

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR OTITIS MEDIA

Newsletter

#5



A shared vision

I often find conferences to be something of a chore. Taken to a place you don't know, socialising with strangers, and sitting in lectures trying not to fall asleep. From the first time I went in 2009, I found the otitis media conference to be different. It's been easy to make friends, and some of those are now old friends. The research is an area I'm interested in. There's an atmosphere of joviality and comradery. Perhaps even more important, I've developed new research collaborations directly as a result of these meetings. Its fun. In this newsletter we reflect on

our last meeting at National Harbour. We have articles from Jian-Dong Li who put together an excellent programme. Misha Vekerk discusses what he got out of the meeting as a newcomer, and Has Gunasekara as an old-timer. Joe Kerschner tells us about events at the Board Meetings, and Maragretha Casselbrant about our society's finances. But more than that, we welcome the new president of our society, Tania Sih. In her inaugural president's report she outlines her vision for ISOM over the next two years.

We are in good hands.



Mahmood Bhutta
Editor, ISOM Newsletter
Royal National Throat Nose &
Ear Hospital, London
m.bhutta@doctors.org.uk

Thanks to David Lim for providing photos for this newsletter



President's report

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as President of the International Society for Otitis Media (ISOM). Even though it is a very young Society the growth has been tremendous since it was established in 2013 with the development of By-laws, a very active Board of Directors, initiation of Committees, and planning and executing the 18th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media. The meeting was a great success with attendees from all over the world. I am sure you all agree. You all contributed to this success and I thank you so very much. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to Drs. Rosenfeld, Kerschner, Casselbrant, Bakaletz, Li, and Chan for their outstanding efforts.

It is important to recognize the solid scientific pavement that Dr. Charles Bluestone, Drs. David Lim, Jerome Klein and again Margaretha Casselbrant developed over the last 28 years. They inoculated the basis for robust basic science researchers in different areas of otitis media, such as risk factors, epidemiology, Immunology, microbiology, Immunization, diagnosis, pathogenesis, treatment, prevention, sequelae, and complications. They also helped to connect professionals from different fields, including surgeons, pediatricians, otologists, pediatric ENTs, immunologists, microbiologists, basic science researchers, and epidemiologists, making it easier to share experiences and networking.

Our communication was previously done in "slow motion," compared with today's electronic mail, video conferencing, etc. So with a solid fundamental scientific basis, a broad body of diverse yet complementary scientists, easy/speedy access to information, and the well-established Symposia where we meet every two years, there is no doubt that our ISOM "family" is moving forward with giant steps.

I have big shoes to fill taking over as President after Dr. Rosenfeld who has done an outstanding job to advance the Society. I promise I will do my very best. My first goal is to interact with the different Committee Chairs and see that all Committees are complete and that they have the resources they need. Another important goal is to further increase the membership and see that we are represented all over the world. I will also be involved with the planning of the 19th ISOM meeting in Australia in 2017, which I am looking forward to. I hope to see you all there!

Tania Sih
President ISOM

The 2015 Symposium: From the Program Committee

The 18th international symposium on recent advances in otitis media (OM2015) was held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center on the scenic waterfront of the Potomac river from June 7 to 11, 2015. The symposium had over 250 clinicians, health care professionals, researchers and students across multiple disciplines from around the globe to exchange and showcase the strides made in OM.

Plenary sessions highlighting the cutting edge developments in OM-related fields gave an exhilarating start to each day's agenda. Parallel sessions in the form of mini-symposium, panels, and podium presentations covering a rich gamut of topics provided the attendees a

magnificent opportunity to gain insights into diverse topics. Poster reception was an exhibition of exemplary, stimulating and thought provoking dissemination of advances made on research and clinical fronts. Workshops on OM clinical guidelines and Chinchilla Genomics as well as NIH special workshop found great response within the attendees.

The symposium featured riveting keynote speeches from highly accomplished, forward-thinking leaders in areas of omics, novel drug delivery and innate immunity.

