



INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY FOR  
**OTITIS  
MEDIA**

*Newsletter*

OCTOBER 2014

#3



Under one roof..

A photograph showing the interior of a modern building with a complex, multi-tiered glass and steel roof structure. The sky is visible through the glass panels, and the interior is illuminated by warm lights.

# ...a meeting of science and friendship

In June 2015 the International symposium for otitis media will come to the Gaylord National Convention Centre, near Washington DC. In this, our third newsletter, our authors tell us what is being put in place to make sure this turns out to be a great meeting.

Jian-Dong Li from the programme committee details what to expect from the scientific content, and Lauren Bakaletz does the same for the post-symposium research conference. Our president Rich Rosenfeld tells us why he thinks the symposium venue is a great choice. Our secretary Joe Kerschner and treasurer Margaretha Casselbrant have been working to support the membership of our society, and Kenny Chan to get vendor support for the symposium, all of which are critical to the future scientific and economic viability of our meetings.

Allan Cripps and Jenelle Kyd tell us about the recent local otitis media conference held in Melbourne, which is laying the ground for our subsequent international symposium scheduled for the Gold Coast of Australia in 2017.

Having been on the Board of the ISOM for the last year, I know that something we believe in passionately is to widen participation in the society. Diego Praciedo highlights what young investigators in the field will get from attending the next symposium. We hope you will encourage more of our colleagues, young and old, near and far, to attend and contribute to our symposium next year, to bring together the global community interested in otitis media not only for scientific debate but also for the fun and frolics that are integral to our biennial coming together.



**Mahmood Bhutta**  
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**Richard M. Rosenfeld**  
President, ISOM  
SUNY Downstate  
Medical Centre, New York

## President's report

In this issue of the ISOM newsletter we share our excitement about the 18th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media (OM2015), which begins on Sunday evening, June 7, 2015, and concludes midday on Thursday, June 11. As in prior years the symposium will be followed immediately by a one-day Research Conference.

OM2015 provides a unique blend of education, inspiration, and networking, in a venue that is fun, affordable, and family-friendly. The Gaylord National Resort is moments from Washington, DC, in National Harbor Maryland, the region's newest waterfront dining and entertainment district. The

42-acre hotel and conference facility is just 5 miles from Old Town Alexandria, 7 miles from Reagan National Airport, 9 miles from the National Mall, and 35 miles from Dulles International Airport. Transportation options include taxi, limousine, shuttle bus, water taxi, and DC Metro Rail (via continuous shuttle service and MetroBus).

The Gaylord boasts a junior Olympic-sized pool, 24-hour fitness center, full-service spa, and nightly entertainment featuring an atrium water fountain show up to 60 feet high. Options for fun and family abound in National Harbor, including shops, dining, water-sports, fitness trails, nightly shows,

and a carousel, Ferris wheel, and a children's museum. Tanger Factory Outlets, within walking distance of the resort, boasts 90 premium shops and retailers.

OM2015 is all about knowledge and networking, but this doesn't preclude having fun – and lots of it. Having recently spent a weekend at the Gaylord, I can attest that National Harbor is indeed fun. So mark your calendars for OM2015 symposium and join us for the official launch of the ISOM. I hope to see you there.

## A word from the Secretary

It is my pleasure to provide an update from the Secretary's Office at the International Society for Otitis Media. The dedication to the early stages of forming the Society has been impressive and the Executive Committee and Board continue to be engaged as we move forward and especially plan for our upcoming meeting.

I reported last time that the Program Committee, Research Committee and Membership Committee had been formed and there has been progress in each of these venues. Dr. Li's report outlines the tremendous progress toward the 2015 Program and there has been work in the

Research Committee to secure funding for the research meeting to follow. The membership continues to grow with currently over 75 Charter Members. In addition the Vendor Relations Committee, headed by Dr. Kenny Chan, has done great work in positioning support for the upcoming meeting. Work continues on the website and I encourage you to continue to visit often at [www.otitismediasociety.org/](http://www.otitismediasociety.org/).

I personally cannot wait until June to see you all at the 2015 meeting. Additional details regarding the meeting and abstract submission will be available on the ISOM website.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further assistance to you at [jkerschner@mcw.edu](mailto:jkerschner@mcw.edu)



**Joseph E. Kerschner**  
Secretary, ISOM  
Medical College of Wisconsin,  
Milwaukee

## A word from the Treasurer



**Margaretha Casselbrant**  
Treasurer ISOM  
University of Pittsburgh

It is my great pleasure to inform you that the support and enthusiasm for the International Society for Otitis Media (ISOM) is very strong with a steadily growing number of charter members. Since the last Newsletter was published much work has been accomplished by the Board and Executive Committee as reported by the President and Secretary.

