



## Letter from the President: New Orleans in 2005



The following is an excerpt from my position statement for the 2002 election brochure:

“The new meeting site is an experiment characteristic of the organization’s will-

ingness to test new ideas. The first two years of this experiment will have ended by 2004 and ARO will have to take a hard look at that time to determine if Daytona should continue as the meeting site.”

Little did I know that issues associated with the meeting hotel were to consume the greater part of my presidency.

From its inception through 2001 the MidWinter meeting of the ARO was held in the Tampa Bay area. The location nurtured us and the organization eventually outgrew the meeting facilities. Prior to moving, the membership was polled as to what they wanted and council arrived at a set of criteria for a new meeting location. The Daytona Beach Adam’s Mark Hotel appeared to be an ideal match to the criteria. Negotiations with the hotel were initiated after a site visit failed to reveal major problems. A five year contract was drawn up for 2002 through 2006. In the middle of these negotiations the hotel told us their new north tower would not be finished in time for our 2002 meeting and we hastily rescheduled for our last meeting in St. Pete’s Beach. We signed a contract with the Adam’s Mark for 2003 through 2007. Five year contracts were not atypical prior to 9/11. The hotel industry was doing great and multiple year contracts came with room rate concessions. Hotel rates dropped with tourism and business travel after the terrible events of 9/11.

The Adam’s Mark chain of hotels had expanded rapidly during the 80s and 90s but experienced financial problems beginning in the late 90s. By 2003 the chain was divesting itself of properties

and the Daytona Beach property was purchased by Pyramid Advisors whose home office is in Boston. Even though the hotel was still called Adam’s Mark for the 2004 meeting, in many respects it was not part of the national chain. It is interesting that the hotel still has the same general manager as the one who signed the ARO contract back in 2001.

It was apparent from the responses to both the 2003 and 2004 post-meeting questionnaires that meeting attendees were unhappy with the hotel. Attendees found that the quality of the accommodations had deteriorated to an unacceptable level. In 2004 many attendees voted with their feet by arranging to lodge elsewhere. We were able to come close to meeting our contracted 2004 room block commitment largely because of the membership’s response to a last minute appeal by President Monsell. The most ominous sign however, was that the number of meeting attendees was basically unchanged from 2003 breaking with the many years of annual increases. Council needed to do something. It initiated efforts to improve our arrangements with the Adam’s Mark Hotel; and, in case this did not work out, identify other potential meeting locations.

Our negotiations with the Adam’s Mark management proceeded over several months and agreements were reached to ensure the success of the meetings in 2005 and beyond. However, ultimately the hotel was unwilling to commit to providing ARO anything more than the accommodations that were widely criticized the year before. Rather than enduring another meeting under these conditions, council decided to hold future MidWinter meetings elsewhere.

Associated with this decision, the ARO has filed a civil action against Pyramid Advisors. Due to legal concerns, I am unable to provide written details about this action until after the case runs its course. You can verify and follow the history of the case by visiting the website of the county clerk of Volusia County. A copy of the Complaint is also available upon request.

Lisa Astorga who is with our management firm identified a number of hotels that were still available for our 2005 meeting and a small ad

hoc site visit team composed of Lisa Astorga, Charlie Liberman, Bob Shannon and myself, looked at 9 hotels in three cities over a 50 hour period. The New Orleans Fairmont was the committee’s top choice. It satisfies our room requirements with newly renovated rooms. Its spacious meeting facilities are more than sufficient for our sessions. The hotel has a unique charm with a rich patina bespeaking its many years as the center of political and cultural life in a city that is known for both. At the end of day you can continue the discussions begun in the poster sessions at the hotel bar famous for its Sazerac cocktail. Even though there may not be a need to leave the hotel, it is within comfortable walking distance of most of the city’s major attractions (Bourbon St, River Walk, Aquarium, Galleries, Restaurants, etc.). You and your family can travel by river boat or trolley to the zoo or the art museum. Antebellum plantations, alligators and other bayou wildlife may be viewed in nearby national and state parks.