OM2015's monumental success is attributed to the relentless dedication and efforts put in by the ISOM Officers and Board of

Directors, organizing, program and vendor relations committees, support staff and lastly, by the attendees itself.

Looking forward excitedly to a promising OM2017 in Australia.

Jian Dong-Li
Chair of the Program
Committee, Otitis Media
Symposium 2015



The 2015 Symposium: A newcomer's perspective



The ISOM conference was preceded by its reputation. "It's great fun", I was told, "The conference is good but what really gets you is the people." Expectations were high for my first international conference, where my abstract had been accepted for an oral presentation. Suffice to say I was not disappointed.

I attended the conference with a few other newcomers, and it was clear that Professor Rosenfeld and the organizing committee had put considerable thought into making the experience an enjoyable one for the uninitiated – with a friendly newcomer's gathering and orientation session on the Sunday evening before the first day of the conference.

I attended a wide variety of sessions during the week, from global perspectives on the clinical management of OM to evolu-

tionary theory and cutting edge advances in drug-delivery. The speakers were superb and it was easy to ask questions, especially in the small parallel sessions. As someone starting out in the field, it was astonishing to see so many of the names I have cited in my bibliographies up on stage and then to have the opportunity to chat with them over lunch! The small size of the conference offered unprecedented networking opportunities with engaging people from around the world, and in my case this sparked a new international research collaboration.

It wasn't all glue ear, though. The conference was a stone's throw from Washington DC and I had time to catch the sights, visit the White House and see Lincoln's top hat, Apollo 11 and Judy Garland's ruby slippers at the Smithsonian Museums.

Otitis media may be the most common bacterial infection of childhood, but OM research is a small world. I feel privileged to have had such a welcoming introduction to this world at ISOM 2015 and I'd like to thank the organizers for the education, new friends and exciting opportunities ahead. I hope to see you at the Gold Coast in 2017!



Misha Verkerk
evidENT
UCL Ear Institute, London

A word from the Secretary

It is my pleasure to provide an update from the Secretary's Office as the International Society for Otitis Media (ISOM).

We have the first International Symposium of Recent Advances in Otitis Media conducted under the auspices of our new Society well behind us now. The meeting in June was an extremely exciting meeting with incredible advances brought forward in science and clinical care and shared by colleagues all over the world just outside Washington DC.

One of the things which I was able to observe from the Secretary's seat at this meeting was the incredible engagement of many leaders around the world. Obviously all at the meet-

ing are invested in making improvements in the care of patients with OM and developing new knowledge to help in that endeavor. However there was great engagement in the continuing to build an organizational structure and community that can assist us all in these goals. That was at the heart of the development of ISOM and continues to grow stronger. Some concrete examples of this were the election of new Executive Committee members and ISOM Board members at the meeting. In addition, successful meetings were held to coordinate the organizational structure and continuity between meetings as the ISOM leadership met with our colleagues from Australia who will be hosting the 19th International Symposium on the Gold Coast in June of 2017. Finally, there were official Board meetings, elections for new officers, population of ISOM committees and a business meeting for Members (all of whom are Charter Members) to solidify how we will move forward as a community.

These are all encouraging signs – signs of vibrancy and positives for the future. I look forward to continuing to work to move our organization forward. I would continue to encourage you to visit our website to be acquainted with the governance and organization of ISOM. <http://www.otitismedia-society.org/>.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further assistance to you.



Joseph E. Kerschner
Secretary, ISOM
Medical College of
Wisconsin, Milwaukee
jkerschner@mcw.edu

A word from the Treasurer



Margaretha Casselbrant
Treasurer, ISOM
University of Pittsburgh
margaretha.casselbrant@chp.edu

I truly enjoyed meeting all of you during the 18th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media in June 2015 in National Harbor, MD and I want to thank all of you so very much for contributing with your presentation of research data to the outstanding scientific quality of the meeting. I am sure that you all agree with me that the meeting was a success. In addition to the scientific part of the meeting I hope you took time to socialize with old friends as well as making new friends. From a financial point of view as well, the meeting has been a success as we "broke even".

