

The 2010 ARO MidWinter Meeting



Steven D. Rauch, M.D.
2010-2011 Past President

The 33rd Mid-Winter Meeting of the ARO met February 6-10, 2010, in Anaheim, CA. The weather was terrible but the attendance was excellent – our second-best year on record with 1493 attendees and 1040 abstract submissions.

This was our first time holding the meeting in Anaheim. Both our Council and the ARO membership have been very supportive of the idea of alternating east and west coasts and we have been shopping for a suitable west coast venue. Judging by reactions at the meeting and on the post-meeting questionnaire, we have not found our west coast home yet. Details of the questionnaire will be published for all members to review. Generally, the meeting facilities – conference rooms, AV services, etc. – were popular but the lodging, dining, and ambiance were not. ARO Council and our administrative team at Talley Management immediately took matters in hand and made new arrangements for our future west coast meetings, in 2012 and 2014. In the meantime, we are all looking forward the 2011 meeting (and 2013 and 2015 meetings) in Baltimore, a very popular venue both times we there, in 2007 and 2009.

One of the highlights of the 2010 MWM was the Award of Merit Lecture and Roast. Award of Merit recipient, Ian Russell, was a popular choice. His colleagues roasted him well. His talk on acoustical aspects of mosquito mating behavior was a great presentation of some great science.

Kudos go out again this year to the Program Committee, who, under the leadership of Chair, Sharon Kujawa, did a terrific job sorting through hundreds of abstracts and organizing them into coherent and interesting poster and podium sessions. They did an equally fine job picking the symposium topics, which included a Presidential Symposium on the neurobiology of migraine, plus other symposia on synaptic and intrinsic plasticity in the auditory system, human otopathology and basic science, auditory stream segregation, new developments in hair-cell transduction, signal processing in vestibular neurons, and stem cell applications for cochlear repair. Other popular sessions included a media relations workshop, a patient advocacy workshop on tinnitus research and treatment, a workshop on mentoring women and individuals from diverse backgrounds, and a panel on research funding.

Let me close by thanking the ARO membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as President this past year. ARO is a great organization. The lifeblood of ARO is its members.

Your passion for the science, your commitment to the society, and your willingness to share your ideas and your effort have

built ARO and sustained it. The ARO Council and the new ARO President, Karen Avraham, are ready to work with you and work for you to see that ARO continues to thrive and to meet the needs of our otolaryngology research community. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Baltimore next February.

Photos by D. Lim



Pictured are (L to R): Alan Palmer, Ian Russell, and Corne Kros



Pictured are (L to R): Steven Rauch, Karen Avraham



Congratulations to winners of the Exhibitor Scavenger Hunt. Prizes were awarded at the ARO Business Meeting and included iPod Touch, Flip Videos, and American Express Gift Cards.

2010 MidWinter Meeting Hair Ball

Tuesday evening saw the second ARO-wide 'Hair Ball', a dance party that has gradually grown from its inception at the first Baltimore meeting. The Blu Note Party Band provided great sounds and the crowd responded enthusiastically. By evening's end the dance floor was packed with shimmying scientists of all ages and abilities. Watch for announcements about the 2011 Hair Ball in Baltimore - and bring your dancing shoes!

Photos by D. Lim



Long Range Planning Committee: 2010 MidWinter Meeting Report and Questionnaire Summary



Dan H. Sanes, Ph.D.
Chair, Long Range Planning

A loose comparison between the 2009 and 2010 Questionnaire responses suggests that the Mid-Winter Meeting has attained a degree of stability in terms of census. As you'll recall, we advanced the meeting start day from Sunday to Saturday in an effort to increase attendance by those with a primarily clinical appointment; however, this change had no effect. The proportion of those listing their category as clinicians, researchers, students, and so forth, was nearly identical in 2009 and 2010. In contrast, measures of satisfaction fluctuated. The fraction of attendees expressing greatest satisfaction with the scientific content and venue declined a bit this year. Those rating scientific content as excellent to outstanding dropped from 78% last year to 65% this year. One culprit could be the general grumpiness associated with our venue: those rating the 'meeting place' as excellent to outstanding dropped from 50% last year to 25% this year (and 'hotel accommodations' plummeted like the Dow, from 61% last year to 21% this year). Ouch.

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) considered issues related both to the Mid-Winter Meeting and to the broader goals of our organization. As regards the meeting, we discussed whether mechanisms exist to improve the impact of Podium sessions, since ratings tend to hover at a lower value as compared to Posters. One positive suggestion was to provide all speakers with a set of reminders (e.g., give a general introduction for ARO members outside one's sub-field), and make available a set of template slides on the ARO website. Should any of you be in the possession of electronic slides that demonstrate "do's and don'ts," I would be pleased to advocate for its inclusion on our annual meeting link. We may also supply a relevant Society for Neuroscience link (www.sfn.org/am2010/index.aspx?pagename=resources_presentation#presentations).

