

**Collegium Oto–Rhino–Laryngologicum**

**Amicitiae Sacrum**

**Founded in 1926**

December 2008

Prof. Pekka Karma



## **Annual Report 2008**

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

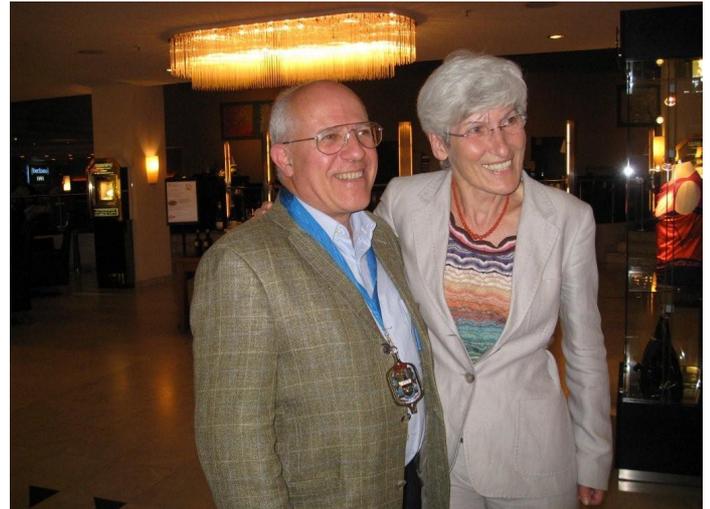
The strength of the Collegium ORLAS lies on its members, representing the greatest expertise and scientific potentials of our field, meeting every year somewhere in the world, in the spirit of friendship, the Amicitiae Sacrum. The 75th meeting of the Collegium this year in Berlin proved that once again.

Berlin, the capital city of Germany, is certainly one of the most important otorhinolaryngological centers in the world. In this great city, now a symbol of German and also European reunification- something that is close to the ideas behind the foundation of our Society after the First World War, we had our meeting on 24-27 August, Professor Hans Scherer as President and Professor Karl-Bernd Hüttenbrink as Vice-President . Remembering Berlin's more than eventful history in general and its central position in otorhinolaryngology even long time ago, it was clear that the attendance to this meeting would be high- we had altogether about 250 attendants, partners included. That is a record number in our history. We had a fine meeting in the Langenbeck-Virchow House, the domicile of the Berlin Medical Society at the Charité, the venue of our meeting, and unforgettable days in Berlin in general. For all that thanks to our German hosts.

On Monday morning the Opening Ceremony took place in the beautifully renovated "Hörsaal" of the Langenbeck-Virchow House. After the welcoming address by our President Hans Scherer, Prof Dr Hans-Peter Berlien, Vice-President of the Berlin Medical Society, and Prof Dr Rudolf Tauber, Prodekan für Forschung at the Medical Faculty of the Charité, addressed us by giving interesting historical remarks on the Charité and the academic medicine in Berlin. Thereafter, your General Secretary, after welcoming the members and thanking the hosts on behalf of the Collegium, forwarded together with our President the Shambaugh Prize to Professor Joseph B Nadol, Jr, for his outstanding scientific contributions to the inner ear research, especially to the understanding of the ultrastructural changes of the inner ear disorders. They also forwarded the second Benjamins Prize to Professor Bert W O'Malley, Jr, for his study "Dual disruption of DNA repair pathways: Chemoradiation-free treatment for cancer". Professor O'Malley presented this paper later on during the meeting. Between the speeches we enjoyed very special and fresh dancing performances given by the Girls from the Center Talma. -We all, members, guests and accompanying persons, felt that now we had entered the special spirit of the Collegium meetings.



Rudolf Virchow and CORLAS at the Langenbeck-Virchow House.



President Hans Scherer and his wife Amaryll

The three-day scientific program was tight. On Monday we started with a keynote lecture by Mamory Suzuki on "Morphological changes of the semicircular canal cupula and its involvement in BPPV etiology". We had two minisymposia, on Tuesday on "Hearing Implants in Handicapped Hearing" (moderated by Karl-Bernd Hüttenbrink and Roland Laszig) and on Wednesday on "New Perspectives on Oropharynx Cancer Treatment" (moderated by Reidar Grénman). They again updated us with the most recent developments and knowledge in these nowadays so important fields of our specialty. The rest of the program included 8 free paper sessions. The guided tour of 31 posters, chaired by Chong Sun Kim and moderated in two groups by Marcos Goycoolea and George Tavartkiladze was again very successful. The authors were allowed some minutes to present their posters, and the discussions with more than 60 members more than filled the time allotted. In total, we had a record number of 111 presentations from 33 countries. The scientific quality of the presentations was generally high, even higher than before.