Our Society continues to grow and at the end of the Meeting the total number of ISOM charter

members was 107. All who joined the Society before the end of the Meeting are considered ISOM charter members.

I want to inform you that the yearly membership fee from now on will be due by April 30 each year. Do not worry-- I promise that I will remind you! This date was chosen so you as an ISOM member can benefit from the reduction in the registration fee for an upcoming ISOM Meeting. The next ISOM meeting will take place June 4-8, 2017 in Australia. If you have any questions about membership or registration please do not hesitate to contact me.

“All generalizations are wrong, including this one”

The 2015 Symposium: Notes from an old-timer

I look forward to the ISOM/RAOM meetings, having attended all since Amsterdam, 2005. You can catch up with old friends, hear directly from authors you have been reading in the last couple of years and discover what's new in the field. Great decisions to create ISOM, merge US and "extraordinary" meetings and reorder the numbering, making ISOM truly international.

ISOM highlights included the focus on important topics such as CSOM and high-risk groups (e.g., indigenous populations), developmental and learning sequelae of OM and not to mention Rich Rosenfeld strictly enforcing conflict statements. However, despite attempts, I can't get Ramon Jensen's chinchilla day care model

out of my head. As a clinician, it was exciting to hear about vaccines delivered as post-auricular band-aids. Hopefully this escapes "the valley of death" described at ISOM (i.e., the gap between initial concept and eventual vaccine distribution). Also, some quality surgical trials and progress on bio-films (e.g., dornase alfa trial).

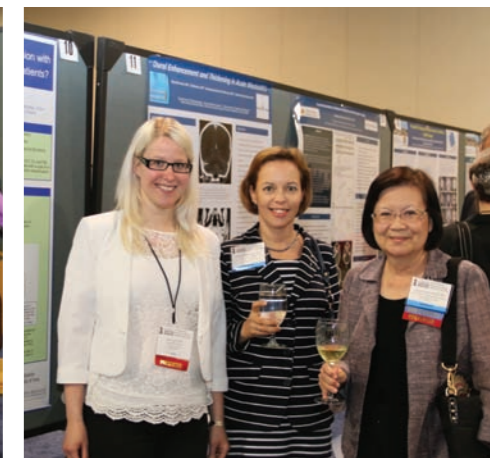
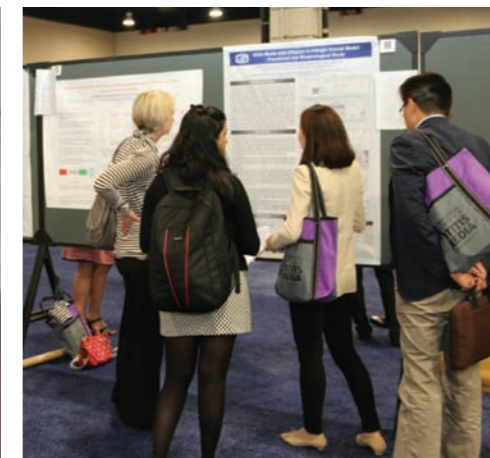
Favourite ISOM quotes:
 Mark Twain: "All generalizations are wrong, including this one"
 Benjamin Franklin: "The best physician is the one who knows the uselessness of the most medications"
 Preben Homoe: "I'm a bit tired this morning as I was up all night. I received a text message from my best friend back home 'sorry Preben, I messed up your wife'.

Then this morning I see another text 'Damn autocorrect, that should be wifi'"

Bring on the Gold Coast!



Hasantha Gunasekera
 The Children's Hospital at Westmead & University of Sydney



Save the date!

19TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RECENT ADVANCES IN OTITIS MEDIA

SAVE THE DATE ★ JUNE 4 - 8, 2017 ★
Gold Coast Queensland, Australia

www.OtitisMediaSociety.org