I am truly looking forward to our meeting. In addition to the scientific excitement of the general sessions we again have a number of outstanding symposia. The majority of the membership is familiar with New Orleans and knows how the city contributes to the overall excitement of a meeting. Those of you who have not been to the “Big Easy” are in for a treat!

*William E. Brownell, Ph.D.*  
*ARO President*



*Pictured are: (L to R): Susan Shore and Joseph Hawkins. During his 65-year scientific career, Joseph Hawkins has shaped the field of otologic research. He received a Presidential Citation for his contributions at the 2004 ARO MidWinter Meeting.*

## The 2004 ARO Mid-Winter Meeting



The twenty-seventh annual MidWinter Meeting of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology took place at Daytona Beach February 22-26, 2004.

This meeting was a wonderful opportunity to meet and share science related to ear, nose and throat disorders.

The Presidential Symposium addressed Ototoxicity. Brian W. Blakley, MD, PhD, gave an overview of the topic and explained why ototoxic medications are still in use. Association guest Robert A. Floyd, PhD, discussed the mechanisms whereby oxidative stress cause cellular damage. Jochen Schacht, PhD, discussed the mechanisms of aminoglycoside ototoxicity and the results of a clinical trial demonstrating chemoprotection with aspirin. Leonard P. Rybak, MD, PhD, discussed cis-platinum ototoxicity. Association guest Paul M. Tulkens, PhD, discussed nephrotoxicity, pointing out similarities and differences with ototoxicity. Finally, Stephen P. Cass, MD, MPH, discussed the clinical use of aminoglycoside ototoxicity in treatment of Meniere's disease.

The Presidential lecture, "The Cochlear Nuclei," was presented by Donata Oertel, PhD, recipient of the 2004 Award of Merit.

Following the Presidential Symposium, the program continued with symposia, posters, and contributed papers. The Program Committee, ably chaired by Robert V. Shannon, PhD, did a terrific job of assembling more than 1000 submitted abstracts into a coherent program that extended into Thursday morning. One of the highlights was a symposium on the chemical senses chaired by James F. Battey, MD, PhD.

The Short Course: Embryonic Stem Cells: From Cell Culture to Clinic was well attended and informed us well about this important and growing area of science and potential therapeutics.

Congressman Mike Simpson of Idaho's Second District received the ARO Distinguished Public Service Award. He serves on the Appropriations health subcommittee. In his remarks at the Business Meeting he discussed how we can influence the legislative process.

Robert J. Ruben, MD, was honored for his many contributions as past-president of ARO and chair of Government Affairs Committee.

This year ARO also honored nonagenarian Joseph E. Hawkins, PhD, with a certificate of appreciation for his 65-year scientific career and his many years of membership and support of ARO. Joe has made important contributions in understanding ototoxicity, the effects of noise on hearing, electrophysiology, and other areas.

This was the second year that the MidWinter meeting was held at Daytona. Much work was done by the Council and Talley Management to improve what we can about the hotel and location. Although there still were points of discomfort, most of us have been able to accommodate ourselves successfully to the new location and appreciate having more space for posters and presentations. The Council continues to work to improve the venue. We are espe-

cially trying to make things easier for members attending from outside the US.

Having the opportunity to serve you as ARO President has been a highlight of my career and a lot of fun. The Association is in good shape financially, and excellent shape scientifically.

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make ARO and MidWinter Meeting possible. A special word of thanks goes to our colleagues on the ARO Council for guiding and overseeing our great organization and to all of our hardworking committee chairs and members. Darla Dobson, Executive Director, Lisa Astorga, Meetings Manager, and their colleagues at Talley Management have done superb jobs. Thanks and congratulations to JARO Editor, Eric Young, PhD, and ARO Editor, Peter A. Santi, PhD, for establishing our place in the publication world. Betsy Keithley, PhD, has kept a close eye on our finances as Secretary-Treasurer. David J. Lim, PhD, has been a great friend and mentor. Finally, the ongoing support of the AAO-HNS, the Deafness Research Foundation, our corporate sponsors, and the NIDCD is greatly appreciated.

*Edwin M. Monsell, M.D., Ph.D.*  
2003-2004 ARO President

*Photo by D. Lim*



*Donata Oertel receives the 2004 Award of Merit from ARO President Edwin Monsell*

## Letter from the Editor



This summer you should have received your Call for Abstracts postcard with the news that the ARO is leaving Florida and will host the 2005 MidWinter meeting in at the Fairmont hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. We look forward to a great meeting at a new hotel and exciting city.

The format for this newsletter should be familiar by now and I hope that it is interesting to read. This issue features the Award of Merit winner Dr. Donata Oertel, and also honors Dr. Joseph Hawkins, who is an outstanding contributor to our field and long-time member of the ARO. In this issue we are also fortunate to have a column by Dr. James Battey on the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Also, new to this newsletter is a quiz on the ARO that was produced by Dr. Edwin Monsel, which presents some interesting statistical information about the ARO.

With the new symposia, workshops, and special events schedules for ARO to take place in New Orleans and the wonderful Fairmont hotel, my guess is that the 2005 MidWinter meeting of the ARO will be an outstanding success.

Again, I welcome your suggestions and contributions to this newsletter. I would also like to thank Cara Davis and Darla Dobson, for their excellent assistance in producing this newsletter.

*Peter A. Santi, Ph.D.*  
ARO Editor

## ARO 2004 Long Range Planning Committee Report



The ARO Long Range Planning Committee is charged with determining the opinions and priorities of ARO members. The committee prepares MidWinter Meeting (MWM) pre- and post-meeting questionnaires, analyzes the results, and distributes relevant information to the ARO Council and various ARO committee chairs. In addition, the committee posts a report to the membership that is mailed to members.

In 2004, 694 members completed the pre-meeting questionnaire, while 384 completed the post-meeting questionnaire. In 2003, 314 individuals completed the post-meeting questionnaire. Of respondents, 55% were researchers, 15% were students, 14% were post-doctoral researchers, and 9% were clinicians.

In 2004, 73% of respondents rated the overall meeting as “outstanding” or “excellent” as compared with 70% in 2003. As in previous years, the Contributed Posters received the most “outstanding” or “excellent” ratings (74%), followed by Symposia (65%), and the podium sessions (56%). Sixty-five percent of respondents rated the Presidential Lecture as “outstanding” or “excellent.” On the pre-meeting questionnaire, 61% of members wished to have no change in the format of the MWM (unchanged from 2003.) Interestingly, 12% wished to increase the number of organized symposia and reduce the number of contributed paper podium sessions, while 27% wished to increase the number of symposia and eliminate contributed paper podium sessions. These numbers are essentially unchanged from 2003.

Unfortunately, in 2004 the members expressed dissatisfaction with the Meeting Place and Hotel Accommodations, which received only 20% and 24% of “outstanding” or “excellent” ratings, compared with 31% and 31% in 2003. In contrast, 57% of respondents rated the meeting’s organization of poster sessions as outstanding or excellent.

In response to the question regarding ARO increasing fees, 62% felt that ARO should continue to charge an abstract fee, while 32% felt that instead, meeting registration fees should be raised, and 6% wished to instead raise membership dues.

Seven important questions were included in the post-meeting questionnaire regarding the 2005 meeting:

1. Happily, 92% of members intend to return for the 2005 meeting at Daytona Beach.
2. Of these, 50% plan to fly in to Daytona Airport, while 36% plan to fly in to Orlando airport.
3. Only 44% of respondents stated that they planned to stay at the Adams Mark hotel in 2005.
4. In 2005, 60% of respondents plan to stay for the entire meeting, 24% for 4 days, and 14% for 3 days.
5. Of 350 total respondents, 61% intended to pay no more than \$150 for a hotel room, 32% were willing to pay up to \$200, and only 7% were willing to pay more than \$200 for a room.
6. Only 17% of respondents felt that the meeting must remain in Florida in the future, while 83% did not feel that the meeting must remain in Florida.
7. Of 329 respondents, 55% felt that having a refrigerator in the room was important.