However, the distribution of the papers between different subfields of otorhinolaryngology may give us something to think about in the future: 46 of the presentations discussed hearing, and 37 of them different kinds of hearing implants; 15 treated vestibular and 31 head and neck problems. But traditional otology was represented in only 11 papers, rhinology in only 4 and laryngo-broncho-oesophagology in only 4 papers. Maybe this reflects the present-day distribution of the scientific competence of the different ENT-related subfields within our active members. However, if so, it does not reflect the situation in otorhinolaryngology in general. Because our membership should indeed do that, I hope that our national groups, when considering new member candidates, take this aspect sufficiently into account. Only by including all the best available knowledge in all our subfields, the Collegium can keep its position as the most authoritative society in otorhinolaryngology-head and neck surgery.

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, 25 August:

1. President Hans Scherer welcomed the members.
2. The meeting commemorated the members who had passed away after the last meeting in Seoul: Atle R Arnesen (Norway), Otto Jepsen (Denmark), Takeshi Kubo (Japan), Ettore Pirodda (Italy) and Ottavio Pompeiano (Italy). The memory of these respected members was honoured standing and with a moment of silence.
3. The Annual Report 2007 was approved without any comments or alterations.
4. The Financial Report for the year 2007-2008, presented by our Treasurer René Dauman, was approved. The financial situation showed a positive balance.

The Treasurer had again checked the annual fees payment situation: although the situation has improved, there are still many regular and senior members (honorary members are exempted from the fee) who have not paid their fees for many years. The Treasurer and the General Secretary have sent two official admonitions on this to a number of the members; thereafter 6 members decided to resign from the membership, and the membership of 9 members became terminated by the Board because of non-payment.

It was reminded that the membership will be terminated when a member has not paid the annual dues for four consecutive years. The Treasurer will continue to follow the payment situation, and take actions, if necessary.

5. The annual membership fee was decided to be unchanged, € 50.

6. For the next 2 years (because next year we will have the IFOS World Congress and no Business Meeting) the Board and the Credentials Committee will be as follows:

#### Board

Hans Scherer, President  
Karl-Bernd Hüttenbrink, Vice-President  
René Dauman, General Secretary  
Reidar Grénman, Treasurer  
István Sziklai, President-Elect  
Gábor Répassy, Vice-President-Elect

Chong Sun Kim, Past-President  
Wolfgang Arnold, Councillor  
Marcos Goycoolea, Councillor  
Mamoru Suzuki, Councillor  
Matti Anniko, Editorial Secretary  
Ashley Wackym, Second Secretary

#### Credentials Committee

Allen Ryan  
Patrice Tran Ba Huy  
Hans Manni

7. The following candidates, proposed by the respective national groups, and reviewed by the Credentials Committee, were unanimously accepted as new members: David Baguley (Great Britain), Carol Bauer (USA), Sady da Costa (Brazil), Rick Friedman (USA), Oreste Gallo (Italy), Orlando Guntinas-Lichius (Germany), Martin Kompis (Switzerland), Stephan Lang (Germany), Marci Lesperance (USA), Saim Lokman (the first one from Malaysia), Manuel Manrique (Spain), Henri Marres (the Netherlands), Joaquim Mullol (Spain), Miquel Quer (Spain), Chae-Seo Rhee (Korea), Rosamaria Santarelli (Italy), Anne Schilder (the Netherlands), Michiel van den Brekel (the Netherlands), Antje Welge-Lüssen (Switzerland), Tatsuya Yamasoba (Japan) and Fan-Gang Zeng (USA). We have now altogether 495 members from 53 countries. The new members will introduce themselves at our next regular meeting in Budapest in 2010.

8. Next year, because of the IFOS World Congress in Sao Paulo on 01-05 June, there will be no ordinary scientific Collegium meeting. However, we will have a CORLAS Symposium on the inner ear problems during the World Congress on 04 June, moderated by René Dauman. And later on that same day we will have a Collegium Lunch Meeting at Holiday Inn Hotel, organized by Ricardo Bento and our Brazilian friends.

Already last year we decided to go to Budapest in 2010. The meeting will be held on 22-25 August, István Sziklai as President and Gábor Répassy as Vice-President. Please mark these dates in your calendar. And now we decided the venue of the 2011 meeting to be Bruges (Belgium) and the venue of the 2012 meeting to be Rome (Italy).

The social program followed the traditions of the Collegium, and in the Amicitiae Sacrum spirit. On Sunday, 24 August, almost all the members and accompanying persons attended the Family Tour to Potsdam, to see Sanssouci, the summer residence of Frederick the Great. We also visited Cecilienhof, the location where Churchill, Attlee, Truman and Stalin met for the Potsdam Conference at the end of the Second World War. We returned to Berlin by boat through the Havel river for our President's Reception. It was held at the Museum of Natural History, where your President and General Secretary welcomed the members and partners under the shadow of the world's biggest dino-skeleton, the Bronchosaurus Rex.

On Monday our accompanying persons had a sightseeing tour to see the modern and historical highlights of Berlin, including visits to some of the major museums. In the evening we all attended a concert, given especially to the Collegium by the Amaryllis String Quartet at the Small Concert Hall Berlin at Gendarmenmarkt. Beautiful old and modern tunes of Haydn, Kurtág and Brahms, provided to us by this fascinating young ensemble, ended the day in tranquilizing feelings.

