

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

David R. Friedland, M.D., Ph.D.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nancy M. Young, M.D.



A new public facing era for the AOS has begun. It is enabled by our new website developed under the leadership of Council Fellows **David Friedland**, **Dennis Poe** and **Nik Blevins**, and social media initiative led by **Sujana Chandrasekar**. In 1868 AOS began as senior society of clinicians dedicated to education of professionals and research. The Council's goal is to position the AOS to educate the public about ear related disorders, the expertise of our fellows, and the importance of otologic research. Neither we nor the public should view our fellows as subspecialists with narrow focus, but as experts in hearing and vestibular disorders that affect the health and quality of life of everyone across the lifespan, either directly or indirectly through a loved one.

Our endowment began with a generous donation by two Fellows almost 100 years ago. Compounding and careful stewardship have enabled the AOS to provide more than 8 million dollars in research grants. Most of our grant recipients have gone on to receive federal funding. Our research advisory board brilliantly led for the past 7 years by Fellow **Andrea Vambutas** and now by Fellow **Richard Gurgel**, annually provides 400K to worthy applicants. We support many early-stage MD and PhD investigators without requiring AOS membership. Recently the cost of research and challenges to secure funding have risen. For these reasons it is a Council priority to increase our endowment through philanthropy.

The AOS Council is also working to augment our website to provide continuously updated scientific and clinical content and initiatives to increase the public's knowledge about otologic disorders. Our webinar series targets healthcare professionals, scientists, and the public. During my presidency I have chosen topics that illustrate the importance of neuroscience in research and treatment. In October 2025, **Sound Mind: Hearing Loss and Cognitive Health** attracted physicians and many audiologists. Our most recent Webinar, **Music Hearing Loss and the Brain: A Conversation with Francis Collins and Huey Lewis** led by AOS Fellow **Charles Limb** attracted a diverse audience and received much positive feedback. Huey shares that he received comprehensive care from many neurotologists, all Fellows of the AOS, including Council Fellows **Bill Slattery** and **Nik Blevins**, **Colin Driscoll (his surgeon)**, **Charles Limb**, **Steven Rauch** and **Aaron Tward!!** A third webinar on June 9th being developed by Education Director **Brad Kesser** will be a collaboration between the AOS and the Korean Otological Society. It will focus on tinnitus and the brain. Stay tuned for more news about this upcoming webinar!

This has been a historic year for our society. First, a **record 141 abstracts were submitted** for podium and poster presentations at the upcoming Spring AOS meeting in Phoenix. Many thanks to the AOS Program Advisory Committee (page 4) for their tremendous effort to review and score abstracts for selection. Fortunately, we were able to expand the number of posters to a record 73. Second, the **number of applicants to join our society hit a record high**. The dedication of AOS Membership Liaison **Ana Kim** led to a record-breaking number of applicants this year. At the AOS business meeting and the Saturday evening banquet, I will have the pleasure of welcoming 15 outstanding new Fellows (page 6-8). Their photos and professional biographies are on the AOS website and social media posts welcoming them to the AOS are in progress. Many thanks to their proposers.

I would also like to welcome **Matthew Bush**, the incoming Editor in Chief of *Otology & Neurotology*. Many thanks to **Larry Lustig** for his 10 years of leadership during which the journal flourished. (see farewell message on page 9).

I am excited about this year's AOS program (highlights on page 3). **Catherine Birman**, OAM, MBBS, PhD FRACS, Clinical Professor affiliated with multiple universities & medical centers in Sidney, Australia and **Patrick Wong**, PhD, Director, Brain and Mind Institute and Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience & Linguistics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong will be providing the Saamil Merchant and Guest of Honor lecture, respectively. Four distinguished AOS Fellows will provide expert presentations in addition to the competitively selected podium presentations and two panels.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED

Recipients of this year’s Presidential Citations will be **Karen I. Berliner, PhD, Kevin D. Brown, MD, PhD, Teresa H. Caraway, PhD, René H. Gifford, PhD, Ronna Hertzano, MD, PhD, Karen Iler Kirk, PhD, Debara L. Tucci, MD, MS, MBA** for their important contributions.

I would also like to thank **Kristen Bordignon**, Executive Administrator, and **Douglas Gossard**, Administrative Assistant, for their support that is critical to the success of our society. *FYI they are not married, but sister and brother!*

I look forward to seeing all of you in Phoenix. Tickets to the AOS President’s Banquet are available on the [AOS website](#) . It has been my honor to serve on the Council and as AOS President. I wish to thank all the Council Fellows I have had the privilege to work with for their considerable efforts to move the AOS forward and for their collegiality in sharing their knowledge, perspectives, and creativity.

Warm regards,
Nancy
 Nancy M. Young, MD

Food for thought:

"Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing." *Albert Einstein*

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." *Maya Angelou*

**AOS COUNCIL
 2025-2026**

PRESIDENT

Nancy M. Young, MD
 Lurie Children's Hospital
 Chicago, IL

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

William H. Slattery III, MD
 House Ear Clinic
 Los Angeles, CA

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Nikolas H. Blevins, MD
 Stanford University
 Stanford, CA

PAST PRESIDENT

Sujana S. Chandrasekhar, MD
 ENT & Allergy Associates
 New York, NY

SECRETARY/TREASURER

David R. Friedland, MD, PhD
 University of Southern California
 Los Angeles, CA

MEMBER AT LARGE

Dennis S. Poe, MD, PhD
 Boston Children’s / Harvard
 Boston, MA

EDUCATION DIRECTOR

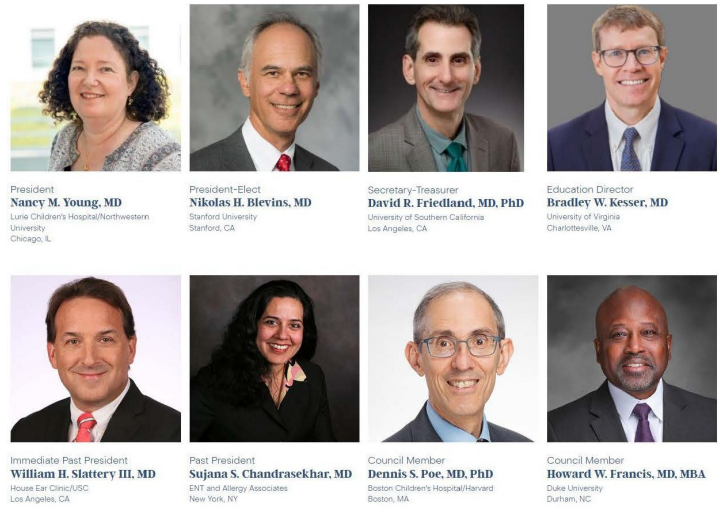
Bradley W. Kesser, MD
 University of Virginia
 Charlottesville, VA

MEMBER AT LARGE

Howard W. Francis, MD, MBA
 Duke University
 Durham, NC

AOS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Kristen Bordignon, Executive Administrator
 Douglas Gossard, Administrative Assistant
 5830 1st St N
 St. Petersburg, FL 33703
 Ph: 217-638-0801; Fax: 727-800-9428
administrator@americanotologicalsociety.org
<https://www.americanotologicalsociety.org/>



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE	1-2
AOS COUNCIL/CONTACT US	2
COSM AT A GLANCE	3
AOS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS	3
PROGRAM COMMITTEE	4
AOS CALL FOR PAPERS 2027	4
AOS WEBSITE	5
AOS NEW FELLOWS	6-8
O&N EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FAREWELL	9
RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD	10
WEBINARS/MISC INFO	11
<u>CLICK HERE TO VIEW AOS 159th PROGRAM BOOK</u>	

AOS & ANS COSM SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

ALL EVENTS AT THE SHERATON HOTEL OR THE PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

AOS Business meeting - 1:00 PM (open to all registered attendees)
New member introduction

AOS Scientific Session - 1:30 - 5:10 PM
Convention Center Ballroom 101ABC-Level one
(AOS & ANS Poster award winners announced at 4:10 PM)

AOS Members Annual Photograph - 5:15 PM
Convention Center - Ballroom 103B

2nd Combined COSM Poster Group (ANS, AOS, ARS, ASPO)
(Exhibit Hall-Lower Level Convention Center)
Poster Viewing - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Friday and Saturday
Meet the Authors Reception - Friday, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

WiN RECEPTION (Women in Neurotology)
6:00-7:00 PM
Location: Sheraton - Valley of the Sun A
Sponsored by Cochlear Americas

ANS PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION
7:00-8:30 PM
Location: Sheraton - Valley of the Sun DE
(Members/invited guests only-complimentary with paid registration)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

AOS Business meeting - 7:00 AM (open to all registered attendees, light breakfast served) (Journal / Committee Reports)

AOS Scientific Session - 7:30 AM - Noon
Convention Center Ballroom 101ABC-Level one

ANS Business meeting - 1:00 PM (open to all registered attendees)
New member introduction

ANS Scientific Session - 1:30 - 5:00 PM
Convention Center Ballroom 101ABC-Level one

2nd Combined COSM Poster Group
Poster Viewing: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (poster removal 4-6 PM)

AOS PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION/BANQUET - GET YOUR TICKET NOW!!

WELCOME/COCKTAILS - 6:00 - 6:30 PM
Sheraton - Valley of the Sun DE

DINNER/PRESENTATIONS/DANCING - 6:30 - 11:00 PM
Sheraton - Valley of the Sun C

(Members/invited guests only-Advanced ticket purchase required)
If you would like to attend the banquet and have not purchased a ticket on the AOS website, please contact [Kristen Bordignon](#)

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

ANS Business meeting - 7:00 AM (open to all registered attendees, light breakfast served) (Journal / Committee Reports)

ANS Scientific Session - 7:30 AM - Noon
Convention Center Ballroom 101 ABC

AOS SPRING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY - 1:00 PM, APRIL 24 (in order of presentation)

PRESIDENTIAL CITATIONS

Karen I. Berliner, PhD
Kevin D. Brown, MD, PhD
Teresa H. Caraway, PhD
René H. Gifford, PhD
Ronna Hertzano, MD, PhD
Karen Iler Kirk, PhD
Debara L. Tucci, MD, MS, MBA

GUEST OF HONOR LECTURE

Using Neural Data to Predict Language Development Across Populations of Children
Patrick C.M. Wong, PhD

EXPERT PRESENTATION

Supporting Innovation in Human Temporal Bone Research
Debara L. Tucci, MD, MS, MBA

EXPERT PRESENTATION

Cellular-level Imaging of the Inner Ear
Konstantina M. Stankovic, MD, PhD

PANEL - CAN TODAY'S MRI TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORM CHOLESTEATOMA CLINICAL PRACTICE?

Andrea Vambutas, MD, Moderator
Nikolas H. Blevins, MD
Maura E. Ryan, MD
Brandon Isaacson, MD
Samantha Anne, MD, MS

SATURDAY - 7:00 AM, APRIL 25 (in order of presentation)

CLINICIAN SCIENTIST AWARD PRESENTATION

Spatiotemporal Dynamics and Mechanism of Intracochlear Fibrosis & Neo-ossification after Cochlear Implantation
Alexander D. Claussen, MD

SAUMIL N. MERCHANT MEMORIAL LECTURE

Hearing in High Definition: Cochlear Implants and Gene Therapy Unplugged
Catherine Birman, OAM, MBBS, PhD FRACS

EXPERT PRESENTATION

HearGene Connect Registry for Personalized Healthcare
Ronna Hertzano, MD, PhD

EXPERT PRESENTATION

Imaging Imagination: Musical Creativity & the Brain
Charles Limb, MD

PANEL - BEYOND THE OR - MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE TO IMPROVE CI OUTCOMES

Nancy M. Young, MD, Moderator
Kevin D. Brown, MD, PhD
René H. Gifford, PhD
Jace Wolfe, PhD

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN PHOENIX!



AOS MEMBERS!

HAVE YOU PURCHASED YOUR AOS PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION AND BANQUET TICKET YET?

JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES FOR AN EVENING OF FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
SHERATON PHOENIX
VALLEY OF THE SUN BALLROOM C
6:00 PM – 11:00 PM**



Tickets must be purchased in advance on the AOS website via your member profile or email Kristen at the AOS Administrative office

Would you like to be considered as a presenter at the next AOS meeting!?

**CALL FOR PAPERS!
SEPT 1 - OCT 22, 2026**

**160th ANNUAL MEETING
AMERICAN OTOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SEATTLE, WA
APRIL 9-11, 2027**

Note later submission deadline due to ANS FAB FRIDAY and the AAO-HNS/F annual meeting dates of October 16-20 in LA.

THE AMERICAN OTOLOGICAL SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2026 AOS SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Nancy M. Young, MD, AOS President, Chair
- Bradley W. Kesser, MD, AOS Education Director
- Yuri Agrawal, MD, MPH
- Kevin D. Brown, MD, PhD
- Wade W. Chien, MD
- Maura K. Cosetti, MD
- Sharon L. Cushing, MD, MSc
- Soha N. Ghossaini, MD
- Richard K. Gurgel, MD, MSCI
- David S. Haynes, MD, MMHC
- David M. Kaylie, MD, MS
- Anil K. Lalwani, MD
- Kenneth H. Lee, MD
- Aaron C. Moberly, MD
- Christina Runge, PhD
- Erika A. Woodson, MD
- Daniel M. Zeitler, MD

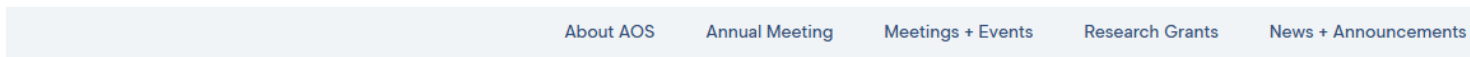
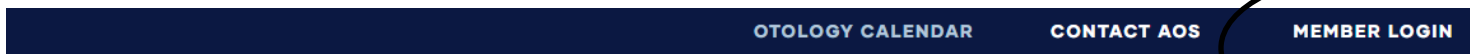
POSTER JUDGES

- Wade W. Chien, MD
- Maura K. Cosetti, MD
- Sharon L. Cushing, MD, MSc
- Anil K. Lalwani, MD

MODERATORS

- Yuri Agrawal, MD, MPH
- Wade W. Chien, MD
- Maura K. Cosetti, MD
- Sharon L. Cushing, MD, MSc
- Soha N. Ghossaini, MD
- Richard K. Gurgel, MD, MSCI
- David S. Haynes, MD, MMHC
- Michael Hoa, MD
- David M. Kaylie, MD, MS
- Anil K. Lalwani, MD
- Kenneth H. Lee, MD
- Aaron C. Moberly, MD
- Christina Runge, PhD
- Andrea Vambutas, MD
- Erika A. Woodson, MD
- Daniel M. Zeitler, MD

A FRESH LOOK FOR AOS: A NEW WEBSITE!



Key features of the new AOS website

- Contemporary, modern design
- User-friendly navigation
- Expanded informative content
- Enhanced community engagement
- Integrated fundraising features
- Improved search functionality

Members Login Portal - see image →

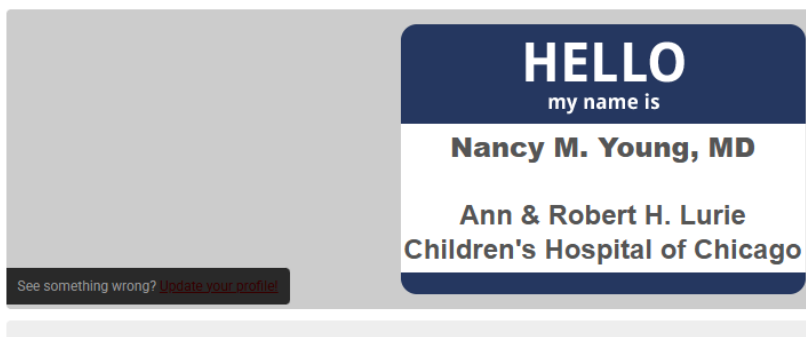
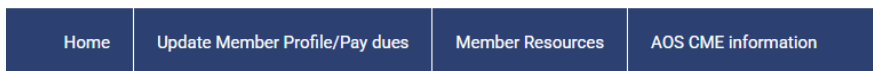
Members can securely log in to access a range of essential services.

- Pay annual dues
- Update member profile
- Register for the annual President’s gala
- Access the CME evaluation portal
- Submit abstracts
- More member resources coming soon!

This dual platform not only enhances public education on hearing/balance-related issues but also maintains the essential features of our original site for members, ensuring that both visitors and members can find the information and services they need in one cohesive site.



The American Otological Society



Welcome to the AOS Member's Only Area

Members may search for colleagues contact information when logged in under the [MEMBER SEARCH](#) tab.

[Members - Please purchase your AOS President's Banquet/Gala ticket here.](#)

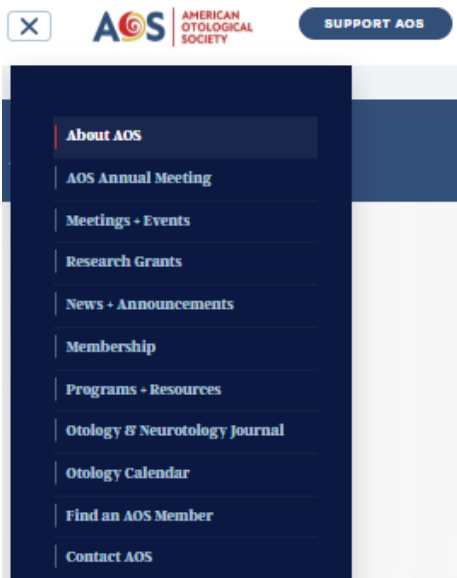
Saturday, April 25, 2026 at the Sheraton Phoenix
Hosted by AOS President, Dr. Nancy Young

AOS SOCIAL MEDIA

To truly embrace the vision of our newly redesigned website, we are excited to announce the launch of the AOS Social Media presence. Under the exceptional leadership and creativity of past President Dr. Sujana Chandrasekhar and AOS Fellow Dr. Robert Hong, our social media platforms will serve as vibrant resources for everyone interested in advancing knowledge about hearing health, hearing loss and balance.

Please tag and follow us on the following platforms!

- [INSTAGRAM](#)
- [LINKEDIN](#)
- [X/TWITTER](#)



WELCOME FIFTEEN NEW AOS FELLOWS!
(in alphabetical order)



Samantha Anne, MD, MS

Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, Ohio

Proposed by: Oliver F. Adunka, MD, MBA
Seconded by: Kevin D. Brown, MD, PhD



Seilesh Babu, MD

Michigan Ear Institute
Farmington Hills, Michigan

Proposed by: Matthew L. Bush, MD, PhD, MB
Seconded by: George Wanna, MD, MHCM

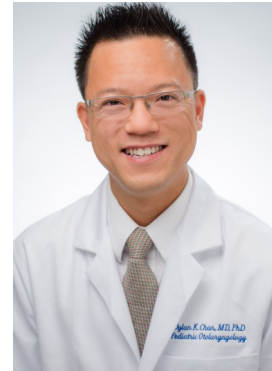


Matthew L. Carlson, MD, MBA

Mayo Clinic

Rochester, Minnesota

Proposed by: David S. Haynes, MD, MMHC
Seconded by: George Wanna, MD, MHCM



Dylan K. Chan MD, PhD

University of California UCSF
San Francisco, California

Proposed by: Charles J. Limb, MD
Seconded by: Sharon L. Cushing, MD



Christine T. Dinh, MD

University of Miami
Miami, Florida

Proposed by: Fred Telischi, MD
Seconded by: Simon Angeli, MD



Todd A. Hillman, MD

Pittsburgh Ear Associates
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Proposed by: Douglas A. Chen MD
Seconded by: P. Ashley Wackym, MD

WELCOME FIFTEEN NEW AOS FELLOWS!

(cont)

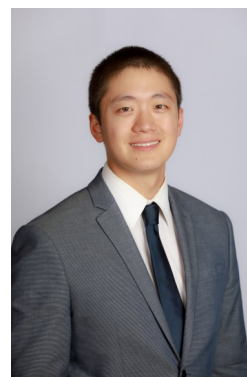


Gavriel D. Kohlberg, MD

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Proposed by: Jay T. Rubinstein, MD, PhD

Seconded by: Ravi N. Samy, MD



Kevin A. Peng, MD

House Clinic
Los Angeles, California

Proposed by: Derald E. Brackmann, MD

Seconded by: John W. House, MD



Alicia M. Quesnel, MD

Mass Eye and Ear / Harvard
Boston, Massachusetts

Proposed by: Daniel J. Lee, MD

Seconded by: Michael J. McKenna, MD



Aaron K. Remenschneider, MD, MPH

Boston Children's Hospital / Mass Eye and Ear
Boston, Massachusetts

Proposed by: Yuri Agrawal, MD, MPH

Seconded by: Michael J. McKenna, MD



Celine Richard, MD, PhD, PD, MBA

UTHSC / Lebonheur Children's Hospital
Memphis, Tennessee

Proposed by: Joni K. Doherty, MD, PhD

Seconded by: Adrien Eshraghi, MD, MSc



Piotr H. Skarzynski MD, PhD, MSC

Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing
Warsaw, Poland

Proposed by: Kenneth H. Lee, MD, PhD

Seconded by: Lawrence R. Lustig, MD

WELCOME FIFTEEN NEW AOS FELLOWS!

(cont)



Aaron D. Tward, MD, PhD
University of California UCSF
San Francisco, California

Proposed by: Michael J. McKenna, MD
Seconded by: Yuri Agrawal, MD, MPH



Esther X. Vivas, MD
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

Proposed by: Douglas E. Mattox, MD
Seconded by: Barry E. Hirsch, MD



Bryan K. Ward, MD
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Proposed by: John P. Carey, MD
Seconded by: Charley C. Della Santina, MD, PhD

Join us for the induction of our new Fellows at the 1st AOS business meeting on Friday, April 24th in Phoenix at 1:00 PM at the Convention Center, followed by a more personal introduction/presentation at the AOS President’s gala on Saturday evening, April 25th at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown!

If you are unable to attend this year, click on the new Fellow’s name to get to know them.

AOS MEMBERSHIP

We encourage our AOS members to reach out to qualified applicants and encourage them to apply for membership.

For a list of qualifications and the online application, please visit the AOS website:

<https://americanotologicalsociety.org/membership/#propose>

You may also reach out to our membership liaison, [Dr. Ana Kim](#) if you have any questions about eligibility.

AOS Membership applications are due on September 1st for consideration of membership/induction the following Spring.

Ten Years of Progress and Partnership in Otology & Neurotology

After ten years serving as Editor-in-Chief of *Otology & Neurotology*, the time has come for me to step down from this role. It has been an extraordinary honor and privilege to help steward the journal during a decade of remarkable scientific and clinical progress in our field. I am deeply grateful to the many individuals whose dedication and expertise have sustained the journal and the discipline it represents.

Over the past decade, the field of otology and neurotology has continued to advance at an impressive pace. We have witnessed important developments in cochlear implantation and hearing rehabilitation, an expanding understanding of the molecular and genetic basis of hearing loss, and significant innovations in skull base and vestibular surgery. Emerging work in hair cell regeneration, cochlear gene therapy, and inner ear drug delivery suggests that the coming years will bring transformative approaches to treating hearing and balance disorders. Throughout this period, *Otology & Neurotology* has served as a forum for disseminating these discoveries, reflecting both the scientific rigor and the clinical creativity that define our specialty.

Over the past decade, the journal has evolved alongside the field. We strengthened our role as a **premier** forum for systematic reviews and meta-analyses by cultivating a cadre of Cochrane reviewers; expanded our formats with video reports; established an Assistant Editor focused on artificial intelligence and large language models; and positioned the journal to publish clinical guidelines in otology and neurotology that can standardize and improve patient outcomes.

I would like to recognize the Editors-in-Chief who built and shaped this journal long before my tenure. The journal, originally the *American Journal of Otology*, was founded in 1976 by Michael Glasscock, whose vision established a dedicated platform for scholarship in our field. His successor, C. Gary Jackson, continued to successfully steward the journal after Dr. Glasscock stepped down in 1985. In 1995, Dr. Robert Jackler took the helm and expanded the journal's focus and reputation, including the name change to *Otology & Neurotology* to reflect our expanding specialty. Following in Dr. Jackler's footsteps, Dr. John Niparko assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief in 2006, which he held through his untimely passing in 2016. Dr. Niparko's leadership and commitment to academic excellence left a lasting imprint on the journal and on our field. Their combined legacy has helped support the American Otological Society, the American Neurotology Society, and our affiliated societies around the world, including the European Academy of Otology & Neuro-Otology, the Japan Otological Society, the Pulitzer Society, and ADANO.

The daily success of *Otology & Neurotology* rests heavily on the work of its Assistant and Associate Editors. These colleagues devote substantial time and expertise to guiding manuscripts through the review process, ensuring both fairness and scientific rigor. Their thoughtful stewardship is essential to maintaining the quality and credibility of the journal, and I could not have worked with a better team during my time as Editor-in-Chief. I will be forever grateful for their tireless efforts. I would especially like to thank Dr. Benjamin Crane, my longtime Associate Editor, whose invaluable insights and help made my job infinitely easier.

Equally deserving of recognition are the many reviewers who evaluate submissions with care and professionalism. Peer review is the foundation of scientific publishing, and the willingness of our colleagues to contribute their time and expertise—often anonymously and without recognition—is an enduring testament to the collaborative spirit of our field.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to our partners at Wolters Kluwer, whose editorial and production teams have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the journal operates smoothly and continues to reach readers around the world. Marianna Hagan and, more recently, Mackenzie Aronhalt have been incredible as our editorial assistants, seamlessly helping authors, reviewers, and our editorial team navigate the complex process of manuscript submission and peer review on a daily basis. Our internal WK team, led initially by Ginny Pittman and more recently by Stella Bebbs, has been equally important to the success of our journal.

Finally, and most importantly, I am absolutely delighted to congratulate Dr. Matthew Bush on his selection as the next Editor-in-Chief of *Otology & Neurotology*. Dr. Bush is an outstanding clinician-scientist and an internationally respected and thoughtful leader in our specialty. I have great confidence that under his guidance, the journal will continue to flourish and serve as a leading voice for scholarship in otology and neurotology around the world.

Serving as Editor-in-Chief has been one of the great professional honors of my career. I am grateful to the authors, editors, reviewers, and readers who have supported the journal and contributed to its success. As I step aside, I look forward to watching the continued growth of both the journal and the field it represents.

Larry Lustig
O&N EIC 2016-2026

AOS RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD

The Research Advisory Board (RAB) met in person on March 7, 2026 in New York City. Thirty-three LOI’s were received on November 1st and the Board invited 22 applicants to submit a full application. The Board received 19 new grant applications and 1 Clinician Scientist Award renewal. All grant applications were reviewed onsite. The Board is recommending funding for six new grants and a CSA renewal (year 2) in the amount of \$391,000 for funding cycle, July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027. The AOS Council will review recommendations at their next meeting in April and applicants will be notified by June 1st.

AOS Grant Funding is our core mission and greatest achievement with over \$8 million distributed to date.

The American Otological Society is committed to the non-promotional advancement of knowledge and science and to a free exchange of medical education in otology and neurotology. The American Otological Society, through its Research Foundation, is offering Research Grant Awards, an Award for a Clinical Trial, full-time Research Training Fellowships, a Clinician-Scientist Award and new in 2026, a Multi Centered Clinical Cooperative Seed grant (*seed grant is exclusive to AOS members only*). All of the AOS grant awards may involve research on any topic related to ear disorders. The research need not be directly on an otological disease but may explore normal functions of the cochlea, labyrinth or central auditory or vestibular systems. However, the applicant must describe how the proposed research will benefit our understanding, diagnosis or treatment of otological disorders. Research supported by all of the grant mechanisms can relate to any aspects of the ear, hearing and balance disorders.

If you would like to submit a grant for consideration of funding in 2027-2028, a letter of intent and biosketch, including details regarding other existing support, must be submitted by November 1, 2026. The next funding cycle begins July 1, 2027. The letter of intent must state the desired grant mechanism for the proposal (CSA, Clinical Investigation, Research Grant, Fellowship grant, or Multi Centered Clinical Cooperative Seed grant), the Principal Investigator and Institution(s), a working title and abstract and include Specific Aims and a proposal and lay summary. Complete applications will be invited from selected applicants based on RAB review of the letters of intent. Applicants will be notified whether they are invited to submit a full application the first week of December. Applications must be received by January 31, 2027.

The Research Advisory Board (RAB) is comprised of seven AOS members, each serving a 7-year term and three consultants, each serving a 5-year term. These individuals are selected from a pool of highly respected otologic researchers. →

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to AOS Fellow, **Andrea Vambutas**, as she completes her remarkable seven-year tenure as the RAB Executive Secretary. Dr. Vambutas has served with exceptional dedication, bringing an extraordinary level of intelligence and unwavering attention to detail to every aspect of her role. Her organization, efficiency, and thoughtful leadership have been instrumental in advancing the mission of the Society. We are pleased to welcome AOS Fellow, Dr. Richard Gurgel as the incoming Executive Secretary and AOS Fellow, Dr. Ben Crane as the new trustee.



**AOS RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD
2025-2026**

- Andrea Vambutas, MD, Executive Secretary
- Richard K. Gurgel, MD, MSCI, Executive Secretary-Elect
- Samuel Gubbels, MD, Trustee
- Ronna Hertzano, MD, PhD Trustee
- Wade W. Chien, MD, Trustee
- Sharon Cushing, MD, MSc, Trustee
- Rick Nelson, MD, PhD, Trustee
- Benjamin Crane, MD, PhD, Trustee
- Amanda M. Lauer, MS, PhD, Consultant
- Radha Kalluri, PhD, Consultant
- Hari Bharadwaj, PhD, Consultant



