

**Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum**

**Amicitiae Sacrum**

**Founded in 1926**

General Secretary:

Prof. Pekka Karma



### **Annual Report 2006**

19 December 2006

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

Eighty years ago, in the summer of 1926 Charles Emile Benjamins from Groningen and Adriaan de Kleyn from Utrecht, the Netherlands, sent a letter to leading otorhinolaryngologists in 14 different European countries asking them to join an international "Collegium Oto-rhino-laryngologicum". Later that same year the founding meeting of this society was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, adding the term Amicitiae Sacrum, friendship, to the name of our society. Since then the mixture of scientific excellence in the atmosphere of friendship has been the special strength and the driving force of our Collegium to meet the challenges of time.

This year we celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Society in our first meeting in Russia. Our 73<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting was held in Moscow on 27- 30 August, Professor George Tavartkiladze as President and Teimuraz Gvelesiani as Vice-President. Altogether 219 attendants, 76 accompanying persons included, participated in the meeting, staying at the government-run President Hotel, also the venue of the meeting, in the very heart of the city and her historic and present-day attractions. We all felt that the meeting with all its arrangements was a real success- thanks to our host George and his associates.

The Opening Ceremony took place on Monday morning in the Congress Hall of the President Hotel. We were welcomed by our President George Tavartkiladze, and after that Professor Vladimir Starodubov, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, gave us a Welcome Address, describing the progress of his field in Russia during the last years and welcoming our prestigious society to Moscow, on behalf of his ministry. Our President thanked the Minister by giving him the Collegium Medal and our History Book. Thereafter your General Secretary forwarded

the Shambaugh Prize for 2006 to Professor Paul van den Broek from Nijmegen, the Netherlands, for his outstanding scientific contributions to the understanding and the treatment of the disorders of the auditory system and the middle ear. Paul and his merits are certainly known in this Society without any further introduction, and we all felt that he truly deserved this distinguished Prize.

But we had also another Prize to be awarded during the Opening Ceremony: After the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting in 2002 in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, the Dutch Collegium group decided to donate the surplus of the meeting, € 20 000, to the Collegium for the Benjamins Prize. The Prize, € 1 000, is awarded annually to a young scientist, member or guest, preferably younger than 40 but not older than 45, for a high-quality paper she or he is going to present in the same meeting. The first Benjamins Prize was given to Professor Christoph Matthias from Munich, Germany, for his paper "Identification of head and neck cancer specific molecular markers using AMIDA technology: value of CK8 expression in head and neck leukoplakia". The Opening Ceremony ended, as it was begun, with the traditional tunes of Vivaldi, Mozart, Piazzolla and Bach, performed by the Moscow String Quartet "Rhapsody".

The three-day scientific program consisted on two minisymposia, nine free paper sessions and a guided poster session. On Monday we started with a minisymposium on The Cochlea: Molecules, Genes and Therapy. This symposium, chaired by Professor Allen Ryan from La Jolla, and Professor James Battey, Professor Gary Housley, Docent Jussi Jero and Professor Stephen O'Leary as other speakers, introduced us to the latest developments in the knowledge of cochlear hair cell molecular physiology (Housley), of the mechanisms associated with the formation of the architecture of stereocilia bundles (Battey), of the determinants of gene expression in hair cells of the cochlea (Ryan), of apoptotic phenomena in the cochlea (Jero) and of the possibilities to bring the cochlear implant electrodes and the auditory nerve into a closer proximity by enhancing axonal resprouting and attachment (O'Leary). All this was certainly new, and updated us with the most recent thoughts and developments of this field.

The second symposium on Tuesday morning was, because of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Society, on the Collegium itself: "Collegium 80 Years- Quo Vadis?". Sometimes it is useful for the Society to look at itself, its ideology and its functions, reflecting them against the changes of time. We thought that now was that time. The symposium, chaired by Paul van den Broek and moderated by your General Secretary, has as its panellists faithful servants of the Society: Edoardo Arslan (Chairman of the Italian group), René Dauman (Treasurer), Bryan Neel (Second Secretary), Allen Ryan (Chairman of the Jury), and Mamoru Suzuki (Chairman of the Japanese group). However, the session was meant-and really was- very interactive with the whole audience. We had some main themes, such as what does the Collegium mean to us, how is the Collegium today and how should the Collegium be in the future? The general consensus and recommendation of the symposium panellists and the audience was that our ideology is still valid, our rules are still acceptable, our functions may need some refining, but, on the other hand, some of the members should be more active. It was agreed that, in this Society, you can't be a member, if you do not contribute. The members' duties, explicitly mentioned in our rules, are the attendance to the meetings and the payment of the dues. There are members (seniors and regulars), who have not done either. On the other hand, the pressure for membership, within the limited number of seats per country, is hard. So, if you do not contribute, you should leave your seat to others more active. The Society requested the General Secretary and the Treasurer to take actions to improve the situation, and we will in the coming months contact those who have not fulfilled these duties during the last four years.- In general I would say that this symposium was a very important start for some reconsiderations. It also showed that our 80-year-old Society is capable for self-criticism and open-mindedness.

