What do you think is the most important issue that our Academy is currently facing? What are the strengths of the Academy that will lead us forward in our specialty and how will you capitalize on those strengths?

The most important issue facing the Academy is maintaining relevance to otolaryngologists in a time of increasing sub-specialization. Otolaryngology has grown in knowledge that benefits our patients in the ability to diagnose and treat many conditions with superior outcomes than previously imagined. The increase in specialization, however, has resulted in fragmentation within our specialty. Our specialty societies successfully promote scholarly activities and provide a home for their members. Often individuals have to choose between submitting presentations to their society or the Academy for purposes of career development.

We must make sure the Academy must maintain relevance. A definition of relevance is to maintain the ability to supply material that satisfy the needs of the user much like an information retrieval system. There are few of us that go a day without the use of Google, and much like that resource, the Academy needs to supply information to our members and be the “go to” source for necessary materials. It needs to serve as the home for all otolaryngologists and will work on issues that are common and supply answers that are relevant. The pandemic was an example where the Academy served as a conduit for critical information, government policies, and advice on providing care while protecting ourselves, our patients, and our families.

Aristotle observed, “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” That is true for our specialty and for the Academy, but we need to remain vigilant and continue to prove our value to all practicing Otolaryngologists if we are to thrive going forward.

Otolaryngology has been exceptional in its ability to recruit the most talented medical students for residency. Because of this, we enjoy the opportunity to train exceptional residents that become leaders in the field of medicine, not just otolaryngology.
I am always amazed at the individuals in our field that go on to become Deans of Medical Schools, CEO’s of their health systems and medical directors or chiefs of surgical service lines. We all have watched as the “best of the best of the best” from our specialty have grown and ascended in their careers to leadership positions at national levels.

This talent is what sustains the Academy and allows it to flourish. The membership is involved, articulate, and motivated. Academy members gain value from those that lead the way and are routinely ahead of the curve. We are learners and the strengths of the academy are its members that continue to give of their time, knowledge, and passion for each other.
Please provide a one-page personal statement as to what is your vision for the leadership role for which you are applying, why you are pursuing the elected position, and why you should be chosen?

The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery is extraordinarily fortunate to have the best and the brightest as its members. Despite the turmoil that we experienced in 2020, the AAO/HNS and its members rose to the challenge of providing care to those most in need whether it was in the Emergency Room, operating room or COVID tents.

I am pursuing the office of President, to commit expanding our membership to reflect the population we serve. Our workforce needs to evolve with the demographics of our country and reflect its diversity. As a leader, I believe it is important to recognize the gaps we have within our specialty in terms of diversity, equity and inclusion. By tapping the power of equity and inclusion we will outperform and solve the complex problems that have stymied us previously.

During the pandemic, we were able to develop a common mission of protecting one another by sharing knowledge on how to deliver care through virtual visits or advise on the appropriate use of personal protective equipment to practice safely, serve our patients, continue to educate our residents and support our colleagues. Dr. James Dennen, CEO/EVP of the AAO/HNS and staff were exemplary with their daily communications members to educate and explain governmental initiatives to assist practices that were closed or economically challenged.

Our ability to adopt and embrace virtual visits to care for patients that were unable or unwilling to visit our offices taught us new skills to deliver health care that will endure past the pandemic. It will allow us to reach out to those that need our care but may be unable to access it due to issues of transportation or availability. There are rural areas in every state that lack care by our specialty and will benefit from how we have learned to reach out past our office walls.

My hope is that we emerge as better, stronger and wiser care providers from the struggles we have endured. We recognize the presence and consequences of health care disparities and commit to understanding how we can mitigate and eliminate these inequities.

I have spent my career investing in our specialty through education, research and service to our colleagues and patients. During the journey, I was fortunate to meet colleagues that helped fuel the fire of excellence and innovation in our specialty. My ability to collaborate with colleagues and the willingness to listen to others, allows me to bring the best out in all of us. Leadership that is inclusive and allows everyone to contribute also results in the greatest support. The AAO/HNS has the opportunity to benefit from the vast knowledge and experience of its members in everything we aspire to achieve. I am not afraid to admit I don’t have all of the answers, but I am confident that within our membership, we do.

Aristotle proposed that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts,” and I believe, I can demonstrate that as President of the AAO/HNS we will be proud of our history and excited about the future. You should choose me as your President because I am committed to bringing out the best in all of us and shining a light on the diversity of talent that resides within.
CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Kathleen Lynn Yaremchuk

Current Employment: Henry Ford Health System

Place of Birth: Detroit, Michigan

Education (include institutions, dates, degrees):
- 1984 – 1989 Central Michigan University
  Master of Science in Administration
- 1972 – 1978 University of Michigan Medical School
  Integrated Premedical Medical Program – M.D. received

Residency and Fellowship:
- 1979 – 1982 University of Chicago – Otolaryngology Resident
- 1978 – 1979 Cook County Hospital (Chicago, IL) – General Surgery Intern

Specialty:
Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, Sleep Medicine

Licensure and Certification:
Michigan Medical License # 4301046820
- January 2008 Board Certified - Sleep Medicine (Expiration: June 30, 2028)
- March 1992 Board Certified – American Board of Medical Management
- October 1982 Board Certified – American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery

Previous Employment:
Great Lakes Naval Hospital 1982-1984

Memberships and Offices Held /Academy and other societies:
- 2017-2020 Treasurer, International Surgical Sleep Society
- 2017-2019 Council Member, Association of Academic Departments of Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery
- 2018 Chair, Society of University Otolaryngologists Gender Disparity Committee
- 2018 Associate Editor, Laryngoscope for Sleep Medicine
- 2015-2016 Chair, Women in Otolaryngology, American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery
- 2014-2015 Vice President Middle Section Triological Society
- 2014-2017 Chair, Sleep Medicine Committee American Academy of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery
- 2012 – 2017 Director at Large, American Academy of Otolaryngology
- 2012 – 2016 Senior Examiner, American Board of Otolaryngology
- 2006-2011 Member, Review Oversight Committee, National Committee for Quality Assurance of Health Care Organizations
2008-2009  National Quality Forum Enriched Administrative Data Steering Committee
2001  President, Michigan Otolaryngological Society

Honors/Awards:
2020  Board of Governors Chair Award
2020  Helen F. Krause Women in Otolaryngology Trailblazer Award, AAO/HNS
2017  American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation Distinguished Service Award
2017  Triological Society Citation Award
2012  American Laryngological Society Presidential Citation
2011  American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation Jerome C. Goldstein Public Service Award
2009  Health Care Hero Crain’s Detroit Business
2006  American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation Distinguished Service Award 2006
2004  Member Excellence in State Advocacy Award, Board of Governors
2003  Chair Award, Board of Governors
2002-2005  Outstanding Service Award, Consultant to the Board, American Rhinologic Society
2001  Founding Member American Academy of Otolaryngology
2000  American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Foundation Certificate of Honor

Community Service:
2019-2021  Board of Directors, Greening of Detroit

Regional/Local Hospital Participation:
2020-2021  Chair, Board of Governors, Henry Ford Medical Group
2020-2021  Henry Ford Health System, Board of Trustees
2020-2021  Chair, Henry Ford Health System Board of Directors Quality and Safety Committee
2014-2019  Chair, Revenue Officer Committee, Henry Ford Medical Group

Summation of Published Works Within the Specialty:


