

### BOG Information and Updates

#### BOG Spring Meeting

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The BOG Spring Meeting will be held from Sunday, March 21 to Tuesday, March 23, 2010. Registration for this meeting is free and will offer attendees the opportunity to network and engage in peer-to-peer interactions with eminent members in the field. The meeting will also include committee business, timely presentations from prominent speakers, advocacy briefings, and much more. Visit the [BOG Programs & News](#) webpage in the coming weeks for additional information!

#### Apply Now to an AAO-HNS/F Committee

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The 2010 application cycle is now open! The AAO-HNS/F invites you to join an education committee to become more involved in the Academy's educational activities, a BOG committee to become more involved in the grassroots arm of the Academy, or an Academy committee that fits your area(s) of expertise. Visit [www.entnet.org/committees](http://www.entnet.org/committees) to apply. Questions? Email [committees@entnet.org](mailto:committees@entnet.org).

#### BOG Model Society and Practitioner Excellence Awards Now Open

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Applications are now being accepted for the BOG Model Society Award and the Practitioner Excellence Award. The Model Society Award recognizes outstanding local/state/regional and national societies that exhibit effective leadership. The Practitioner Excellence Award recognizes the prototypical clinical otolaryngologist one wishes to emulate. [Click here](#) to download and complete an application.

#### Association of Otolaryngology Administrators (AOA) & AAO-HNS Joint Meeting

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Leaders and staff from AOA and AAO-HNS recently held a meeting at Academy headquarters to work towards developing a long-term strategic plan involving the two groups. Attendees identified several key areas where our collaborative efforts could work to establish effective partnerships with one another. Both groups left the meeting committed to increased communication efforts and working towards identifying common issues with actionable deadlines. For more information, contact Richard Carson at 1-703-535-3726 or [rcarson@entnet.org](mailto:rcarson@entnet.org).

#### Call to Local/State/Regional and National Society Leaders

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Submit your items for the next edition of the BOG eNews to keep other societies informed of your society's current activities. Updates can include, but are not limited to, upcoming meetings, recent legislative activity, public relations and socioeconomic initiatives, etc. Our next newsletter will go out on **January 27, 2010**. Please send a short blurb of what you would like included to Genevieve Miller at [gmiller@entnet.org](mailto:gmiller@entnet.org) no later than COB **Thursday, January 21, 2010**. We look forward to hearing from you!

### BOG Society Updates

#### Media and Public Relations Committee Update

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The recently reorganized Media and Public Relations Committee is hard at work! The committee is working to schedule a speaker on how to interact with the media during the BOG Spring Meeting and is organizing a miniseminar for the 2010 Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO with specific techniques to improve communication and public relations. Also, monthly mini-campaigns are available now! December's topic is Cold and Flu season. [Click here](#) to access the materials. January's topic is New Year's ENT Health Resolutions and materials will be available later today. [Click here](#) to access the link.

## PAO-HNS Past President Named Vice Chair of State Medical Society Board

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*Submitted by Helen Krause, MD*

The Pennsylvania Medical Society has recently named Karen A. Rizzo, MD, of Lancaster, PA, vice chair of the Pennsylvania Medical Society's Board of Trustees. Dr. Rizzo served as President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery from 2001 to 2003 and is currently the PAO-HNS' Board of Governors (BOG) Legislative Representative to the Academy. Currently, Dr. Rizzo practices medicine at Otolaryngology Physicians of Lancaster, providing advanced ear, nose, and throat care.

## New York State Society of Otolaryngology-HNS Updates

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*Submitted by Gavin Setzen, MD*

Dr. Gerald B. Healy was the inaugural lecturer at the New York Head & Neck Institute's December 3 meeting. Dr. Healy's lecture, entitled "The Politics of Tonsillectomy," addressed the following: "Recently President Obama misrepresented surgeons and their motivation for care on two occasions in less than two weeks. How could this happen? Why did it happen? What does it portend for patients and their doctors? These are questions we shall examine and attempt to answer. It is certain that we cannot remain silent and passive on these issues."

## California is on the Move

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*Submitted by Marcella Bothwell, MD, FAAP and Steven T. Kmucha, MD, MS, JD*

It is nationally recognized that "so California goes, so goes the rest of the country." California is currently represented by seven regional societies to the Board of Governors and members of these regional societies recognize the importance of cooperative efforts in Sacramento. At this year's AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting in San Diego, California began to coordinate its regional societies into the California Otolaryngology Society (COS). The COS has already been recognized by the California Medical Association and the reorganization effort will streamline legislative action to prevent "bad bills" from moving forward. By coordinating efforts, we will repeat and improve upon the success we had with stopping the audiology/hearing aid dispenser scope of practice bill this spring!

