
EDITORIAL

The Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the International Tinnitus Forum

The End of an Era and a New Future for State-of-the-Art Education for Tinnitus Professionals: The First Named International Tinnitus Mini-Seminar of the AAO-HNS

The Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the International Tinnitus Forum (ITF) was successfully completed in San Diego prior to the annual meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS). Barbara Goldstein, PhD, coordinator of the meeting since its origin as the International Tinnitus Seminar, welcomed the attendees and guests and introduced all to the scientific program, faculty, and guest of honor—the AAO-HNS—represented by John W. House, MD, FACS.

The theme and focus of this meeting for the fifth time was translational research in tinnitus therapy. The presentations by the invited faculty were excellent and provided continuity to the 2009 ITF attendees of state-of-the-art information presented at the twenty-sixth ITF meeting for clinical translation of these advances in basic and clinical science for tinnitus patient diagnosis and treatment (i.e., techniques of quantitative electroencephalography, fluid dynamics of the brain and labyrinth, and transcranial magnetic stimulation). Publications of the presentations have been requested of the faculty, and many are included in this issue of the *International Tinnitus Journal*.

A highlight of the meeting was the announcement by our guest of honor, Dr. House, representing the AAO-HNS, of the establishment of a named international tinnitus mini-seminar of the AAO-HNS to start in 2010 and guaranteed a reserved spot on the agenda of the annual meeting and OTO EXPO for a period of 5 years. The program chairman is Michael E. Hoffer, Capt. USN, MD, FACS. The concept is to focus on education for otolaryngologists and interested tinnitus professionals worldwide of state-of-the-art basic and clinical science and clinical medicine for clinical translation for tinnitus theory, diagnosis, and treatment. The program is to be international and to reflect an international effort for the ultimate benefit of the tinnitus patient.

The Martha Entenmann Tinnitus Research Center, Inc. [METRC]; Abraham Shulman, MD; and Barbara Goldstein, PhD, International Tinnitus Mini-Seminar of the AAO-HNS is considered an honor extended to the

METRC and its sponsor, Robert Entenmann. David Kennedy, MD, AAO-HNS President, and David R. Nielsen, MD, AAO-HNS/F EVP/CEO, although not able to attend, sent their sincerest regrets and well wishes. It is their support and that of their staffs—headed initially by Robert Olson and followed by Ms. Julie Wolfe—that contributed to the reality of this first named seminar of the AAO-HNS.

It was appropriate that Dr. John House represented the AAO-HNS on this occasion. (His remarks are included in this issue of the ITJ immediately following this editorial.) Over the years, Dr. House's support as a colleague and friend for our tinnitus efforts has been in the tradition of Howard House, his brother Bill, and the House Ear Institute (i.e., to strive for education and a sharing of information for the ultimate translation for advances in patient care). The House Ear Institute has served as a model for the METRC.

Dr. Hoffer extended a welcome to all to participate in the first named international tinnitus mini-seminar of the AAO-HNS in Boston in 2010. His vision for a planning committee and international participation in future programs was applauded by all present.

The contribution of the METRC for this named international tinnitus mini-seminar is consistent with the goals of tinnitus education and tinnitus diagnosis, treatment, and research as discussed with its benefactor, Robert Entenmann, ongoing since its inception in 1995. It provides a continuity into the future for tinnitus education for tinnitus professionals and the ultimate benefit of tinnitus patients (i.e., to provide a cure for all clinical types of tinnitus).

The goal of the AAO-HNS is to endow the mini-seminar and make it available in perpetuity. Attendees and individuals interested in tinnitus education were invited to consider a gift in support of the named fund for tinnitus-related education.

The METRC extends to all interested tinnitus professionals an invitation to attend in Boston in 2010 the first named international tinnitus mini-seminar of the AAO-HNS.

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