On Tuesday, during the scientific sessions, our partners were given the possibility to see the remnants of the Cold War, the Berlin Wall and the Checkpoint Charlie among others, and to see how Berlin looks from the waterfront. In the evening the members had their Members' Dinner in the Palais-Saal at the Hotel Adlon Kempinski, ranked as one of the best in the world. During the dinner, the new members introduced themselves to the Collegium, and our Shambaugh Prize winner Professor Joseph Nadol said some wise words to them and us all about the Collegium and about research. Simultaneously, our accompanying persons were invited by Hans' wife Amaryll to the Restaurant Käfer, at the cupola of the Reichstag, having one of the most astonishing views over Berlin. In both, the atmosphere was as it only can be in these special "sessions" among friends.



Our new General Secretary and an admirer

The meeting ended on Wednesday evening with the traditional Gala Dinner at the Restaurant Axica, designed by Frank O Geary, at the DZ Bank building, just next to the Hotel Adlon at the Pariser Platz, near the Brandenburg Gate. We were there entertained by the "Tonicum" Choir of the Colleagues of the Charité. After the superb dinner your General Secretary thanked our excellent hosts, Hans Scherer and his charming wife Amaryll, Karl-Bernd Hüttenbrink, and all their coworkers for these fantastic days in the heart of the German world. Hans had not had any congress office, and he and Amaryll personally had personally done exceptionally much for the success of the meeting.

But there were also some others to be remembered. Your General Secretary thanked our retiring President Chong Sun Kim and his wife Pauline as well as our retiring Vice-President Keehuyn Park and his wife Yoonhee for the fine days in Seoul the year before. As a token of gratitude for all that, I forwarded Chong and Keehuyn the Collegium Banner and the Collegium Medal. I also thanked the retiring Second Secretary, Bryan Neel, for his wise help and support in the Board for the last 8 years by giving him the Collegium Medal.

And last but not least, your retiring General Secretary, while thanking our retiring Treasurer René Dauman for his excellent work for 8 years for the Collegium, forwarded our new General Secretary René Dauman the General Secretary's Key, with all the wishes of success in his task for the best of the Collegium in the coming years. When I received the Key from Paul van den Broek in Washington in 2000, it was a bit rusty, and maybe it was now a bit

more rusty, but probably this does not have any special significance. Although the exact symbolism of this key has remained unclear to me, maybe it opens the locks to the success and also to the most hidden secrets of the Collegium. And finally, your retiring General Secretary thanked all those present for the Collegium banner and for the magnificent porcelain vase he received with thanks from our new General Secretary and President.

After the meeting, many of us joined a tour to Dresden, the capital of Saxony. There we visited the re-erected Frauenkirche, many museums and palaces of this baroque city, one of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites. We also made a trip to Meissen, famous of its china, the first to be made outside China, and a tour to the beautiful Saxonian Switzerland, a spectacular mountain area on both sides of the River Elbe. -After this week in Berlin and Dresden we have certainly learnt very much of Germany, past and present, seen many of its faces, and maybe even learnt some about the mentality of its people. Thank you, our German hosts, once again.

Dear Members, it is my duty to remind you to pay your annual subscription fee, € 50. You can use the enclosed payment form- please note that it should be sent to the new Treasurer, Reidar Grénman. And please pay also the earlier annual fees, if unpaid. As you may have noticed, our Treasurer is nowadays very carefully following your payment situation. Enclosed you will also find an information leaflet as well as personal data sheet for your checking. And please remember our website [www.corlas.org](http://www.corlas.org) to find the essentials of the Collegium and its activities.

Dear Friends, this my ninth and last annual report to you. Having retired from my job at the university and the hospital, I thought that it is time to leave my office in the Collegium. But you can be sure that I leave it with good feelings. This has been maybe the most rewarding task I have ever had. I have enjoyed it. It has given me the privilege to get acquainted with you and thus, as I feel, with the real core of the otorhinolaryngological world. You have given me much more than I have been able to give to you. But I must say that I am also relieved to have such a good successor. I know him, and you all know him- and after 8 years as your Treasurer, René knows you as well as the whole Collegium very well. Dear René, we all wish you all the best in your task as our General Secretary.

Dear Colleagues, because of the IFOS World Congress we will have no regular scientific meeting next year. However, during the World Congress, on 01-05 June 2009 in Sao Paulo, we will have a CORLAS-Symposium (moderated by René Dauman) and a Lunch Meeting (organized by Ricardo Bento and other Brazilian colleagues) on 04 June at the congress site. You will be informed about the details later on. And in 2010, on 22-25 August, we will meet in Budapest. István Sziklai and Gábor Répassy will certainly prepare for us an interesting and enjoyable program, both scientifically and socially, in the beautiful capital of Hungary. I hope that very many of us will attend these events.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pekka Karma', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Pekka Karma



CORLAS in Berlin