## American Otological Society Updates

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The 143rd annual American Otological Society spring meeting will be held in conjunction with COSM in Las Vegas, NV, from May 1-2, 2010. The Scientific Program, beginning at 1:00 PM on Saturday, May 1, will consist of:

- A presentation from AOS Guest of Honor Dr. Edwin W. Rubel entitled "Toward a New Era of Hearing Habilitation"
- Dr. Richard J. H. Smith's Basic Science Lecture entitled "Genetic Testing for Deafness - How It Will Impact Your Management of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons"
- Presentations ranging from otosclerosis and conductive hearing loss to cochlear implant clinical research
- A panel entitled "Cochlear Implant Candidacy in 2010" led by Dr. John K. Niparko

Please visit the AOS website at [www.americanotologicalsociety.org](http://www.americanotologicalsociety.org) to view the complete AOS Scientific Program and the abstracts selected for presentation. Members and non-members are invited to register and attend. With questions, contact Shirley Gossard at [segossard@aol.com](mailto:segossard@aol.com).

## American Neurotology Society Updates

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The 45th annual American Neurotology Society spring meeting will be held in conjunction with COSM at Bally's/Paris in Las Vegas, NV, on May 1 and 2, 2010. The ANS President's Reception will be held on Friday, April 30 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM for ANS members and invited guests. The Scientific Program on May 1 and 2 will consist of the following presentations and speakers:

- Vestibular Schwannomas
- Tumors of the Temporal Bone
- Hearing Loss and Facial Nerve
- A panel discussion on “A Multidisciplinary Approach to Vestibular Disorders” led by Dr. Judith A. White
- Dr. Jeffrey P. Harris as the William House Lecturer on “Beethoven, Horror Autotoxicus and Cortisone: Implications for Treatment”
- A presentation on research and development in Cochlear Implants and Vestibular Dysfunction
- A panel led by Dr. Nikolas H. Blevins entitled “Re-examining Important Considerations in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Facial Nerve Paralysis”

Visit the ANS Website at [www.americanneurotologysociety.com](http://www.americanneurotologysociety.com) for further details and to view the full ANS preliminary program. Members and non-members are invited to register and attend. With questions, contact ANS Society Administrator Kristen Bordignon at [neurotology65@yahoo.com](mailto:neurotology65@yahoo.com).

## Academy Updates

### Fall 2009 BOG Legislative Conference Call Series Highlights

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Thank you to all the AAO-HNS members who participated in the Fall 2009 Board of Governors (BOG) Legislative Conference Call Series. In total, 45 society leaders and administrators, representing 34 state and national BOG societies from across the country, joined the calls and provided updates on their states' legislative activities. The calls included a briefing on national healthcare reform efforts and updates on ENT PAC activities, state legislation, and AAO-HNS grassroots programs. Enhancements to the AAO-HNS' Advocacy website were also discussed. For more information, or to receive a copy of the full summary of the call, please contact AAO-HNS Government Affairs at 1-703-535-3795 or [govtaffairs@entnet.org](mailto:govtaffairs@entnet.org).

### Download the Primary Care in Otolaryngology Book

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Visit <http://www.entnet.org/mktplace/primaryCare.cfm> to download and print the *Primary Care in Otolaryngology* book.

### Renew Your AAO-HNS Membership Today!

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Your membership connects you to knowledge, resources and opportunities. Stay connected by renewing your 2010 membership today at [www.entnet.org/renew](http://www.entnet.org/renew).

### Questions Raised about Lyric Hearing Aids

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Recently, AAO-HNS members have raised questions about the Lyric hearing aid and whether the device can be safely fitted by audiologists and hearing aid dispensers since the device is inserted deep in the ear canal. Though originally cleared by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2002 for fitting solely by otolaryngologists, in May 2008, the FDA cleared InSound Medical, Inc.'s application for audiologists and hearing aid specialists to also be able to fit the Lyric hearing aid. The decision was based on clinical data submitted supporting safe and effective fitting of the device by these groups. To date, no adverse outcomes have been reported to the FDA. If you are aware of any reportable problems, please submit them to FDA's MEDWATCH voluntary adverse event reporting program by calling 1-800-332-1088 or by [clicking here](#) to report online.

### Call for Guideline Topic Submissions

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The AAO-HNS Guideline Development Task Force (GDTF) is currently seeking topic suggestions for the next round of guideline-related products. AAO-HNS membership and specialty input is critical to guideline development, therefore, topic submissions may vary in scope, but all are welcome. [Click here](#) for

information on the topic submission process. Please submit the proposed guideline topics and any questions or concerns to Danielle DiVittorio at [ddivittorio@entnet.org](mailto:ddivittorio@entnet.org) by February 1, 2010.

## Brief Laryngectomy Survey

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Tragic cases have occurred when laryngectomy patients needed to be intubated and oral intubation was attempted without realization of postoperative anatomical changes. Since the extent and characteristics of this problem are unknown, the AAO-HNS Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Committee is administering a short survey about occurrence. Collated data will be reported to develop strategies to avoid these future problems. [Take the survey.](#)

## States Missing Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee (CAC) Representatives

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Are you an otolaryngologist practicing in Montana, Utah, Colorado, Georgia, Nevada, New Hampshire, Kansas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, or the District of Columbia, and are you interested in becoming your Medicare contractor's CAC representative? We are looking for interested members to nominate as CACs. Please email [healthpolicy@entnet.org](mailto:healthpolicy@entnet.org) to volunteer.