*Karen Jo Doyle, M.D., Ph.D.*  
Chair, ARO Long Range Planning  
Committee

**February 19-24, 2005**  
**ARO MidWinter Meeting**  
**The Fairmont,**  
**New Orleans, LA, USA**

Travel Awards are available.  
Please visit the MWM section of the  
ARO website for details.

# National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders



The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) conducts and supports biomedical and behavioral research and research training in hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech, and language. NIDCD accomplishes its mandate by conducting research in its own laboratories in the Division of Intramural Research; supporting an Extramural Research Program for non-federal scientists; and facilitating the training of scientists in the fields of human communication research. NIDCD has focused national attention on disorders of human communication and has contributed to research advances that will improve the lives of over 46 million Americans with communication disorders including:

**Hereditary Hearing Impairment:** There are hundreds of genes that underlie hereditary hearing impairment. Over 70 different genes involved in nonsyndromic hereditary hearing impairment have been mapped. These genes are teaching us about pathways and cell types within the inner ear that are crucial to normal auditory function. This new information is rapidly being incorporated into clinical studies that will lead to better diagnosis and treatment for individuals with hereditary hearing impairment.

**Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Infection:** NIDCD values the importance of newborn hearing screening programs that have helped to identify a cohort of children whose hearing is relatively normal at birth, but who lose their hearing within the first several years of life. Epidemiological evidence points to congenital CMV infection as the cause of the hearing loss in these children. However, only a small percentage of congenital CMV infections have clinical manifestations, with only about 10 percent of those involving hearing impairment. NIDCD is supporting an epidemiology study to help understand which children with congenital CMV infection are likely to develop hearing impairment.

**Otitis Media:** Repeated bouts of otitis media are a significant public health problem, and repeated treatment with antibiotics has contributed to the emergence of resistant bacterial organisms. This problem underscores the need for a vaccine to prevent this disease. Driven by the emergence of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria that cause otitis media, NIDCD scientists have developed a candidate vaccine to prevent otitis media caused by common bacterial pathogens. The researchers have tested this vaccine in adults. Results of this trial suggest that this investigational vaccine may be useful in preventing otitis media in children.

**Cochlear Implants:** Longitudinal clinical studies show that children who are deaf that receive the implant during the period when their language skills are developing can acquire good speech and auditory/aural communication skills. NIDCD-supported scientists are discovering that performing implant surgery before two years of age in a child with congenital deafness results in better long-term language skills than when surgery is performed later in childhood.

For more information on these and other research initiatives and funding opportunities for research and training on human communication disorders, please visit the NIDCD website at <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/>.

## Address:

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AAO-HNSF/ARO  
Research Forum  
Call for Papers Deadline:  
January 7, 2005

The Research Forum, under joint sponsorship by the AAO-HNSF and the ARO, will be held as part of the 2005 annual Academy meeting (9/25-28) in Los Angeles, California. Both oral and poster presentations are invited from residents or other investigators on any research topic related to otolaryngology. For full details on submission criteria and instructions, please refer to the Academy's website.  
<http://www.entnet.org>.



## Congressman Simpson Receives ARO 2004 Distinguished Public Service Award

The Honorable Michael Simpson, US Congressman from the State of Idaho, was our most recent guest of honor at our annual congressional reception held during the 2004 MidWinter Meeting. He received the ARO Presidential Citation from Dr. Edwin Monsell for his continued support of the health care community.

Congressman Simpson is recognized as a leading supporter for increased funding within NIH and NIDCD. He is a member of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies.

## JARO Update



JARO is now in the middle of its fifth volume and continues to provide ARO members with a quality medium for publishing their work. Submissions remain strong, with 42 manuscripts submitted so far this year. This is an increase from last year and partially reflects our improved impact factor, 1.9 for last year. Two issues have been published so far in volume 5, with nine papers each. Issue 3 will appear in September, also with nine papers.

The journal now runs in a just-in-time fashion, so that the publication latency is as short as the publication schedule of the publisher can support.

