

**Collegium Oto–Rhino–Laryngologicum**

**Amicitiae Sacrum**

**Founded in 1926**

President :

Prof. René Dauman



Bordeaux, 10 December 2015

The discovery of gold by James Marshall and John Sutter with the help of a mill built on the American River in the Sacramento Valley, in 1848, turned out to be a major event which attracted a huge amount of people to California. Using maritime routes crossing the North and South Pacific Ocean as well as the Atlantic Ocean through the Cap Horn, people from Asia, west coast America and Europe converged to the nearby **San Francisco Bay**. This phenomenal gathering illustrates quite well what some of nowadays economists refer to as the *search for what we don't have*, an irresistible driving force.

That the American CORLAS group, led with dynamism and pugnacity by **President P. Ashley Wackym**, selected San Francisco to host our annual conference can find one of its sources in this seminal concentration of people. A series of other reasons also conducted our American friends to focus on the “forty-niners” town, among which the tremendous Silicon Valley enterprises and prestigious Californian universities are to be highlighted.

The participants to the Sunday 23 August **Family Tour** had the opportunity to share two opposite experiences. The first was to visit the famous Alcatraz jail, located on a small island in the middle of San Francisco Bay, which used to be the symbol of imprisonment for dangerous criminals. The second was to bike over the Golden Gate Bridge, a tour which results in a heady feeling of freedom when accomplished for the first time. Impressive was also the view of boats moving beneath us while we were facing the cars driving towards the city. The ferry we took afterwards from Sausalito showed how popular this tour is for the nowadays Californian youth. During the following presidential evening reception at the Palace Hotel, we were warmly welcomed by Ashley, his wife Jeremy, and the Vice-president Herman A. Jenkins.



On Monday, August 24, the opening ceremony was marked by the prestigious **Acta Prize** awarded to Stephen O’Leary, from the University of Melbourne. Stephen O’Leary is a paragon of clinical researcher devoted to hearing sciences and has repeatedly shown his ingenious results in the framework of our society. He received with modesty the prize from the hands of Matti Anniko, Editor-in-chief of the *Acta Otolaryngologica*, the journal that supports the Collegium for decades.



During the same ceremony, a prize newly conferred on – the Snow Tinnitus Research Award – was awarded by Ashley Wackym to Carol A. Bauer, MD, from the Southern Illinois University School of medicine. Multiple publications, both in the clinical and basic research devoted to tinnitus, fully justify this recognition of Carol’s influential work.

A remarkable key note lecture was given in the second part of the opening ceremony by Jon Rubinstein, the former Senior Vice President at Apple and former CEO and President of Palm. His brilliant career perfectly illustrates the creativity of the Silicon Valley entrepreneurs. Jon, the brother of our friend Jay Rubinstein, provided the assembly with visionary thoughts on how technology might continue to influence our daily lives.



The first Minisymposium, moderated by Rick Friedman and Karen Avraham, was devoted to *Genetics of the inner ear* and consisted of 12 papers, the majority of them being issued from laboratories of the United States (N=7). Among them was the report by Konstantina Stankovic (Harvard) which was later awarded with the Benjamins Prize (Dutch donation).

The afternoon programme started with a free paper session entitled *Advanced cochlear implants technologies and tinnitus*. Moderators were Stephen O'Leary and Seung-Ha Oh. Eleven presentations were included, coming from all around the world. The second part of the afternoon was devoted to *Rhinology and nasal physiology*, a session chaired by Valerie Lund and Richard Harvey. It consisted of 11 papers, showing the growing interest for Rhinology in our society.

The Cultural evening of Monday was held in a superb museum, the Legion of Honor. Members, guests and accompanying persons enjoyed master pieces and musical instruments.



The scientific programme of Tuesday, August 25, began with a *Minisymposium on HPV in Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma*, moderated by Carol Bradford and Takashi Nagawa. Ten papers were presented and discussed during this session, depicting research undertaken in Asia, United States and Europe.

A free paper session on *Otitis media and sensorineural hearing loss* followed, with Janet Wilson and Carol Bauer acting as moderators. Several guests and new members took part in this session, resulting in a total number of 10 presentations.

