



**Dear Members and Friends,  
Chers Membres et Amis,  
Liebe Mitglieder und Freunde**

The 74th year of the Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum has been in many ways special. We began the new millennium by adopting the fifth edition of our rules at our fifth meeting in the United States, where our fifth General Secretary, Paul van den Broek, completed his 14 years of service as our helmsman.

Although I thanked him already in Washington, I would like once again, on behalf of us all, to thank Paul for all he has done for the success of the Collegium. Gently but firmly he has guided our Society, in the right direction. Supported by his charming wife, Joyce, he has also fostered the Amicitiae Sacrum spirit in the Collegium. Joyce and Paul, please accept our grateful thanks.

The 2000 meeting in Washington on 27-30 August was successful and important. Following the efficient preparations by our American colleagues, under the command of the President of the meeting, Jim Snow and Vice-President, David Lim, we (143 participants and 59 accompanying persons) spent four enjoyable days together, both scientifically and socially.

On Sunday we had a Family Tour to orient ourselves to the sights of Washington. The monuments of the greatest American heroes as well as the wealth of Washington's other memorials and parks were impressive. In the evening the President welcomed us at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, the venue of the meeting, at Pentagon City, just across the Potomac River from Washington. Afterwards, we had time to enjoy an American buffet supper with our colleagues and friends in the Amicitiae Sacrum spirit.

The official Opening Ceremony took place on Monday morning. In his opening address Dr John G Campbell, the President of the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, dealt with five major areas of challenge in otolaryngology: continuous medical education, research, the Internet, international co-operation, and balance of quality and cost in care, especially from the Academy's perspective. The other highlight of the Ceremony was the presentation of the Shambaugh Family's gift to support the Shambaugh Prize in Otolaryngology. The presentation, with memories of their father George E Shambaugh, Jr, was given by Dr George E Shambaugh III, MD and David Shambaugh, PhD. Also Ms Karel Ann Titone, the Treasurer of the Shambaugh Medical Research Institute was present. The gift of USD 54,557.09 will secure that even in the future every other year the Collegium can award this prize to a distinguished scientist who has made important contributions to otology. The Collegium thanks the Shambaugh Family for their generosity and positive attitude to this Society and otology. The Shambaugh Prize for 2000 was then awarded to professor Allen Ryan for his outstanding scientific contributions to the immunobiology of the middle ear and the development of the inner ear and his leadership in the molecular biology of the auditory vestibular system. We all certainly agree that our long-standing Jury-member more than deserved this prestigious prize. During the Opening Ceremony the Coolidge String Quartet, four young instrumentalists and doctors, from the Department of Music, University of Maryland, brought us, in a masterly way, the world of old and original American tunes.

The scientific program continued on Monday with a symposium on Recent Advances in Biomedicine, moderated by James F Battey, Jr, the Director of the NIDCD, NIH. In this symposium some of the most distinguished scientists from the National Institutes of Health provided us with the cutting-edge knowledge of their fields: Dr Francis Collins, the Director of the NIHGR on the Progress toward Determining the Structure of the Human Genome and Drs Lance Liotta, NCI, Jeff Trent, NIHGR, and Carter van Waes, NIDCD, on gene expression changes and molecular pathogenesis of tumours in general and of squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck especially. This kind of overview on the most advanced molecular biological tumour research we hardly can experience anywhere else but in the home of the NIH.

The second symposium on Wednesday, conducted by Allen Ryan, concentrated on Hereditary Hearing Impairment. Claes Möller from Gothenburg gave us an excellent survey of the genetics of recessive syndromic hearing loss and the clinical relevance of the findings. Cor Cremers from Nijmegen continued on dominant syndromic hearing loss, again from the clinical point of view. Dr Thomas Friedman from Bethesda spoke about non-syndromic hearing losses, and the Moderator summed up the symposium by examining the future perspectives on the treatment of inherited hearing disorders including the transplantation of corrected hair cells. Again we felt that we had been brought to the forefront of one of the hottest topics in otorhinolaryngology.