As the 18th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media in Arlington, Virginia, USA. June 7-11, 2015 is rapidly approaching, I want to inform you that anyone who becomes a charter member or a student member prior to the meeting will get a reduction in the registration fee with \$100 for charter members and \$25 for student members. I hope that you joint us

at the 18th Otitis Media meeting to meet with old and new friends. The Program is still under development but is so far outstanding, and so is the venue.

Membership information can be found on [www.otitismediasociety.org](http://www.otitismediasociety.org). If you have any problems please do not hesitate to contact me at [margaretha.casselbrant@chp.edu](mailto:margaretha.casselbrant@chp.edu)

## A Word from the Chair of the Program Committee

It is my pleasure to provide an update on the Program Committee, 18th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media (OM2015). The Program Committee consists of 12 members, plus three ex-officio members including the President (Dr. Richard Rosenfeld), Secretary (Dr. Joseph Kerschner) and the Chairperson of the immediate preceding symposium (Dr. Sten Hellstrom). The 12 Program Committee members are selected from active ISOM members spanning a wide range of areas of expertise from basic research to clinical study. The detailed information of the Program Committee is available from ISOM website (<http://www.otitismediasociety.org/committees.html>).

Since it was approved by the ISOM Board of Directors last spring, the Program Committee have been working diligently to create an exciting program appealing to a diverse audience including basic scientists and clinicians to ensure collaboration, integration and innovation. Tentatively, there are 4 plenary sessions, 8 minisymposia and 8 panels that have been proposed

by the Program Committee. The four plenary sessions include (1) Current clinical practice guidelines for OM: opportunities, controversies and challenges; (2) CSOM; (3) Omics; (4) Vaccines. The eight minisymposia include (1) Global differences in OM; (2) Complementary and alternative therapy for OM; (3) Impact of OM on hearing and auditory function; (4) Developmental and learning sequelae of OM; (5) Innate Immunity; (6) Drug delivery to middle ear; (7) Biofilm; (8) Pathogenesis/genetics.

I am delighted to report that four outstanding scientists have accepted our invitation to deliver keynote address in areas including Omics, Vaccine, Innate Immunity and Drug Delivery to Middle Ear. The four keynote speakers are Dr. Eddy Rubin (DOE Joint Genome Institute, US), Dr. Cecil Czerkinsky (Institut de Pharmacologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire, France), Dr. Noam Cohen (University of Pennsylvania, US) and Dr. Daniel Kohane (Harvard Medical School, US).

