



Letter from the President



I am happy to report that our beloved ARO is financially sound and thriving. Several initiatives are underway to keep us moving in the right directions.

Advisors tell us that organizations like ours should have a reserve fund equal to 1 1/2 times our annual budget. Over recent years we have built up our reserves to about equal to our annual budget, so we are slowly approaching our goal of financial security.

Unfortunately, our expenses, which are mostly related to the Mid-Winter Meeting, have been rising for several years. Charges by hotels nationwide have risen for meeting rooms, food service, and audio-visual services.

JARO has been a wonderful editorial success under the editorship of Eric Young. Last February the Council voted to dip into our reserves to purchase additional pages from Springer Verlag to reduce the publication delay that is the downside of our success. JARO Committee Co-Chairs Art Popper and Jerry Popelka asked a subcommittee to make recommendations about page charges. Bob Ruben, Charlie Liberman, and Paul Manis completed this work. The Council is currently weighing our options. Like many journals its size, JARO will probably need page charges to fund its continued growth.

Our mantra in selecting the meeting site has always been "something cheap on the beach!" Unfortunately the increasing price of venues suitable for ARO may force a difficult choice for a location after our contract expires in 2007. We can fix some of the simple things at the Adams Mark, such as

the lighting and space for posters. In the meantime we need your continued support and understanding. Please continue to stay at the Adams Mark Hotel. If registration falls below contract levels, ARO has to pay the difference.

The sources of ARO's strength remain what they always have been: our science, our collegiality, the interaction of scientists and clinicians, our committee members, and a dedicated core of hard-working leaders. All of our Council members and committee chairs are doing an outstanding job. We should all give special thanks to Betsy Keithley, Secretary-Treasurer; Peter Santi, Editor; and Bob Shannon, Program Committee Chair. Past Presidents Donata Oertel and Judy Dubno have been wonderful mentors and contributors, too. Darla Dobson is doing a great job in her new role of Executive Director. Please thank all our Council members and chairs for their service any time you get a chance.

We are all looking forward to a great Mid-Winter Meeting February 22-26, 2004 in Daytona Beach. The Presidential Symposium will focus on Ototoxicity. Please be sure to thank our exhibitors who support our meeting and help us keep your costs down. This year we plan to open the Presidential Reception to all meeting registrants, so I hope to see you there!

Edwin M. Monsell, M.D., Ph.D.
ARO President

February 22 - 26, 2004

**ARO MidWinter Meeting
Adam's Mark Resort
Daytona Beach, FL, USA**

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



Photo by D. Lim

Dr. David Kemp receives the 2003 Award of Merit from ARO President Donata Oertel

The 2003 ARO MidWinter Meeting



The twenty-sixth Annual Midwinter Meeting from February 22 to 27, 2003 marked the 30th year of the existence of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology. (In its early years, ARO did not have an official midwinter meeting.) The membership and the participation in the Midwinter Meeting have continued to grow and its liveliness continues to attract scientists from all over the world. Although some people were kept from attending the meeting by the SARS epidemic, the number of registrants nevertheless reached a record 1496 (47 more than last year). They were kept busy at 1076 talks and poster presentations (99 more than last year) and exhibits.

The meeting covered a broad range of topics from both the basic science and clinical perspectives. The range of topics and international nature of the meeting is illustrated in the symposia that were presented at the 2003 meeting. Erwin Neher, Nobel laureate from Germany, Gerard Borst from Holland, and Philip X Joris from Belgium, as well as Ling-Gang Wu, Larry Trussell, Henrike von Gersdorff, and Robert Shannon from the United States were participants in the Presidential Symposium about calyceal synapses. These large synapses allow auditory neurons to encode the physical properties of sounds in the timing of action potentials and make possible the biophysical study of synaptic transmission in the central nervous system. These synapses may also make music enjoyable. David T. Kemp from England, recipient of this year's Award of Merit, traced the history of his discovery of otoacoustic emissions in the Presidential Lecture. Dr. Kemp's work has made otoacoustic emissions an important tool for understanding the auditory system. Other symposia focused on the early development of the inner ear (organizer, Doris Wu), advances in the understanding of tinnitus (organizers, James Snow and M. Charles Liberman),

synaptic transmission from hair cells to auditory nerve afferents (organizer, Thomas Parsons), the functional organization of the auditory cortex in humans and other primates (organizers Deb Hall and Alan Palmer), auditory learning (organizers David R. Moore and Beverly Wright), and the use of stem cells (organizers Neil Segil and Andy Groves). In addition, a special session was given in honor of Norma Slepecky called Morphology and Cell Biology of the Ear, Present and Future (organizers David Lim and Peter Santi).

