



**Mark K. Wax, MD**

**Candidate for  
President-elect**

***What is the Academy's greatest challenge and how would you address it?***

***Where do you see the Academy in the next 10 years and what attributes do you have to lead us there?***

It is hard to pick a single issue that stands alone, so I will address the two that concern me the most. The membership of the Academy is a diverse population as it relates to many factors. The ability to communicate among the various different generations continues to be challenging. There are those that prefer hardcopy, those that wish to read it on the Internet, and those that are social media savvy. Engaging our members by utilizing a diverse communication portfolio is paramount to understanding not only what our members want and need but also to informing them of what the Academy is doing that benefits them. We need to be able to respond and pivot quickly to maintain our relevance to all of our communities.

Our Annual Meeting is the largest educational opportunity in the world. It provides networking opportunities and abilities to learn, to grow, and to visit with colleagues. The pandemic has challenged our previous methodology and forced us to examine the concepts of virtual versus live interactions. Integrating how we can continue our previous excellence and grow over the upcoming years will be a challenge. While we have a strong framework of a cloud-based educational and informational network, it needs to be fine-tuned to address the changing environment.

The Academy continues to be the leading otolaryngology society in the world. It functions to advocate for its members at the local and national levels on many fronts. It represents the interests of otolaryngologists in being able to provide the best available care to our patients and keep our members' knowledge base as up to date as possible. It does so by advocating with insurance and government providers to maintain our ability to independently manage our patients. It ensures that otolaryngology patients are managed by otolaryngologists. In order to maintain the highest level of knowledge and skills, otolaryngologists must be up to date on many fronts.

We are the leading educator for otolaryngology in the world. We provide multiple educational formats to address the full spectrum of our membership. We have been at the forefront of developing new methodologies to communicate with our membership, advocate on their behalf, and provide educational opportunities. I believe that the strength and foundation that have been established will

allow us to expand our opportunities so that we not only maintain our standing in all of these areas but continue to grow and develop in a changing economic, communicative, and regulatory environment.

My activities with the Academy over the past decades have left me understanding how best to utilize the resources necessary to maintain and grow our Academy in all of these diverse areas. Experience on the Board for almost a decade, coordinating between comprehensive otolaryngology and subspecialties, as well as understanding the local and national political scenes will allow me to continue the Academy on its path of excellence.

The AAOHNS has been a major player in my life since I started my residency more than 40 years ago. In that time I have learned so much from my peers, my colleagues, the leadership, with all of my interactions in the society. While I would like to claim it has been a two-way street. I feel that my entire career and life has been molded by lessons learned from so many different constituencies through my involvement in the society.

When I first graduated from residency and went into private practice, I had the unique distinction of finding myself in the largest multi-specialty clinic in Ontario Canada. My office was situated between the medical director (CEO), and a family physician, who during my stay became the president of the licensing body in the province of Ontario. I was a naïve, recent graduate and for reasons beyond my understanding they took me under their wing, and they taught me much about how a large multidisciplinary clinic ran, how business works, ethics and professionalism. Most importantly, they taught me how to herd cats of different breeds in different settings. Lessons learned there made me capable of directing a large department, building many multi-specialty programs, and becoming the surgeon leader of a large tertiary care trauma hospital. I have been the interim chairperson of two different and unique programs in this country. I believe that my administrative skill set, financial wherewithal, and most importantly, my ability to deal with the disparate subspecialties in our field makes me qualified to address the academic as well as the comprehensive Otolaryngology communities of our society.

My involvement and activity in our organization began by serving on different committees. I loved what I did. The people I worked with were individuals with a broad variety of opinions. Their altruistic devotion to the organization and to the profession were astounding and far reaching. As time went on, I became more involved with the educational processes of the Academy. It culminated in my becoming the coordinator for education and sitting on the board for five years. During that time, I developed a broad understanding and relationship with not only the educational processes of our specialty but also those of our partner organizations. The physician's assistance program, internal medicine, the radiology Society, the ABO: I was able to build relationships and interact with all of these individuals to further the growth and expand the reach of our program. Following this, I spent another five years on the board of directors as the coordinator for meetings. I began my tenure by amalgamating the program and instruction course advisory committee into become a unified annual program meeting committee. We were able to develop a cohesive group with broad representation of all the subspecialty groups that compromise our specialty.

The AAOHNS has been a fiscally responsible organization for a long time. They have been the premier supplier of educational material in the world. It has been resilient and able to pivot when needed. The emergence of Covid and the structural changes to so many aspects of society have affected many different areas of our Academy. The educational processes pivoted during my 10 year. From live to virtual and are now back to live. This has never been done in the history of the organization. Changes in the academic world as organizations struggle with manpower shortages, global budgetary deficits and conflicting priorities, are impacting our academic colleagues. Shifting payment structures with increased baseline costs and insecurities in the global supply chain are affecting our comprehensive otolaryngology colleagues. The political landscape and economic insecurity have changed many of the paradigms of our practice lives. I believe that strong leadership with experience in all of these aspects that are currently and will continually affect our organization is imperative to shepherding us back to a strong, ethical, educational and political framework. My understanding and experience with all aspects of how the organization runs, and with the fundamental issues facing the membership of our specialty places me, as someone who will be an excellent leader in the upcoming years ahead. I intend to continue to address the educational, political and practice needs of our diverse communities.