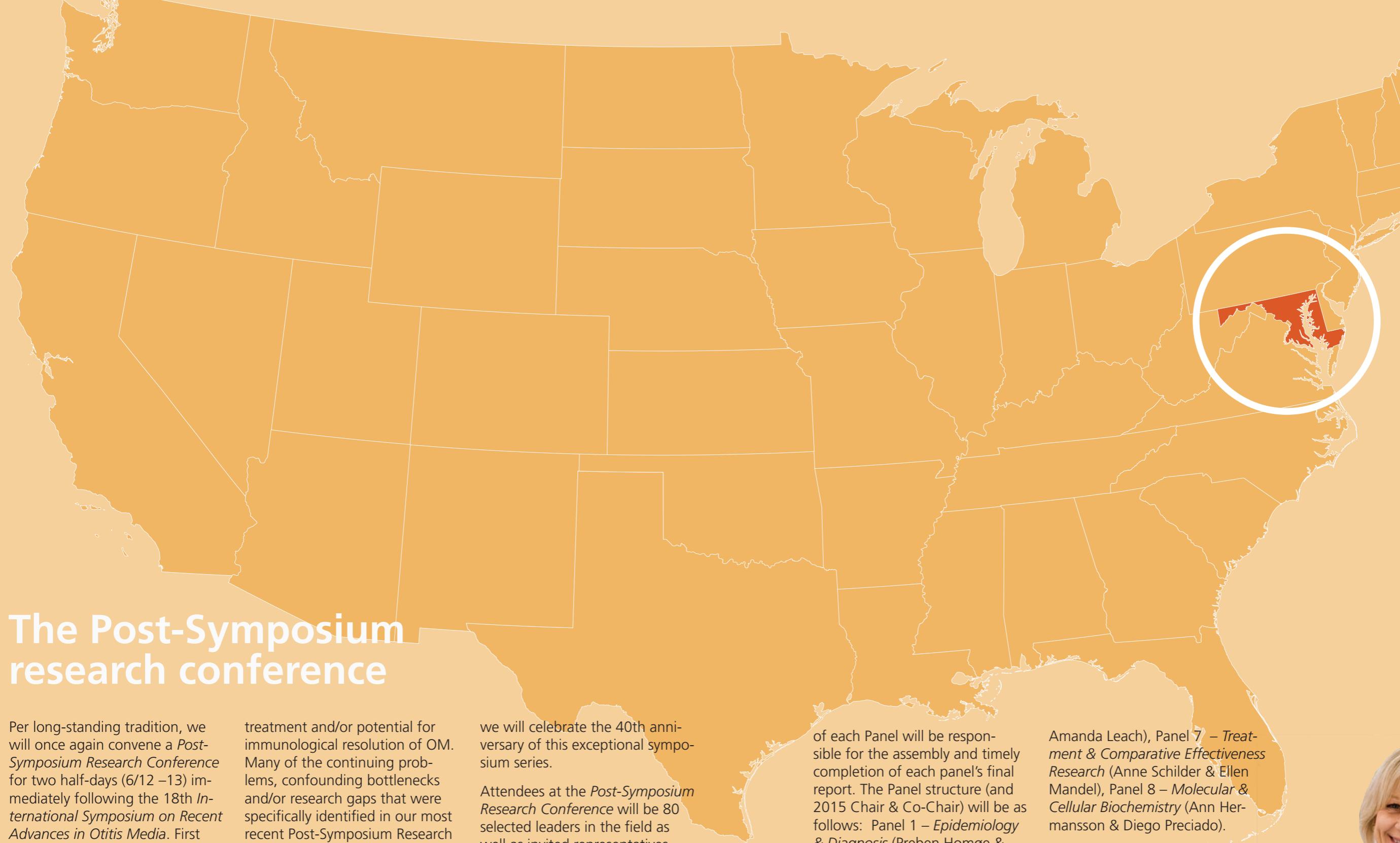
In addition to continuing to develop the Scientific Program, the Program Committee will begin to review the abstracts submit-

ted through ISOM website, which will be open soon. I would like to invite and encourage all of you in particular the young scientists and physicians to submit the abstract of the exciting work for presentation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any question regarding the scientific program and abstract submission.



**Jian-Dong Li**  
Chair of the  
Program Committee  
Georgia State University,  
Atlanta



## The Post-Symposium research conference

Per long-standing tradition, we will once again convene a *Post-Symposium Research Conference* for two half-days (6/12 –13) immediately following the 18th *International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media*. First convened in 1975, the previous *Post-Symposium Research Conferences* have all fostered improved communication amongst diverse research disciplines and helped close gaps in our knowledge and understanding of the pathogenesis of, as well as the diagnosis,

treatment and/or potential for immunological resolution of OM. Many of the continuing problems, confounding bottlenecks and/or research gaps that were specifically identified in our most recent *Post-Symposium Research Conference* report (<http://otitis-mediasociety.org/Intl%20OM%20Research%20Symposium%20Supplement.pdf>) as urgently needing additional study, became the subject of fruitful research and importantly, meaningful progress during the last 4 years. In 2015,

we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of this exceptional symposium series.

Attendees at the *Post-Symposium Research Conference* will be 80 selected leaders in the field as well as invited representatives from NIDCD & NIAID. Attendees will be divided into eight Panels which will review and summarize advances made since the preceding Symposium, as well as generate a list of “recommendations for future research directions and funding”. The Chair and Co-Chair

of each Panel will be responsible for the assembly and timely completion of each panel’s final report. The Panel structure (and 2015 Chair & Co-Chair) will be as follows: Panel 1 – *Epidemiology & Diagnosis* (Preben Homøe & Kari Kvaerner), Panel 2 – *Anatomy* (Michal Luntz & Cuneyt Alper), Panel 3 – *Genetics* (Jizhen Lin & Lena Hafrén), Panel 4 – *Bacteriology & Virology* (Steven Barendkamp & Tasnee Chonmaitree), Panel 5 – *Immunology* (Muneki Hotomi & Jennelle Kyd), Panel 6 – *Vaccines* (Melinda Pettigrew &

Amanda Leach), Panel 7 – *Treatment & Comparative Effectiveness Research* (Anne Schilder & Ellen Mandel), Panel 8 – *Molecular & Cellular Biochemistry* (Ann Hermansson & Diego Preciado).