The other program included 78 presentations by the members or guests, including 22 posters. Papers on the inner ear, especially cochlear implantation, and on head and neck oncology were very well represented, covering the field from basic research to the clinics as well as to the quality of life. The posters had a separate session, chaired by Professor Herman Jenkins, where the authors were allowed some minutes to present their papers. The posters were divided, on the basis of their contents, in four groups, discussed under the guidance of Peter Lefebvre, P Ashley Wackym, Gayle Woodson and Saumil Merchant. In general, the scientific quality of the papers and posters was similarly high, and even higher than in some earlier years.

Both the oral and poster reports will be published, after regular peer-review, in the Acta Oto-Laryngologica CORLAS-issue.

The Business Meeting was held on Monday afternoon, 28<sup>th</sup> August:

1. President George Tavartkiladze welcomed the members.
2. The President commemorated the members who had passed away after the last meeting in Salvador, Brazil: August Hager (Austria), Jens Hall (Norway), Harry Jakobi (Germany), E.R. Kastenbauer (Germany), Oscar Sala (Italy), Catherine Smith (USA) and W.H. Struben (the Netherlands). The members honoured the memory of these respected Members standing and with a moment of silence.
3. The Annual Report 2004 and 2005 were approved without any further comments or additions.
4. The following candidates, proposed by the respective national groups, and reviewed by the Credentials Committee, were unanimously accepted as new members: Hans Jørgen Aarstad (Norway), Giovanni Almadori (Italy), Manohar Bance (Canada), Inna Belyantseva (Russia), Oleg Borysenko (the first one from Ukraine), Carol Bradford (USA), Lars Cardell (Sweden), Pim van Dijk (the Netherlands), Gregory Frolenkov (Russia), Shen-Po Hao (Taiwan), Ann Hermansson (Sweden), Gary Housley (New Zealand), Heinrich Iro (Germany), Heung-Man Lee (Korea), René Leemans (the Netherlands), Wong-Kein Low (Singapore), Badr Al Mostafa (Egypt), Yasushi Naito (Japan), Ken-Ichi Nibu (Japan), Kaoru Ogawa (Japan), Stephen O'Leary (Australia), Lenet Özlüoglu (Turkey), Peter Plinkert (Germany), Alessandra Rinaldo (Italy), Jennifer Rubin Grandis (USA), Jay Rubinstein (USA), Hadi Seikaly (Canada), Noriaki Takeda (Japan), Per-Cayé Thomassen (Denmark), Nico de Vries (the Netherlands), and Bradley Welling (USA). The total number of the members is now 495, from 52 countries. The number of females has now increased encouragingly up to 40! The new members will introduce themselves at our next meeting in Seoul.
5. The Financial Report for the years 2004/2006, presented by our Treasurer René Dauman, was approved. Our finances showed a positive balance of € 119 901. The annual subscription fee was decided to be unchanged, € 50.

6. During the next year the Board and the Credentials Committee will be the following:

Board:

G Tavartkiladze, President  
T Gvelesiani, Vice-President  
P Karma, General Secretary  
R Dauman, Treasurer  
CS Kim, President-elect  
K Park, Vice-President-elect  
M Goycoolea, Councillor  
W Arnold, Councillor  
M Suzuki, Councillor  
M Anniko, Editorial Secretary  
B Neel, Second Secretary

Credentials Committee:

A Ryan  
P Tran Ba Huy  
J Manni

7. The next meeting will be held on 26-29 August in Seoul, Korea, Chong Sun Kim as President and Keehyun Park as Vice-President. The venue of the meeting in 2008 was decided to be Berlin, Germany, on 24-27 August. Please, mark these dates to your calendar. There are also some options, invitations and suggestions (not yet decided) for further meetings, after the IFOS World Congress in 2009 in Sao Paulo, such as Israel (Jerusalem), Belgium (Bruges), Rome (Italy), Budapest (Hungary), Turkey and Jordan, among others.

The Amicitiae Sacrum spirit, the friendship between the members is very important in the Collegium. We fostered that in the social program that followed the traditions of our Society.

On Sunday, 27 August the members and accompanying persons had a Family Tour to get us acquainted with the most important cultural, historic and political attractions of Moscow, especially the Kremlin and some the major cathedrals of Moscow. In the evening our President welcomed us in the White Hall of the President Hotel, where we had a typical Russian buffet with our colleagues and friends in a very friendly atmosphere.