To accelerate the time it takes papers to appear on-line, we will initiate a preprint site where papers will appear, at the author's discretion, immediately after acceptance. The preprints will be pdf files provided by the authors. The preprint site will appear on the ARO website with a link from the JARO site. Unfortunately, the preprints cannot appear in Medline, at present. The site will be initiated with papers from volume 5, issue 4, the December issue for this year.

Ultimately the quality of JARO depends on the support of ARO members. We hope that you will consider JARO as the place to publish your work.

*Eric D. Young, Ph.D.*  
*JARO Editor-in-Chief*

### ARO QUIZ

*(from Dr. E. Monsell)*

1. How many members does ARO currently have?
2. What percent of ARO membership resides outside of the USA?
3. How many abstracts were submitted to the 2004 MidWinter Meeting?
4. How many people attended the 2004 MidWinter Meeting?

Answers:  
1. 1775 2. 30% 3. 1059 4. 1493

## Call for Symposium and Workshop Proposals for ARO 2006 MidWinter Meeting



The ARO Program Committee is presently soliciting proposals for Symposia and Workshops for the 2006 MidWinter Meeting. **The deadline for proposals is February 11, 2005.** Symposia and Workshops for the 2006 ARO Meeting will be selected by the ARO Program Committee when they meet during the 2005 ARO Meeting.

Symposia are organized as a series of oral presentations on a theme. Preference will be given to proposals that strive for novel syntheses across or within existing disciplines or explorations of new techniques that will expand research in new directions.

Workshops can be on topics of interest to a focused subgroup of ARO members, and may be scheduled in the evening.

### Instructions for Submitting Workshop and Symposium Proposals for ARO 2005

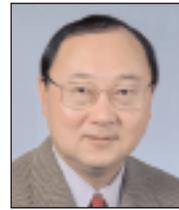
Each proposal should contain:

- A session title
- A brief (<300 word) description of the theme and target audience
- Name of the Moderator (may be same as organizer)
- A list of speakers (4 to 7), with a title and a brief (<150 word) description of each presentation, panel discussion, etc. **Be sure to indicate that each speaker has been contacted and has provided tentative agreement to participate in the session.**
- A proposed time schedule including time allotted for introduction, each speaker, questions, panel discussion, break, etc.

Send Proposals to:  
Robert V. Shannon  
House Ear Institute  
2100 W. Third St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90057 USA  
E-mail: Shannon@hei.org  
E-mail is the preferred medium.

## Members in the News

### Five ARO members are inducted to the Academy of Medicine.



*Richard Miyamoto*

Richard Miyamoto, the 28th President of ARO, will be inducted into the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences in October, 2004. He is joining four other prominent ARO members who



*Bruce Gantz*

have been IOM members. Bruce Gantz, the 22nd ARO President, was elected in 2000; David Kennedy was elected in 1999; former Council member Bobby Alford was elected in 1994; and Mike Johns was elected in 1993. The IOM's mission is to serve as advisor to the nation to improve health. The Institute's members are elected on the basis of their outstanding professional achievement and commitment to serve.

*David J. Lim, M.D.*  
*ARO Historian*

## ARO Symposia, Workshops and Special Events for 2005

### Short Course

- Gene Microarray Technology: An Introduction to Methods and Applications in Hearing Research Symposia

### Symposia

- Membranes 101: Membrane Structure and Function
- Planar Cell Polarity and Stereocilliary Bundle Development
- Recent Advances in Understanding the Function of Gap Junctions
- Brain Slice Preparations for Studies of Signal Processing in the Auditory and Vestibular Systems: Reconciliation with *In Vivo* Studies
- Integrating Middle-ear Imaging, Physiology and Biomechanics
- Hereditary Hearing Loss: From Humans to Mice and Back
- Corticofugal Auditory Pathways – Structure and Function
- Cortical Responses to Cochlear Implants
- Music and Auditory Neuroscience
- Auditory Neuroethology: Getting Closer to the Real Acoustic World?



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