For the first time the meeting was held on the East Coast of Florida in Daytona Beach. The move to a new site involved considerable planning and hard work by members of the ARO as well as by the staff of Talley Management Group, Inc. Thanks to ARO members Betsy Keithley, Judy Dubno, Bob Shannon, and Ed Monsell for taking the time to travel to Daytona Beach. Special thanks to Lisa Astorga, Talley's Meeting Manager, who graciously carried the brunt of the burden. For old timers who had in previous years enjoyed St. Petersburg, feelings toward the move were mixed. The larger size of the hotel that allowed all exhibits and poster sessions to be held indoors and that allowed many participants to be housed near the meeting was pleasant and convenient. There were also some complaints. Some visitors from abroad find it awkward not to be nearer to a major airport because travel now requires an extra leg or long ground travel and for some even an extra night on trips that are already long. I encourage you to voice your opinion to members of the Council and through the post-meeting questionnaire. Your opinions are the basis for decision by the Council whether to renew the contract with the Adams Mark Hotel after 2007.

Two events at the Business Meeting deserve highlighting. First, in recognition of the fact that the endeavors of clinicians and scientists are affected by political institutions and their decisions, the ARO invited Frank

Pallone, Jr., Democratic Congressman from New Jersey, to address the Business Meeting. Pallone is a member of the Health Care Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Pallone spoke about his interests in health care and the environment and encouraged members of ARO to make their thoughts known to their representatives in Congress. Second, it was my privilege to award a Certificate of Appreciation to David Lim. Lim was a founding member of the ARO. His personal commitment to the ARO over its 30-year lifetime has been extraordinary. Lim has addressed the needs of the organization, both large and small, with unflagging energy. We use the 30th anniversary of the founding of the ARO to thank Dr. Lim for his continuing service to the ARO as its Historian.

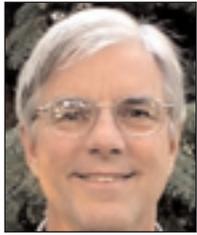
On behalf of the ARO I would like to acknowledge the support of organizations that have contributed to our mission in various important ways. We sincerely thank the American Academy for Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, American Otological Society Research Fund, American Tinnitus Association, Deafness Research Foundation, National Institute for Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, National Organization for Hearing Research, and the Tinnitus Research Consortium.

Donata Oertel, Ph.D.
2002-2003 ARO President

Celebrating ARO's 30th Anniversary 1973-2003

30th Anniversary commemorative mugs are available for purchase. Please visit the ARO website for an order form. <http://www.aro.org>

Letter from the Editor



Last year we all experienced ARO's change of venue to Daytona Beach and the Adams Mark Hotel. Now, it is once again time to consider submission of an abstract for the 2004 ARO MidWinter meeting by the deadline of October 1st. During the summer Darla Dobson, Judy Dubno, Bob Shannon and I have been working with Mira Publishing Company to adopt their new abstract processing system called MiraSMART for the ARO. Hopefully the system will make abstract submission, program book development, and printing better for all of us.

I hope that you will find the rest of this newsletter familiar in format and interesting to read. New in this issue, and mirrored on the ARO website, is a section called "Members in the News" to highlight the newsworthy events by ARO members. If you have received an award or your work has been recognized by the media, send the information to ARO by email to: headquarters@aro.org.

I welcome your suggestions and contributions to the newsletter and for the web, particularly photographs that you would like to share with other ARO members. Thanks again go to Darla Dobson, who has been promoted to ARO Executive Director of TMG, for her excellent assistance in producing this newsletter. I would also like to thank Cara Davis of TMG for her support in the production of this newsletter.