On Monday our accompanying persons had a City Tour to see more of Moscow, founded already in 1147. Its monasteries, fortresses, and preserved boyar's palaces demonstrate the unique culture and art of the late Middle Ages of Russia. And that same evening we all were invited to a Reception at the Refectory of the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. This cathedral, rebuilt some years ago, is one of the major religious monuments of the city and something we certainly will remember.

On Tuesday we had an opportunity to visit the Tretyakov gallery, presenting Russian works of art, from Old Russian icons to contemporary paintings. As an alternative the accompanying persons were given the possibility to visit the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, with enormous numbers of paintings, drawings, engravings, coins and medals, from Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome to the Middle Ages

and Renaissance and up to the present time. And in the evening our traditional Members' Dinner took place at the Georgian Restaurant "Genatsvale". We had a very sumptuous typical Georgian dinner in a very informal, friendly and at times even noisy atmosphere. During the dinner our new members introduced themselves, and your General Secretary gave the Collegium banners to all our former Presidents (6) present. Simultaneously our partners enjoyed their dinner in the same restaurant, one floor above us, exchanging their own and Collegium memories.



Presidential Collection (L-R): Peter Alberti (1996-7), Poul Bretlau (1998), Pedro Mangabeira Albernaz (2004-5), George Tavartkiladze (2006), Chong Sun Kim (2007), Nasser Kotby (1992-3), Miguel Ciges (1978), Reidar Grénman (2003) and Pekka Karma (General Secretary)

The meeting ended on Wednesday evening with the traditional Gala Dinner at the Restaurant "Yar", one of the most elegant in the whole city. We gourmandised with delicious grilled sturgeon and were entertained by a Russian gypsy music group. During the dinner your General Secretary thanked, on behalf of the Collegium, our host George and his charming wife Natasha, as well as Tim (Teimuraz) and all their colleagues and co-workers for these unforgettable days in the heart of Moscow. Our hosts had done hard yet excellent work. The experiences during these days have certainly been exceptional and memorable. They all deserved our greatest gratitude for the great success of this meeting.

But there were also some others to thank for. Two years earlier we had an exciting meeting in Costa da Sauípe, Salvador, Brazil, under the guidance of Pedro Mangabeira Albernaz, supported by his charming wife Marlene. I had the privilege to thank Pedro, now retiring from the office of the President of the Collegium, as well as Ricardo Bento as retiring Vice-President, for all they had done during the past more than 2 years for the success of the Society. Last year during the IFOS World Congress in Rome we had a very well-organized, scientifically high-level symposium moderated by our Past-President Reidar Grénman, and our members as speakers. And that same day our member and friend Roberto Filipo, together with the other Italian colleagues, organized for us a

Lunch Meeting at the Grand Hotel Ritz in Parioli, a superb lunch in fine surroundings, indeed proper for the Collegium. Both Reidar and Roberto deserved our best thanks for all that. Eberhard Stennert is leaving the Board after 12 years of service, the maximum time according to our rules. We were grateful to him for his long-lasting work for the success of the Collegium and us all.

After the meeting almost 70 members and partners joined an exciting two-day tour to the Golden Ring of Russia. We went by bus about 100 km north-east of Moscow to see the city of Vladimir, founded in 1108, one of the major cultural and religious centres of Ancient Russian Princedom. It is also one of the UNESCO world cultural heritage sites. We stayed in the other extraordinarily interesting town from the same era, Suzdal. This well-preserved small town on the banks of the Kamenka river was a kind of a museum, full of historical and architectural monuments from stony cathedrals to wooden masterpieces. These heartlands of Ancient Russ, with beautiful landscapes devoid of industrial touch, certainly taught us much about the origins and character of this huge country and its people.

Dear members, it is my duty to remind you to pay your annual subscription fee, € 50. You can use the enclosed payment form. Please, do so, and please pay also the earlier fees, if unpaid. We will, as the General Assembly urged, check the payment situation soon, and thereafter we must take further actions as written in the rules, if necessary. Enclosed you will also find a practical information leaflet, as well as a personal data sheet for your checking. And please remember our website [www.corlas.org](http://www.corlas.org) to find essential and updated data on our activities.

And next August (26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>) we will meet in Seoul, the capital of Korea. Chong Sun Kim and his associates will certainly prepare for us a stimulating scientific program and an enjoyable stay in the surroundings full of mysterious culture and tradition. He will send the registration booklet by the end of January; all the information is also available on the Collegium website.

Finally I, and my wife Anni, would like to wish you and to all the friends of the Collegium health and happiness in the coming year. See you in Seoul.



Pekka Karma