The next free paper session was on *Vestibular pathology and tissue engineering*, with John Carey and Hamlet Suarez as moderators. Here again 10 presentations were given. Then after, a relatively limited number of *posters* (N=16) were presented in a specific session moderated by Hans-Peter Zenner and Craig Buchman.

During the **Business meeting**, in the last part of Tuesday afternoon, a minute of silence was respected to commemorate the names of two members who had passed away during the year: Claus Morgenstern (Germany, deceased in September 2014 at the age of 77) and Paul Ward (USA, deceased in April 2015 at the age of 87). Since the San Francisco meeting, I have been informed of two other unfortunate disappearances, those of Dietrich Plester (Germany, deceased in October 2015 at the age of 93, after having led the Tübingen ORL department between 1966 and 1988) and Benjamin Rosenblut (Chile, who passed away at the age of 89).

The general assembly has approved the proposals of changes inside the Board: **Antti Mäkitie** (Helsinki, Finland) as General Secretary, **Sandro Stöckli** (St. Gallen, Switzerland) as Treasurer, and **Brad Willing** (Boston, USA) as Second Secretary. I am very grateful to Antti Mäkitie for having accepted to be the new General Secretary, thus enabling me to concentrate on the Bordeaux meeting of next year and respect our rules.

The general assembly has also taken note of the new Chairperson of the Swiss group, Antje Welge-Lüssen (Basel) and approved the following names as **New members** to our society:

- Juan *Chiossone-Kerdel* (Venezuela)
- Bee See *Go* (Malaysia)
- Johan *Hellgren* (Sweden)
- Adrian *James* (Canada)
- Geraldo *Jotz* (Brazil)
- Tobias *Kleijung* (Switzerland)
- Hanif *Ladak* (Canada)
- Hubert *Löwenheim* (Germany)
- Olivier *Malard* (France)
- Brigitte *Malgrange* (Belgium)
- Prepageran *Narayanan* (Malaysia)
- Sebastien *Schmerber* (France)
- Pascal *Senn* (Switzerland)
- Timothy *Smith* (USA)
- Christof *Stieger* (Switzerland)

- Jennifer Stone (USA)
- Lou Zhang (China)

On your behalf, I would like to congratulate all these 17 new members and also express my gratitude to the **Credentials committee** conducted by Allen Ryan (USA), René Leemans (the Netherlands) and Valerie Lund (UK) for all the work they have undertaken to secure our society. I also would like to remind all National Chairpersons that they are expected to contact the General Secretary ([antti.makitie@helsinki.fi](mailto:antti.makitie@helsinki.fi)) no later than **mid-May** if they wish their proposals to be examined in due time by the Committee.

The **members' dinner** was the occasion to welcome the new comers who didn't yet have the opportunity to present themselves to the society. The dinner took place in the California academy of sciences in an original environment of cheetahs and antelopes. The accompanying persons' dinner was served in a nearby room according to an arrangement nicely set by Jeremy Wackym.

