



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

May 4, 2018

Legislative and political activity directly affects our practices and our patients. As a leading advocate for otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, we hope you enjoy reading this edition of The ENT Advocate, your premier source of advocacy information for the specialty!

## Lead Story

### AAO-HNS Participates in FDA Sleep Disordered Breathing Devices Workshop

The AAO-HNS served on the planning committee for the FDA-hosted Sleep Disordered Breathing Devices Workshop held on April 16 at its Maryland campus. Many of the Academy's physician leaders participated as speakers, moderators, and panelists. The AAO-HNS team was led by Kathleen Yaremchuk, MD, MSA, and included Raj Dedhia, MD; James C. Denneny III, MD; M. Boyd Gillespie, MD, MSc; Stacey L. Ishman, MD, MPH; Ofer Jacobowitz, MD, PhD; and Edward M. Weaver, MD, MPH. A recorded webcast of the workshop is now available on the [FDA website](#).

## Action Requested

### ENT PAC Donations More Important Than Ever!

The audiology community continues to have success in raising funds to support their various legislative proposals, including a federal direct access/physician status bill (H.R. 2276/S. 2575). **Otolaryngology MUST keep pace with audiology's fundraising efforts!** With your contribution, ENT PAC can support Members of Congress who will OPPOSE this ill-conceived legislation and protect patient access to safe, quality healthcare. To help ENT PAC fight back, [make or increase your 2018 ENT PAC contribution TODAY!\\*](#)

### Call to Action: Tell Your U.S. Senators to Oppose Audiology Direct Access Legislation

As part of the Academy's overall efforts to defeat S. 2575, AAO-HNS members are encouraged to send a pre-written email opposing the bill to their U.S. Senators via our [Advocacy "Call to Action" alert](#). Based on feedback from Capitol Hill staff, otolaryngology's voice is being heard, so let's keep up the momentum!

## Legislative & Political Reports

### Your ENT PAC Donations at Work!

On April 19, the AAO-HNS hosted (via [ENT PAC](#)) a physician community event for U.S. Representative David Scott (D-GA). Scott has been a longtime advocate of health issues of importance to the Academy, including championing federal Truth in Advertising legislation (Truth in Healthcare Marketing Act – H.R. 3928). The AAO-HNS recently also participated in political events for:

- Congressional Hearing Health Caucus Co-Chair, U.S. Representative David McKinley (R-WV);
- Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA);
- NRCC Chairman, U.S. Representative Steve Stivers (R-OH);
- House VA Committee Chair, U.S. Representative Phil Roe, MD (R-TN); and
- U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA).

Many thanks to the ENT PAC Investors who enabled our specialty to have a "seat at the table" on Capitol Hill!

## April 2018 Edition of the State-mENT Now Available

[The State-mENT](#) is an “at a glance” one-page resource outlining the Academy’s state legislative activity from the previous month. The AAO-HNS works closely with its volunteer physician State Trackers and state otolaryngology societies to advocate for the specialty at the state level. Sign up as a [State Tracker](#) and become part of the discussion!

## Other News

### Register Now: May 9 Webinar on Quality Payment Program

CMS is [hosting a webinar](#) on **May 9 at 1:00 pm (ET)** to discuss participation criteria for Year Two of its Quality Payment Program. In this session, the agency will provide an overview of conditions used to determine a clinician’s inclusion in the 2018 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs).

### Advocacy Efforts on Critical Drug Shortages

The AAO-HNS and other impacted specialties recently held a conference call with the FDA to request additional agency attention to address shortages of lidocaine, lidocaine with epinephrine, and other local anesthetics. Given the serious adverse impact these shortages have on Academy members and the patients they serve, the AAO-HNS [will continue its work with the FDA](#) on regulatory efforts to resolve these and other drug supply issues.

Sincerely,  
Susan R. Cordes, MD  
BOG Legislative Affairs Committee Chair  
and the AAO-HNS Legislative Advocacy Team

For more information, contact [govtaffairs@entnet.org](mailto:govtaffairs@entnet.org). Don’t forget to bookmark [The ENT Advocate!](#)

If you no longer wish to receive important legislative and political updates via *The ENT Advocate*, please reply to this email with CANCEL ADVOCATE in the subject line.

\*Contributions to ENT PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions are voluntary, and all members of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits ENT PAC from accepting contributions from foreign nationals. By law, if your contributions are made using a personal check or credit card, ENT PAC may use your contribution only to support candidates in federal elections. All corporate contributions to ENT PAC will be used for educational and administrative fees of ENT PAC, and other activities permissible under federal law. Federal law requires ENT PAC to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and the name of the employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

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