In addition to the symposia, the scientific program consisted of 52 oral presentations and 35 posters, usually of high scientific quality. The papers covered the major fields of our speciality, and were grouped according to their contents. However, the majority of the papers were from otology, and more papers from the other fields should be encouraged in future meetings. The posters were «semioral»: they had a special «presentation» time during which the presiding officer R Dobie and the discussion leaders J Ylikoski (otology), v Lund (rhinology) and W Thumfart (laryngology - head and neck surgery) with the poster presenters introduced the posters followed by group discussion about selected posters. This approach was interesting and worth continuing, only time required for that may cause some problems. Some of the oral presentations became cancelled after the program had been put together, and two posters were withdrawn. However, all the presenters notified the organisers, and could be replaced by the others.

A relatively great number of the papers were presented by non-members. According to our rules their number shall not exceed ten. There were also some problems with the titles of the papers: although they were required in three official languages, many

omitted one or two of the languages, causing extra work for the organisers. Maybe we should discuss whether we ought to have this requirement in the future, too.

The Business Meeting was held on Monday afternoon:

The President James B. Snow welcomed the members.

The President commemorated the members who had passed away since the last meeting in Lyon: John Conley (USA), Douglas Laing (Hong Kong), Masanori Morimoto (Japan), Cesar Fernandez (Chile), Jaime Marco-Clemente (Spain) and Giovanni Rossi (Italy). The members honoured the memory of these respected members standing and with a moment of silence.

The year report 1999 was approved without any additions or comments.

The financial report presented by our Treasurer Rene Dauman was approved. The finances were reassuringly again, «under control», with a positive balance of USD 45,000. The annual subscription will be unchanged, USD 50.

The following candidates, proposed by the respective national groups, and reviewed by the Credentials Committee, were accepted as new members: Ricardo Ferreira Bento (Brasil), Weining Huang (China), Terese Ovesen and Klaus Qvortrup (Denmark), Mohammed Samy Elwany (Egypt), Markus Rautiainen (Finland), Alexander Berghaus (Germany), Spiros Manolidis (Greece), Eiji Yumoto (Japan), Chul Hee Lee and Keehyun Park (Korea), Gonzalo Corvera Behar (Mexico), Herman Kingma (the Netherlands), Per Djupesland (Norway), Hector Cardoso (Peru) and Malou Hultcrantz (Sweden).

For the next two years the Board and the Credentials Committee will be the following:

Board:

J. Snow, President

D. Lim, Vice-President

P. Karma, General Secretary

P. van den Broek, President-elect

R. Dauman, Treasurer

M. Goycoolea, Councillor

M. Hirano, Councillor

E. Stennert, Councillor

M. Anniko, Editorial Secretary

B. Neel, Second Secretary

Credentials Committee:

W. Arnold

A. Ryan

A. Morgon

The Shambaugh Family's gift, USD 54,557.09, to fund the Shambaugh Prize, was received with great gratitude. This year the prize was awarded to Prof. Allen Ryan.

The proposed revision of the rules was sent to the members before the meeting. The President introduced the final suggestions to the General Assembly. After lively discussion, and one voting, they were accepted with some amendments. Maybe the most noteworthy thing about the new rules is the expansion of the national membership quota to 13 regular members (for USA 26), of whom 3 (for USA 6) can be non-clinical. I hope that the members familiarise themselves with the enclosed new rules.

In 2001, because of the World Congress in Cairo (later CANCELLED), there will be no ordinary Collegium scientific meeting. However, we will have a special CORLAS Symposium during the World Congress, on Antimicrobial Aspects in Otitis Media (P van Cauwenberge, K Prellner, S Juhn and J Thomsen as tentative speakers). Because the Collegium will turn 75 in 2001, our member and friend Nasser Kotby, the President of the World Congress, has promised to arrange a special CORLAS 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner on 20 October 2001 (the day before the World Congress) in Hotel Mena House, Giza, Cairo (later CANCELLED). Hopefully a great number of us will be there (for a practical details, see Important information).