Peter Santi, Ph.D.
ARO Editor

AAO-HNSF/ARO Research Forum Call For Papers Deadline: January 7, 2004

The Research Forum, under joint sponsorship by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation and the ARO, will be held as part of the 2004 annual Academy meeting (9/19-22) in New York, New York. 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>.

ARO 2003 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 2003 922 members completed the pre-meeting questionnaire, while 314 completed the post-meeting questionnaire. These numbers represent an increase from 2002, when 770 and 168 completed the pre- and post-meeting questionnaires.

Unlike 2002, when 90% of respondents rated the overall meeting as "outstanding" or "excellent," in 2003 only 70% of members rated the meeting as "outstanding" or "excellent." As in previous years, the Contributed Posters received the most "outstanding" or "excellent" ratings (73%), followed by Symposia (62%), and the podium sessions (60%). Seventy-five percent of respondents rated the Presidential Lecture as "outstanding" or "excellent." On the pre-meeting questionnaire, 58% of members wished to have no change in the format of the MWM, and 60% of post-meeting respondents agreed. All of these numbers were similar to 2002.

In contrast to previous years, the members expressed dissatisfaction with the Meeting Place and Hotel Accommodations, which received only 31% each of "outstanding" or "excellent" ratings, compared with 70% and 54% in 2002.

There were many positive comments about the Poster Sessions and Symposia, although there were complaints about the long walks between the two types of presentations, the distance of the exhibitors from the posters, and crowding in the poster sessions.

An overwhelming number strongly disliked the Daytona Beach environment, including its lack of attractiveness, restaurants, and how it compares negatively to St. Petersburg Beach. There were also numerous negative comments about the hotel's appearance, layout, small room size, and services.

Both the pre-meeting and post-meeting questionnaires contained questions regarding whether to continue to publish the abstract book. Sixty-three percent of respondents on the pre-meeting questionnaire voted for the ARO to continue printing the book, as well as making abstracts available on the website, while 35% would be satisfied with having abstracts available on the website only. However, in the post-meeting questionnaire, 65% of respondents were willing to have the abstract book on CD-Rom and website only.

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

ARO Symposia, Workshops and Special Events for 2004

Short Course

- Embryonic Stem Cells: From Cell Culture to Clinic

Symposia

- The Influence of Evan Relkin on Auditory Science: From the Middle Ear to the CNS and Back Again
- Virally-mediated Gene Transfer: From virology to practice
- Cell Adhesion: Lessons for the Development and the Physiology of Hair Cells
- Vestibular Development and Adaptation During Spaceflight
- Chemosensation
- Neurotrophin Induced Neuroprotection
- Neurobiological Perspectives on the Inferior Colliculus: Generalized Systems and Species Specializations

ARO 2005 MidWinter Meeting Call for Workshop and Symposium Proposals



The ARO Program Committee is presently soliciting proposals for Symposia and Workshops for the 2005 MidWinter Meeting. The deadline for proposals is February 16, 2004. Symposia and Workshops for the 2005 ARO Meeting will be selected by the ARO Program Committee when they meet during the 2004 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.

All proposals received prior to February 16, 2004 will be reviewed by the ARO Program Committee at the 2004 ARO MidWinter Meeting, February 24.

Send Proposals to:

Robert V. Shannon
House Ear Institute
2100 W. Third St.
Los Angeles, CA 90057 USA
PHONE: (213) 353-7020
FAX: (213) 413-0950
E-mail: Shannon@hei.org
E-mail is the preferred medium.

ARO Council (2003)

Photo by D. Lim



Pictured are: (L to R): N. Kraus, S. Rauch, E. Keithley, W. Brownell, R. Miyamoto, R. Shannon, D. Oertel, P. Wackym, E. Monsell, P. Santi, and D. Lim

Members In The News

Karen Avraham



Dr. Karen Avraham, an Israeli American of Tel Aviv University, and Dr. Moien Kana'an, a Palestinian from Bethlehem University have maintained their research collaboration on understanding the genetics of hearing loss despite the violence in the region.

Their team has identified four genes related to deafness and have collected data on 59 Israeli and 74 Palestinian families. They recently received a \$100,000 donation from John Sulston's share of the Dan David Foundation prize to foster collaborations between Tel Aviv University and Bethlehem University. The funding will provide scholarships to Palestinian students studying in Tel Aviv in the field of genomics, with joint advisors from Tel Aviv and Bethlehem.

Dr. Karen Avraham, says, "If all Israelis and Palestinians could work together as we do, and truly like each other, there would certainly be peace and two constructive countries and people living side by side."

Christine Petit



Christine Petit has been nominated Professor at the Collège de France at the "Chaire de Génétique et physiologie cellulaire" in December 2001, and elected Member of the French Academy of Sciences in 2002. She received the prestigious French Academy of Sciences Charles Leopold Mayer Award for her team's work in identifying the causative genes for numerous forms of sensory defects and clarifying the molecular bases and pathogenic mechanisms of human hereditary deafness. Her team showed that the DFNB1 gene is responsible for half of the cases of deafness that are recessive.

Photo by D. Lim



Pictured are: (L to R): A. Donahue, Congressman Pallone, D. Oertel, and J. Battey

Congressman Pallone Receives ARO 2003 Distinguished Public Service Award

The Honorable Frank Pallone, US Congressman from the State of New Jersey, was the guest of honor at the congressional reception held during the 2003 MidWinter Meeting. He received the ARO Distinguished Public Service Award from ARO President Donata Oertel for his continued support of the health care community.

Congressman Pallone is recognized as a leader on such issues as expanding health care access and affordability and protecting the integrity of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. He is also a senior member of the House Commerce Committee, which has direct jurisdiction over the amount of funding for NIH, and the NIDCD.

JARO Update



JARO is having another successful year, despite some growing pains. Because a backlog of accepted papers has accumulated over the past year, the time lag to publication had grown too long. In order to shorten the lag, the ARO Council agreed to increase the number of pages printed in the next two issues, which should eliminate the backlog and return the lag to 6 months or less. The editors are also working to reduce the length of papers, which should also help to use journal space efficiently.

JARO Associate Editors serve for three-year terms. This year, Nell Cant, Jay Goldberg, Nina Kraus, Geoff Manley, and Ed Rubel

completed their terms. The ARO is indebted to them for their service to the journal. New associate editors include Kate Barald, Kathleen Cullen, Jos Eggermont, Christine Koepl, Doug Oliver, and Brad Schulte, who will serve until 2006.

Recently our publisher, Springer-Verlag, changed their website provider and modernized the JARO website. This has resulted in some confusion as issues of the journal were not included in the new website and some papers were deleted from Online First. Springer and the web provider are working to repair the damage, which should be completed by the time you are reading this. On behalf of JARO, I apologize for the inconvenience and loss of service during the switch.

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

Upcoming ARO MidWinter Meetings

Year Dates

- 2004 February 22 - 26
- 2005 February 27 - March 3
- 2006 February 26 - March 2
- 2007 February 25 - March 1

Location

Adam's Mark Daytona Beach Resort
Daytona Beach, Florida USA

Association for Research in Otolaryngology

19 Mantua Road
Mt. Royal, NJ 08061 USA
Website: <http://www.aro.org>

Headquarters

Darla Dobson, ARO Executive Director
Phone: (856) 423-0041
Fax: (856) 423-3420
E-mail: headquarters@aro.org

Meetings Department

Lisa Astorga, ARO Meeting Manager
Phone: (856) 423-7222 x350
Fax: (856) 423-3420
E-mail: meetings@aro.org

ARO Newsletter Staff

Peter Santi, Ph.D., Editor
E-mail: psanti@umn.edu
Cara Davis, Editorial Assistant
E-mail: cdavis@talley.com



Overview map of the location for the ARO meeting with attractions listed



The Association for Research in Otolaryngology

19 Mantua Road

Mt. Royal, NJ 08061 USA

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