**Lauren Bakalatz**  
Nationwide Childrens Hospital,  
Columbus

# From the Vendor Relations Committee

Any successfully large-scale continuing education event such as the 18th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media is highly dependent on generous industry support. The Vendor Relations Committee has been hard at work since the summer in coordinating a systematic canvas of all industries relevant to the field of otitis media.

At date a total of over US\$ 10,000 have been committed by several companies. If any ISOM members have special ties

to any companies that might be interested in exhibiting their products, please contact me directly at Kenny.chan@childrenscolorado.org as to avoid redundancy. However, if there are any non-US international companies that might be interested, please begin your initial communication with them but include me in the email chain. The American College of Surgeon, our CME partner, has developed a prospectus for this purpose. This can be downloaded from the ISOM website.



**Kenny H. Chan**  
*Chair, Vendor Relations Committee  
University of Colorado*



## Value of the Symposium to the early stage investigator

OM is a multifactorial, multidisciplinary, ubiquitous disease process in which discovery and advances span through multiple medical specialties and global regions. As such, it's virtually impossible to keep abreast of the latest, state of the art OM work by limiting one's academic interactions to a single specialty's society.

The International OM Symposium addresses this by grouping leaders in OM research from different medical fields and corners of the world into one single highly interactive, exceedingly collegial scientific forum. The meeting provides tangible benefits of particular relevance to the young investigator.

At the 2011 meeting, there was an NIH grant preparation workshop led by Dr. Bracie Watson (Program Officer, NIDCD), and Dr. James Battey (Director, NIDCD), which was of particular use to my own career. Being able to approach these individuals and converse openly about personal research trajectory and plans, receiving candid, individualized advice was tremendously helpful at a very practical level. It is difficult to imagine any other meeting where one is able to engage OM research leaders, receive grantsmanship advice from NIH directors, and network with leading OM research peers.

In my opinion, attendance at

this meeting is a must for any serious young faculty/early stage OM investigator.



**Diego Preciado**  
*Children's National Medical Center,  
Washington DC*

## OMOZ [Otitis Media Australia]

At the 6th Extraordinary International Symposium, May 2009 in Seoul South Korea Dr Ruth Thornton questioned "why with such a large Australian OM contingent we did not hold meetings in Australia?". As a result OMOZ (OTITIS MEDIA AUSTRALIA) was formed.

The first OMOZ meeting was held in Darwin in May 2010, the second in Perth in 2012 and the third in Melbourne in 2014. From the beginning these have been a great success with the meetings now regularly attracting over 100 delegates from across the country. OMOZ aims to provide a forum that links the OM research and clinical community in Australia and the region and to support collaborative efforts and to share resources.

The meetings bring the OM community together every second year, between the international meetings, providing a forum for researchers and practitioners involved in basic science and research; clinical practice and clinical trials; and health, social and education care and practice.

At the 2014 Melbourne meeting, Professor Ron Dagan (Director of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Israel) and Professor Lauren Bakaletz, (Professor of Pediatrics and Otolaryngology USA) were guest keynote speakers. A major outcome of the meeting was a call to set up a "National Taskforce for Otitis Media" to develop strategies to make a permanent impact on the burden of OM in Australia in all communities.

The 19th International Symposium on Otitis Media will be held in Australia, 4-8th June 2017 on the Gold Coast. Register your interest at [www.otitismedia2017.com](http://www.otitismedia2017.com)



**Jennelle Kyd**  
*Swinburne University  
of Technology, Melbourne*



**Allan Cripps**  
*Griffiths University, Brisbane*

# Save the dates!

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

JUNE 7-11, 2015

**18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**INTERNATIONAL  
SYMPOSIUM ON  
RECENT ADVANCES  
IN OTITIS MEDIA**

**OTITISMEDIASOCIETY.ORG**

 INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
**OTITIS  
MEDIA**

JUNE 7-11, 2015  
GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT  
& CONVENTION CENTER  
NATIONAL HARBOR, MD

**19<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON  
RECENT ADVANCES IN OTITIS MEDIA**

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



[www.OtitisMediaSociety.org](http://www.OtitisMediaSociety.org)

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