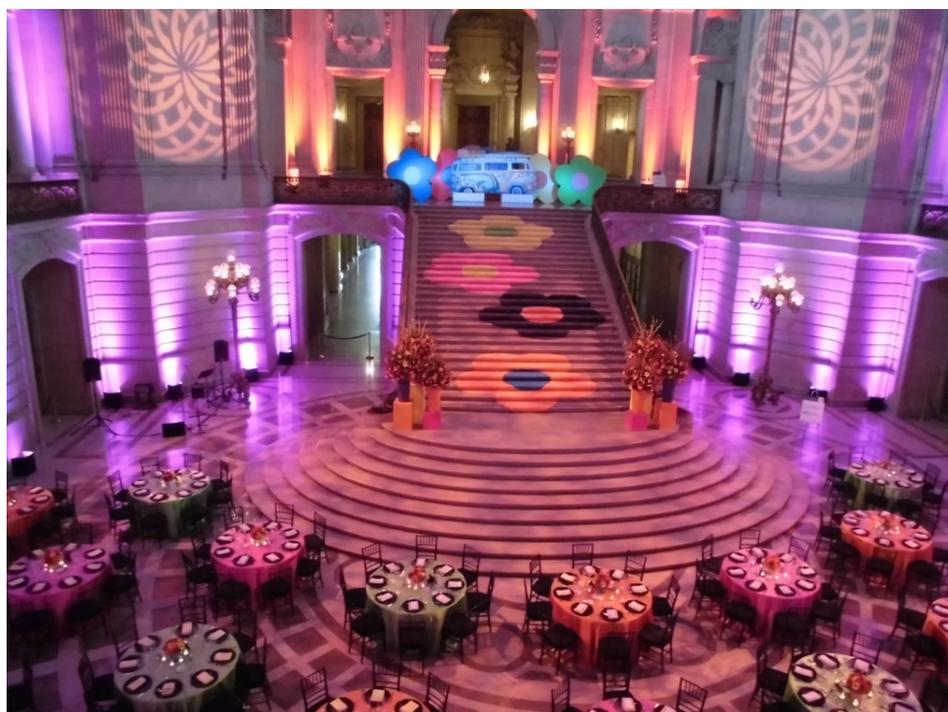


On Wednesday, August 26, a free paper session on *Outcomes with implantable devices* started the scientific programme. It consisted of 10 presentations, chaired by Jay Rubinstein and Blake Pepsin. The second session of the morning bore an attractive title, *Personalized medicine and Head and neck oncology*, moderated by Cherie Ann Nathan and Christian van Buchwald. Dealing with many fields of our specialty, it appeared as one of the most innovative contribution of the conference, foreseeing the face future medicine might take on.

The afternoon session was based on two series of free papers in Otolaryngology. The first one, entitled *Measuring hearing loss*, was moderated by Johan Frijns and Herman Jenkins. It consisted of eight presentations. The second, coined *Inner ear regeneration and neuroprotection*, chaired by Olivier Sterkers, depicted the most advanced breakthroughs in the restoration of hearing sense.

In the closing ceremony, President P. Ashley Wackym emphasized the contribution of the US CORLAS members and guests, amounting to 40% of the 101 oral presentations. He also paid tribute to the team that helped him and Herman A. Jenkins in building up the programme, carrying out the social activities, and gathering the sponsors whose support was greatly appreciated.

The gala dinner was held in the city hall, where a flavor of pop music was reconstituted.









At the end of this annual report, I would like to say a few words on the Bordeaux meeting, Sunday August 28 to Wednesday August 31, 2016 (post-congress tour 1-3 September). I want to underline the help of **Olivier Sterkers**, who immediately accepted to act as Vice-President although he obviously had all the qualities to undertake the organisation of such an event. Despite his many national and international responsibilities, he is demonstrating constant support to the meeting. I would also like to highlight the acceptance of my teacher, **Professor Michel Portmann**, to be the Honorary President of the conference. The celebration of the *90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CORLAS* creation in the Netherlands couldn't find a better President of Honor.

Registration will be open before Christmas ([www.collegium2016.com](http://www.collegium2016.com)). Thanks to the already substantial help provided by the sponsors, we are in the capacity of offering reasonable fees for registration and accommodation.

REGISTRATION TO CONFERENCE			
	Until March 21 (winter fees)	Until June 21 (spring fees)	Until August 25 (summer fees)
Member and guest	650 €	700 €	750 €
Accompanying person	300 €	350 €	400 €

These fees include the welcome party of Sunday evening (August 28), the Saint-Emilion visit and Château Siaurac dinner of Monday (Lalande-de-Pomerol), the members' dinner and accompanying persons' dinner of Tuesday (along the Garonne River), and the gala dinner at Château Giscours (third growth Margaux).

ACCOMMODATION AT MERCURE BORDEAUX CENTRE HOTEL (CONFERENCE VENUE)			
	Until 31 January	Until 31 March	Until 30 April
Single room	125 €	135 €	150 €
Double room	140 €	150 €	165 €

The **post-congress tour** to the Medieval South will start on Thursday September 1 with the visit of Toulouse and Carcassonne. On September 2, Cathar country: visit of Lastours castles in the Black Mountain (Albigensian Crusade). On September 3: Castelnaudary (in the heart of the Pays Lauragais, crusade against the Cathars) and Mirepoix (Hers river, Cathar epic). The cost of the whole tour has been fixed to 590 €/person.

Catherine and I will be delighted to welcome you in Bordeaux next year to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Collegium. We wish you a Merry Christmas.