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Name:** Mark K Wax

**Current Employment:** Oregon Health Sciences University

**Place of Birth:** Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**Education (include institutions, dates, degrees):** MD University of Toronto 1980

**Residency and Fellowship:** Residency 1980-1985, Fellowship head and Neck Oncologic Reconstructive Surgery 1990-1991

**Specialty:** Head and Neck Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgery

**Licensure and Certification:** Oregon, California, Ontario

**Previous Employment:** University of Buffalo  
West Virginia University  
Oshawa Clinic

**Memberships and Offices Held /Academy and other societies:**

*Academy/Foundation committee is **required** for consideration).*

Annual Meeting Program Committee	2020-2024
Scientific Advisory Committee	2015-2020
Coordinator for Meetings	2015-2020
Board of Directors	2014-2020
Education Steering Committee	2016-2020
Task Force on Question Writing	2014-2016
Director AcademyQ	2013-2016
Co-Coordinator for Education	2007-2011
Board of Directors	2006-2011
Instruction Course Advisory Committee	2010-2012
Program Advisory Committee	2003-2009
	2012-2016
Facial Nerve Committee	2006-2009
Head & Neck Oncology	2002-2008
CORE Study Section	
	2002-2005
Continuing Education Advisory Committee	2001-2007
Core Otolaryngology Education Faculty	1998-2007
Chairman	2001-2007
Microvascular Committee	2000-2007
Chairman	2001-2009

BOG Representative Oregon Academy of Otolaryngology 2000 – 2007

**American Board of Otolaryngology**

Guest Examiner 2015  
 Education Council 2015  
 Senior Examiner 2006-2010  
 Guest Examiner Oral Exam 2001-2004

**American Head and Neck Society**

Past President 2013-2016  
 President 2012-2013  
 Program Co-Chair 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference 2012  
 President Elect 2011-2012  
 Vice President 2010-2011  
 Treasurer 2003-2010  
 Council 2003-2017

**American Academy of Facial Plastic reconstructive Surgery**

Program Director Microvascular workshop 2012-2021  
 10th International Meeting 2007-2010  
 Research Committee 1999 – 2002  
 Chairman 2003-2006  
 Administrative Chair Subspecialty Surgery 2003-2021  
 Microvascular Committee 2002-2005  
 Awards Committee 1996 – 2002

**American Board Facial Plastic Reconstructive Surgery**

Written Exam Task Force 2003-2010

**Otolaryngology Program Directors Society**

Council Member At Large 2013-2016  
 President 2014-2015

**Society of University of Otolaryngologists**

Executive Committee 2014-2015  
 Audit Committee 2010-2013  
 Continuing Medical Education Committee 1995 – 1997  
 Communication committee Chair 2017-2022

**OHSU**

Admissions committee 15 years  
 Student Progress Board 5 years  
 Program Director 20 years  
 Director Microvascular Reconstruction 22 years  
 Fellowship Director 22 years  
 Committee on committee’s 3 years  
 GME executive committee 8 years  
 South Operating Room Management 4 years

**Honors/Awards:**

Top Peer Reviewer Laryngoscope 2015  
 Distinguished Service Award Fourth 2015  
 American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS  
 First time given in the history of the AAOHNS

John Orlando Roe Award American Academy of Facial Plastic Reconstructive Surgery	2013
Top 50 Authors in Otolaryngology Ranked 6 <sup>th</sup> in World	2008-2012
Distinguished Service Award American Head and Neck Society	2010
Distinguished Service Award American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS	2010
International Health Professional of the Year International Biographical Center Of Cambridge	2006
Zomed/Medtronic Award for Clinical Excellence in Research American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS	2003
International Scientist of the Year International Biographical Center Of Cambridge	2002-2006
Distinguished Service Award American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS	2001
Certificate of Recognition Physicians Assistant Program OHSU	1999
Ben Schuster Memorial Award American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	May 1999
Otolaryngology Teacher of the Year Award Department of Otolaryngology, SUNY at Buffalo	June 1998
Otolaryngology Teacher of the Year Award Department of Otolaryngology, SUNY at Buffalo	June 1997
Honor Award American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery	September 1996
Otolaryngology Teaching Award Department of Otolaryngology, WVU	June 1994

**Community Service:**

Boy Scouts of America 8 Years

**Regional/Local Hospital Participation:**

Interim Chairman of Department 2 years

Surgeon Leader for Operating room 6 years

Local ACS Chapter Board 7 years

**Summation of Published Works Within the Specialty:**

270 Published or in Press in Peer reviewed literature

8 Textbook editor/Associate Editor/Section Leader

74 Chapters in assorted textbooks

5 Podcasts

1Blog