The official 75th Anniversary festivities will take place one year later, in 2002, in Noordwijk (near Amsterdam), the Netherlands, Paul van den Broek as the President. The dates are 25- 28 August 2002.

And the following year, 24- 27 August 2003, the meeting will be held in Helsinki, Finland. In addition to these approvals, there are some future options and suggestions for the meetings: Jerusalem 2004, Rome 2006 and Stockholm 2007.

The social program followed the traditions of the Collegium in the Amicitiae Sacrum spirit. On Monday the accompanying persons (and some of the members) visited the impressive National Gallery of Art. In the evening we had a reception at the National Air and Space Museum, hosted by General John R Dailey, the Director of the Museum. That evening the museum, thanks to Mr Joe

L Allbritton, the President of the Riggs Bank in Washington, was reserved for us only. His old friend, our member Bob Alford, was the Master of the Ceremonies, which included the spectacular IMAX movie on the future of the exploration of space and ended in a delicious buffet supper. On Tuesday a visit to Mount Vernon and the plantation of George and Martha Washington was made by boat. On Wednesday a VIP tour to the White House was something the visitors will certainly remember.

The Members' Dinner at the National Press Club, the foremost in its class in the whole world, made us feel privileged. After the introduction of the new members by Paul van den Broek and the new members themselves, our senior members H P House, A Morgon and C Verwoerd said some words to them and us all.

Especially worth noting is the demand of Alain Morgon that «there should be more ladies in the Collegium». As many times before, the Collegium had a musical program of its own, and the evening ended in tunes presented by w Arnold, J Elidan, R Thalman, and P-G Lunqvist. Simultaneously our accompanying persons enjoyed a superb dinner at the sophisticated Willard Hotel, just the opposite side of the street. As far as I have been told, the atmosphere was lively, with of our beloved companions calling their Collegium memories.

The highlight of the whole meeting was the Gala Banquet at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. The banquet was preceded by a special Collegium Musical Performance by our member George Gates, baritone, and John Legg, piano. We heard all the beautiful American songs from «Beautiful Dreamer' to «Impossible Dream», and ended the performance together in «God Bless America». After the excellent dinner, Jim, I and we all thanked, from all our hearts, our retiring General Secretary, for all he has done, and that is much, for the Collegium. Jim forwarded Paul a crystal intaglio sculpture of heron, a bird with a home at the Potomac River area, as a Collegium gift. And Paul forwarded me as his successor, the «General Secretary's Collegium Key» - it was a bit rusty , but I suppose that this does not have any special significance. Our Treasurer for the last ten years, Jean Marie Aran, who completed his service last year, but could not be present in Washington, was given the Collegium Medal, which his successor René Dauman promised to take to him to Bordeaux, the home town of our money before and also from now on.

We owe thousands of thanks to Jim Snow, David Lim, supported by their charming wives Sallie and Sookie, and to our American member colleagues. They prepared us an unforgettable visit to the capital of their great country. They can be assured that we really appreciate all they had done for us and for the Collegium, and what we experienced during these days.

Some time after Washington Jim Snow informed me that that the US Group of the Collegium had decided to make a gift of USD 25,000 for a loan fund for the Collegium meetings. We receive this gift with a greatest gratitude, and will keep this money in the Collegium accounts separated as a kind of a seed money (loan) for our future meetings. On behalf of the Collegium, I thank the US Group for their generous support to our key functions.

Dear members and friends, we have begun the new millennium in full sails. We have revised our rules to meet today's and future demands, and to improve the scientific activity and performance of our distinguished Society. Our meeting in Washington showed the great potentials of our members. Let us take that to even better use, within the context of this Society, to the benefit of otorhinolaryngology and us all - at the same time remembering the Amicitiae Sacrum spirit of our Society.

When I am now beginning my duties as your General Secretary, I will, once again, thank you for the confidence you have shown in me. I know that this is a big challenge. You can be assured that I will do my utmost for the success of the Collegium and to preserve its unique spirit of Amicitiae Sacrum.

Finally I, and my wife Anni, would like to wish you and those closest to you, all the best for the coming year. See you in Cairo (later CANCELLED).

Pekka Karma