## Confused about CMS and Consults?

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Don't worry, you're not alone. CMS's decision to eliminate the use of consult codes in the Medicare physician fee schedule has left a lot of unanswered questions. CMS released instructions for billing consultation codes in Transmittal 1875 to the Claims Processing Manual. In this manual, the agency indicates that, in a hospital or nursing facility, the admitting or attending physician who oversees patient care should report modifier AI - Principal Physician of Record to distinguish care provided by specialists. The CMS has informed the Academy that they are in the process of developing contractor instructions and a MLN article for physicians to answer many of the questions that linger about this issue. As soon as the article is released, the Academy will notify our members. [Click here](#) to view more details from the transmittal.

## Revised and New Policy Statements

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The Board of Directors has approved the revision of the policy statement "Implantable Hearing Devices" and a new policy statement "The Use of the Term 'Doctor' in Advertising and Patient Communications." [Click here](#) to view these policy statements.

## Support ENT PAC Today!

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As healthcare reform legislation continues to take shape, help ensure the AAO-HNS has access to key members of Congress by contributing to ENT PAC. Contributions can be made online or by using the ENT PAC brochures that were sent to BOG members earlier this year. ENT PAC donors are recognized on a "Wall of Honor" each year during annual meeting. [Click here](#) to donate online.

## Military and Federal Employees: Designate #92668 on Your CFC Campaign Materials!

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AAO-HNSF is participating in the 2009 Combined Federal Campaign. Please designate #92668 on your campaign pledge materials this year to show your support of the AAO-HNS/F. Tell your colleagues (including your non-medical federally employed staff in your department) and watch your gift multiply! [More.](#)

## Please Consider an End-of-Year Gift to the Foundation

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Visit [www.entnet.org/donate](http://www.entnet.org/donate) to make an end-of-year gift by joining the Millennium Society today. Your tax-deductible gift will ensure our Foundation's progress by funding resident programs, lifelong learning resources, humanitarianism and international outreach through travel grants, and will help to ensure that young investigators receive the research funding they need to discover tomorrow's advances in patient care. For more information, or to learn about planned gift opportunities, please contact Tracy McKay at [tmckay@entnet.org](mailto:tmckay@entnet.org) or 1-703-535-3714.

## Nominate Your Colleagues

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At the Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO Opening Ceremony in Boston, MA, two awards will be presented to honor Academy members for humanitarianism:

- 2010 Distinguished Humanitarian Award. The nominations deadline is February 1, 2010. [Click here](#) for a description of the award or to see previous awardees.
- 2010 Arnold P. Gold Foundation Award for Humanism in Medicine. The nominations deadline is March 1, 2010. The first recipient of this prestigious new award was Steven F. Isenberg, MD, founder/president of Medals4Mettle.

For nomination forms, please contact: [humanitarian@entnet.org](mailto:humanitarian@entnet.org).

## Apply Now for a Humanitarian Resident Travel Grant

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Residents and fellows-in-training who plan to join missions July through December 2010 may apply for \$1,000 travel grants. The application deadline is May 30, 2010. [Click here](#) for more information.

## 2010 International Visiting Scholars—Call for Applications and Mentors

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The International Visiting Scholars (IVS) initiative, now in its third year, is calling for applications for the 2010 meeting in Boston. These grants are designed for "rising stars" in academic otolaryngology programs from developing countries to visit U.S. ORL programs as observers and to attend the AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO. We are proud to announce that the Antonio de la Cruz, MD, Memorial Scholarship has been endowed to enable a young Latin American faculty member as an observer and meeting attendee.

We are calling for hosts and mentors in the U.S. to invite scholars to their programs. To become a host or mentor, or to sponsor a scholarship of \$2,000 in your name or that of a colleague, contact Catherine Lincoln at [international@entnet.org](mailto:international@entnet.org) or 1-703-535-3738.

## International Travel Grants—Reminder!

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If you are a department chair or faculty member, please alert visiting international scholars studying in U.S. ORL departments that they may be eligible for a \$1,000 grant to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO in Boston, MA, from September 26-29, 2010. [Click here](#) to learn more, or contact [international@entnet.org](mailto:international@entnet.org).

## Humanitarian Activities

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Want to help humanitarian missions without leaving home? Consider a tax-deductible donation of your textbooks, journals, medical equipment, instruments or supplies, or write a tax-deductible check to the AAO-HNS Foundation, with "Humanitarian" in the memo line. [Click here](#) for more information. Questions? Contact [humanitarian@entnet.org](mailto:humanitarian@entnet.org). Thanks for your generous support!

## Recently Return from an Overseas Medical Mission?

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To assist future missions, the Humanitarian Efforts Committee is charged with building a database of medical mission contacts. Email [humanitarian@entnet.org](mailto:humanitarian@entnet.org) or call 1-703-535-3738 with your name, date, place of mission, and name/address of your main contact (with phone, fax, and email if available). [Click here](#) to view our AAO-HNSF Humanitarian Efforts.