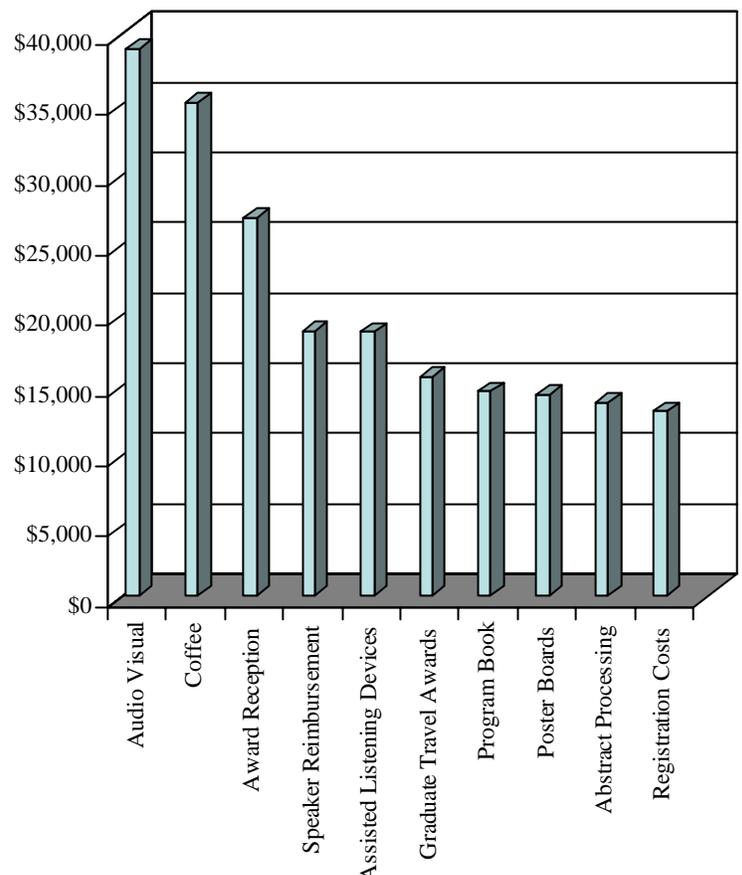
A second point of discussion concerned the role of ARO in mentorship. For example, ARO could solicit volunteers to provide guidance to junior members of ARO during the annual meeting, and this could extend beyond the meeting at the discretion of participants. Although there was some support for such a plan, the LRPC fell short of detailing specific mechanisms for its implementation, and work on this idea will continue in the future. We also reconsidered the spARO-initiated proposal to hold a Lunchtime meeting at which professional advice can be disseminated to students who are planning their next professional steps, and perhaps featuring newly minted faculty (e.g., the "Burt Evans Young Investigator Award" winner). This venue would permit graduate students, postdocs, medical students, and residents to obtain pertinent information about the process of obtaining a traineeship, writing grants, searching for a faculty position, and setting up a lab. One problem is the relatively high cost of catered lunches on-site, and implementation remains to be worked out.

The LRPC also continued to work through the practical details of our previous recommendation that ARO sponsor a few Clinical Seminars, presented by medically-trained professionals for basic research scientists. Each seminar would provide a primer on a specific disorder, with the intension of offering basic research scientists an up-to-date understanding of the relationship between their research and a relevant clinical problem (e.g., Tinnitus, Presbycusis, Ototoxicity), particularly as it may relate to the rationale for clinically-motivated grant applications. To make this feasible logistically, we proposed that the seminars be scheduled at noon and include the opportunity to obtain lunch in the meeting room. This idea will be discussed at the summer Council meeting and could be initiated at the 2011 meeting.

Finally, we have a number of ideas that have not yet received proper discussion, and which will serve as the foci of our next meeting. These include a potential role for ARO members to serve as networking partners for local congressional offices (e.g., offering information and an expedient connection to our profession). We may also wish to consider our role as archivists. For example, should ARO commission interviews with senior professionals in our field, both research and clinical, and make these available on the ARO website?

ARO MidWinter Meeting Expenses

The graph shows the top ten expenses incurred at the 2010 MidWinter Meeting.





(L to R): Sharon Kujawa, Dan Sanes, Karen Avraham, Peter Santi, Steven Rauch, Jay Rubinstein, Karen Jo Doyle, David Lim

Association for Research in Otolaryngology

19 Mantua Road
Mt. Royal, NJ 08061 USA
Phone: (856) 423-0041, Fax: (856) 423-3420
Website: <http://www.aro.org>

Headquarters

Darla M. Dobson
ARO Executive Director
E-mail: headquarters@aro.org

Meetings Department

Lisa Astorga
ARO Meeting Manager
E-mail: meetings@aro.org

Exhibits Department

Alexandra Springer
ARO Exhibit Manager
E-mail: aspringer@talley.com

Newsletter Staff

Peter Santi, Ph.D.
ARO Editor
E-mail: psanti@umn.edu

Future ARO MidWinter Meetings

February 19-23, 2011

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland

February 25-29, 2012

Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel
San Diego, California

February 16-20, 2013

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland

February 22-26, 2014

Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel
San Diego, California

February 21-25, 2015

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland