

Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum

Amicitiae Sacrum

Founded in 1926

General Secretary:

Prof. René Dauman



Bordeaux, 22 December 2014

Dear Members and Friends of the Collegium,

With his striking sense of wording, the British historian Steven Runciman describes the *Fall of Constantinople*, in 1453, as a tragedy for the Greek people and, at the same time, a new start for the Ottoman Empire. By hosting the **61th CORLAS meeting** at the edge of the Marmora Sea, close to the Bosphorus entrance, **President Metin Önerci** enabled some 225 members, guests and accompanying persons to realize the dual meaning of this middle-age crucial event. Behind the long murals that had contributed to its fame, the capital of the *fifteenth-century Byzantine Empire* was in a weaker position than it seemed at first sight. While economical power and political influence of Byzantium had inexorably been declining over the previous decades, the Turkish army had become the strongest armada of this part of the world, both in terms of infantry, cavalry, artillery and, above all, organization of its components. This remarkable military development was made possible by the talent of rulers such as Osman, Orhan, Murad (I and II) and Mehmet II. The Ottoman sultanate's final victory was accelerated by divisions in Christendom. The reasons for disagreement were, first, religious as a result of the long-lasting theological conflict between Western (Rome) and Eastern (Constantinople) Church, the Vatican being even more reluctant to bring military support to a community that refused its leadership. There were also other sources of limited cooperation between Western forces, such as struggle for influence between occidental monarchs and trade rivalry between Genoese and Venetian states, among others.

The **Corlas Board** met on Saturday 23 August 2014 at Polat Renaissance hotel, the venue of the conference. The proposals made by the Board to the General Assembly will be described in the section devoted to Business meeting. For the time being, the composition of the Board throughout the whole conference is recalled: Metin Önerci (President), Orhan Ozturan (Vice-President), René Dauman (General Secretary), Reidar Grénman (Treasurer), Ashley Wackym (President-Elect and Second Secretary), Wolfgang Arnold (Counsellor), Yasuo Hisa (Counsellor), Hamlet Suarez (Counsellor), and Matti Anniko (Editor to the Acta, the reference review for the conference-related manuscripts). The Credentials committee consisting of Allen Ryan (USA, President), René Leemans (The Netherlands) and Patrice Tran Ba Huy (at the end of his last term, France) joined the Board in its second part.

SUNDAY AUGUST 24, THE FAMILY TOUR. Members and their accompanying persons were conveyed to the harbour in four buses and invited to get aboard of a private boat arranged by our President.



On the way to the Princes' Islands, we could see a ship conducting visitors to an ancient fortress with hexagonal tower offering a littoral view of Istanbul (reproduced by courtesy of Peter Klussmann).



The magnificent spectacle of the Blue Mosque is outlined against the blue Marmora Sea (reproduced by courtesy of Peter Klussmann).



The horse-drawn carriages contribute to the picturesqueness of Princes' Island, our destination. Before using this means of transportation, many of us walked to the summit of the mount where a superb vision of scattered islands rewarded the climbers (Metin Önerci with Peter Klussmann's family, his wife Fatma, his daughter Paula, and his son Jonas).



Lunch was served in a refreshing garden, under the protection of sunshades and trees (reproduced by courtesy of Mamoru Suzuki).



The **Presidential reception** took place around the swimming pool of Polat Renaissance hotel in a relaxing atmosphere (courtesy of Metin Önerci). In the front, Ashley Wackym is already preparing the 2015 meeting with Herman Jenkins and Anil Lalwani.



MONDAY AUGUST 25, FIRST DAY OF CONFERENCE. During the **Opening ceremony**, President Metin Önerci showed that the settlers of the city had not foreseen the tremendous potential of this area, especially with what would later be known as the Golden Horn, a strategic zone of seaborne trade. The vital role of Emperor Constantine the Great, adopting an eastern religion and moving his capital eastward, to Byzantium on the Bosphorus, was also emphasized.



In the second part of the ceremony, **Bert Huyzing**, the author with Paul van den Broek of the remarkable Corlas Historical book, gave a brilliant overview of the foundation of our society and adorned several steps of its path with humorous anecdotes. The Collegium is fortunate to have such a distinguished historian capable to depict the roots of Corlas spirit to the newer generation. The Opening ceremony ended with **Prof. Mamoru Suzuki** being awarded with the 33rd **Shambaugh Prize**. A wooden plaque engraved by Ashley Wackym on behalf of the US Corlas group was offered to Mamoru in recognition of his outstanding research in the field of otology.

The scientific session started with an *otological Minisymposium* set by Ed Rubel (Seattle). In his introductory talk targeting birds and mammals central auditory developing pathway, Ed Rubel reported on the cellular events evolving in the auditory brainstem consecutively to peripheral deafferentation of different sources. Then Daniel Polley (as guest from Boston) discussed the effects of brief conductive hearing losses upon interaural cues of binaural hearing assessed at mouse auditory cortex. The final contribution to this Minisymposium was presented by Blake Pepsin (Toronto) who, in collaboration with Karen Gordon, reported on the cortical changes as a function of temporal characteristics of cochlear implantation in congenitally deaf children.

The Oncological session that followed with Dale Brown (Toronto) as moderator, embraced prognostic features of HPV-related cancers, potential usage of robot-guided surgery, and reported on the persisting risk of osteoradionecrosis despite intensity modulation of radiation therapy.



In the two superb group-pictures of page 5, both reproduced with the courtesy of Metin Önerci, the panoramic procedure used by the photographer gives rise to an optic illusion of incurved environment.

After the lunch, a free paper Otology session on cochlear implants was conducted by Wolfgang Gstoettner (Vienna). Different procedures aimed at preventing or minimizing electrode-induced damages to the cochlea were discussed, as well as surgical alternatives to implantation. At the end of this session, biomedical revolution in academic centers was addressed by Lloyd Minor, the new Dean of Stanford medical school.

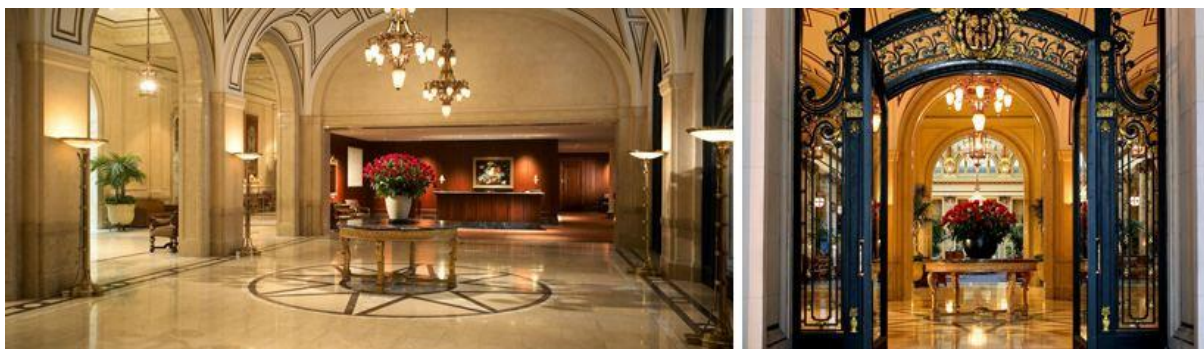
Afterwards, a **Rhinology Minisymposium** took place under the lead of Richard Harvey (Sydney). Apart from the conductor, the participants to the panel were Valerie Lund (London), Mark Jorissen (Leuven), Metin Önerci (Ankara) and Ian Witterick (Toronto). The surgical issues related to malignancy of the nose, paranasal sinus and skull base were analysed in light of evidence base, minimally access interventions appearing capable to reduce the impact of surgery on selected patient populations.

The afternoon ended with the **Business meeting**, the place where the Board proposals are submitted to the General Assembly. The memory of two deceased members was honoured by a minute of silence, *Isamu Sando* (Japan) and *Keehyun Park* (Korea) who passed away at the age of 86 and 63 years, respectively. The Vice-President role of Keehyun Park at the Corlas meeting organized by Chong Kim in 2007 was recalled, and his dignity during Corlas lunch in Seoul six years later while already affected by illness exemplified his wonderful personality. A third member passed away a few days after the end of the Istanbul meeting, *Claus Morgenstern* (Germany), at the age of 77.

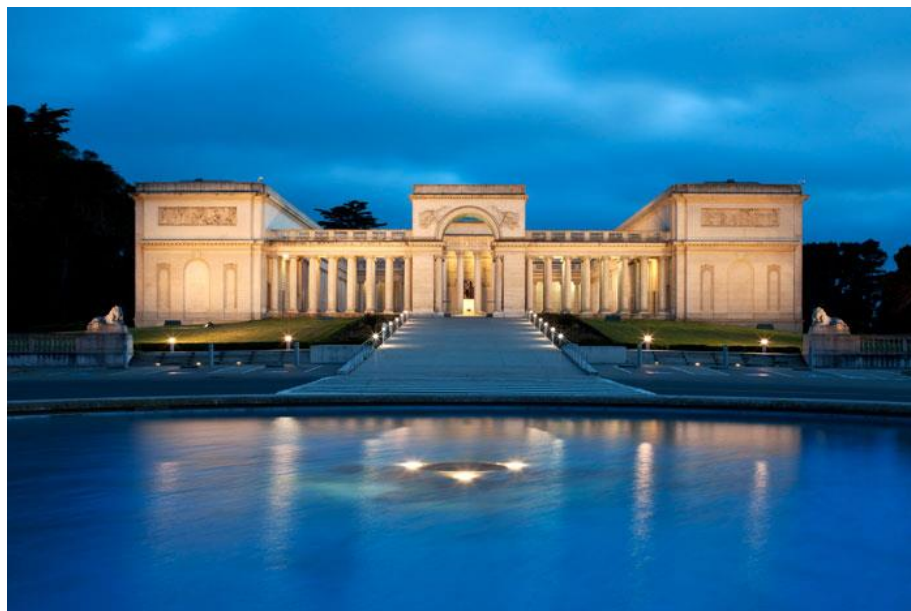
Three new national chairpersons were officially approved: *Remco de Bree* (Amsterdam) for the Netherlands, *Chul Hee Lee* (Seoul) for Korea, and *Karen Avraham* (Tel-Aviv) for Israel. The contribution of their predecessors, Gerrit Hordijk and Josef Elidan, to Corlas life was acknowledged.

The resignation of Jennifer Grandis and Marco Pelizzone from the US and the Swiss group, respectively, was announced. Best wishes of further successful research for the first and deserved retirement for the second were presented.

President-Elect, *Ashley Wackym* (Portland) gave an update of the **2015 conference** organized by the US group. It will take place at **San Francisco**, August 23-26, in the Palace Hotel. In the preparation of this event, Ashley Wackym is being helped by Bert O'Malley (Philadelphia) and *Herman Jenkins* (Aurora) will serve as Vice-President.



The arrangements already set (cultural evening at the Legion of Honor museum pictured below, members' dinner at the California Academy of Sciences, accompanying persons' dinner at the Conservatory of flowers, Gala dinner at San Francisco city hall shown underneath) look promising and the postcongress tour in Napa Valley sounds most exciting to our senses.



The three pictures of Palace Hotel, Legion of Honor museum, and San Francisco city hall are all reproduced by courtesy of Ashley Wackym.



The assembly approved the attribution of 100 € per participant to the members' dinner in San Francisco, as advocated by our Treasurer Reidar Grénman.

The assembly also approved the Board proposal of *Valerie Lund* (United Kingdom) in replacement of Patrice Tran Ba Huy (France), whose work in the **Credentials committee** was unanimously recognised.

The account made by our **Treasurer** revealed an improvement in payment dues by the 305 non-honorary members: from 8 000 € in 2012 to 11 924 € in 2013, but these figures are still far from the target, 15 250 €. Moreover, the relatively large amount of 2013 payments includes 2012 late regularizations and, consequently, non-honorary members are invited to settle their account (see the attached 2015 financial form that can also be downloaded from the member area in the website).

This recommendation doesn't prevail for the few countries which have organized a national collection of their dues (e.g. US). All members who wish to clarify their individual situation can contact our Treasurer (reidar.grenman@tyks.fi). Ideally, dues should be paid *during the first semester* of each year, thus enabling the inclusion of these accounts in the annual Treasurer report of August.

The following statements were made by the **Credentials Committee** during the Board meeting and approved by the assembly:

- Membership is to be restricted to experienced researchers and/or clinicians with sustained scientific activity
- Consequently, minimal age of 40 years is required to warrant stability of scientific career

This year, as reported by Allen Ryan (President of the Committee), 25 names were proposed, among which 7 were rejected and 3 did not submit credential material. The remaining 15 names were accepted and their list is given below in alphabetic order:

- Craig Buchman (University of North Carolina, USA)
- Sebahattin Cüreoğlu (University of Minnesota, Turkey)
- Marlan Hansen (University of Iowa, USA)
- Shinichi Iwasaki (Tokyo University, Medical school, Japan)
- Petri Koivunen (Oulu University Hospital, Finland)
- Hakan Korkmaz (Beyazit University, Ankara, Turkey)
- Bernd Kremer (Maastricht University Medical Center, the Netherlands)
- Sung K. Moon (UCLA School of Medicine, Korea)
- Andrew Oxenham (University of Minnesota, USA)
- Ronen Perez (Shaare Zedek Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel)
- Christian Simon (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)
- Hinrich Staecker (University of Kansas, USA)
- Sandro Stöckli (Kantonsspital St. Gallen, Switzerland)
- Christophe Vincent (University of Lille, France)
- Wendell Yarbrough (University of Yale, USA)

The candidacy of Bordeaux to host the **2016 conference** was supported by the Board and submitted to the Assembly. After President Metin Önerci had verified that no other proposal emerged from the Assembly, Bordeaux was approved as hosting city. In your General Secretary's body this decision elicited an intense emotion and I am most grateful to the Assembly for their acceptance. To avoid any confusion with the 2015 meeting in San Francisco, information on the 2016 meeting will be limited here to the dates, Sunday 28 to Wednesday 31 August, and the name of the Vice-President, *Olivier Sterkers* (Paris).

At the end of the Business meeting, I shared with the Assembly my thoughts on the new situation created by this acceptance. In the past, a coincidence between the function of General Secretary and the meeting Presidency never occurred: *Prof. Peter Pfaltz* had left his position of General Secretary to Prof. Paul van den Broek in 1986, i.e. four years before he organized the meeting in Basel; *Prof. Paul van den Broek* organized the meeting in Noordwijk in 2002, i.e. two years after his successor, Prof. Pekka Karma, had endorsed the function; the Finish group organized the meeting in 2003 in Helsinki with *Prof. Reidar Grénman* (Turku) as President while Pekka Karma was acting as General Secretary.

These three examples lead me to leave the position of General Secretary one year before the Bordeaux meeting, i.e. in San Francisco. The Board will have to discuss the modality of this succession.

The Monday dinner was served aboard our private boat, in a nice surrounding, enabling us to admire the nocturnal landscape of Istanbul metropolis.

TUESDAY AUGUST 26, SECOND DAY OF CONFERENCE. The programme started early with an *Otologic session* conducted by Barbara Canlon (Stockholm). The papers were mostly dedicated to the periphery of the audiovestibular system, involving advances in pathophysiology knowledge, functional investigations and imaging.

Another *Minisymposium in Otology* was held immediately after, devoted to **Single sided deafness** and organized by Anil Lalwani (New York). I would like to underline Anil's elegance. He had submitted in due time an abstract for a free paper session. He restricted spontaneously the panel to four speakers, considering they had a greater experience of the topic than him, and suggested his name to be withdrawn from this panel in order to respect the one-paper rule. This attitude is a perfect illustration of what Corlas member behavior should be: Corlas society first, individual member only after. The speeches of the four *Minisymposium* panelists – Sin-ichi Usami (Matsumoto), Manohar Bance (Halifax), Maurizio Barbara (Rome) and Shakeel Saeed (London) – brilliantly demonstrated that in this condition there is no “single” way to handle the patient's management.

A second session on *Head and Neck Oncology* was conducted by René Leemans (Amsterdam). Patients' selection for specific chemotherapies, metastasis issues, biomolecular advances in anti-tumor action, epithelial generation based on stem cells, surgical approach to parotid tumors were discussed in this session which confirmed how fast the field of oncology is moving nowadays. The morning session ended with an update on obstructive sleep apnea.

After lunch, a free paper session on *Rhinology* was moderated by Sverre Steinsvåg (Kristiansand). Six papers were presented discussing blood indicators in recurrent rhinosinusitis, bone marrow-derived stem cells in polyposis, nasal function in asthma, post-traumatic olfaction, and 3D-navigation. The diversity of these approaches and the Minisymposium organized by Richard Harvey are seen as stimulating efforts to enhance the Rhinology field in Corlas society. It is hoped that the entrance of Valerie Lund in the Credentials Committee will act as a driving force in this endeavour.

Jeffrey Harris (San Diego) served as an efficient conductor to the afternoon *Otological* free paper session. Not least than 10 papers were presented and the whole session reflected the dynamism of this branch of the society. Neurotrophin gene therapy in cochlear implantation, membranous recycling in sensory cells, first steps of gene therapy usage in experimental deafness, stem cells repair after cochlear injury, enhanced diffusion across round window membrane for pharmacological action in patients, clinical trials in neurofibromatosis type 2, autoimmune inner ear disorder as a paraneoplastic syndrome, vestibular neuroprosthesis, real life evaluation of stimulation strategy in cochlear implant users, psychogenic hearing loss among cochlear implant candidates, all were interesting to listen at and discussed in depth.

During the members' dinner at the military headquarter school, new members presented a brief account of their carrier; they received the historical book from the hands of our Treasurer, and a few speeches were given. Meanwhile, accompanying persons were enjoying dinner in a nearby room under the lead of Semra Metin and my wife Catherine.



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27, THIRD DAY OF CONFERENCE. The early morning *Otological* session was undertaken with Orhan Ozturan (Istanbul) as moderator. Eight papers were presented, mostly dedicated to paediatric otology. Vibrant Bonebridge surgery, image-based screening of otitis media, tympanic membrane colour change as a diagnostic test for otitis media, impact of conductive hearing loss upon the central auditory neurons, new epidemiological information on otitis media based on birth cohort survey, medical treatment for otosclerosis, connexin36 assessment in murine hearing, and genome assessment of mouse as model of age-related hearing loss were interestingly debated among speakers and participants.

A second morning *Otological* session was conducted by Allen Ryan (San Diego). It consisted of 10 papers addressing issues related to wind turbines effects on hearing and symptoms, influence of intensity and duration of sound exposure upon cortical neurons, protective effects on gentamicin-induced hair cell and neural loss, transportation of large particles through tympanic membrane as a treatment for otitis media, drug-eluting stapes prosthesis in humans, objective assessment of prednisolone cochlear persistence after intratympanic administration, inflammatory reaction to cochlear electrode insertion and its prevention, functional MRI activity in tinnitus sufferers, multimodal approach to tinnitus suffering evaluation, and chronic balance disorder after surgery for acoustic neuroma. All these papers supported the advances enabled by basic sciences in clinical management and prevention.

In the afternoon, a *Minisymposium* on cochlear implants was organized by the Turkish group. Four guests from Izmir, Adana and Karabük reported their surgical and clinical experience of this remarkable rehabilitation tool, and Mario Svirsky (New York) contributed by evolving the effects of electrode insertion depth.

During the final session, a series of 8 papers on *Otology* were presented, reporting on temporal bone cancers, utricular paresis, hearing screening at school, advances in the genetics of hearing loss, psychology of the cochlear implant recipients, historical overview of the French cochlear implant device, the audiological characteristics of an usual form of cortical deafness, and an interesting model of hearing impairment and its associated symptoms.

At the end of this report, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the *new members* to the scientific programme: Peter Klussmann (Giessen), Adrien Eshraghi (Miami), Richard Louis Voegels (Sao Paulo), Xi Erik Lin (Atlanta), Daniel Tollin (Aurora), and Fan-Gang Zeng (Atlanta). The integration of new comers is a wonderful opportunity to carry on the traditions of the Collegium across generations, as reminded by Bert Huizing in his superb introductory talk.

I also would like to express my gratitude to our sponsors, without whom such a meeting would be impossible to organize, a special tribute being paid to MED-EL, the platinum sponsor of Metin Önerci's meeting.

Finally, Catherine and I would like to wish you all Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year during which we hope to see many of you at San Francisco.

