications for membership are due November 15, 2015 for consideration and induction in Chicago, IL on May 21, 2016. Applications and instructions can be found on the ANS Website or send a request by email to [administrator@americanneurotologysociety.com](mailto:administrator@americanneurotologysociety.com)

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Bettina M. Stubinski, MD, MBA  
Basel, Switzerland  
Thomas Meyer, MD  
Basel, Switzerland

## ANS PAST PRESIDENTS gather at the 50th Annual President's Reception in Boston on April 24, 2015



A huge thanks to Dr. Herb Silverstein, (left), an accomplished pianist and composer, who entertained guests for the duration of the 50th Annual ANS President's Reception. Seated right is Dr. Charlie Luetje, ready to break out in song!



## Left to right:

Charlie Luetje  
Fredric Pullen  
Sam Kinney  
Richard Miyamoto  
Kenneth Brookler  
Joel Goebel  
Bruce Gantz  
Paul Lambert  
Jeff Vrabec  
Bradley Welling  
Karen Doyle  
Clough Shelton  
Noel Cohen  
John House

Presented by  
ANS President  
Anil Lalwani (stage)

If you would like to submit a grant for consideration in 2016-17, a letter of intent must be submitted by December 31, 2015, one month prior to the January 31, 2016 deadline for the application. The letter of intent must state the grant mechanism for the proposal, the Principle Investigator and Institution(s) for the work, contain an abstract with title of no more than 500 words to summarize the proposal. Letters should be sent via email to Dr. John Oghalai, [joghalai@stanford.edu](mailto:joghalai@stanford.edu) Chair of the ANS Research Committee.