



# ASPO

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC OTOLARYNGOLOGY, INC  
NEWSLETTER

Fall 2009

## OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

### PRESIDENT:

Sukgi Choi, MD

### PRESIDENT ELECT:

Peter Koltai, MD

### SECRETARY:

Joseph Kerschner, MD

### TREASURER:

Brian Wiatrak, MD

### ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS:

Paul Willging, MD

Dana Suskind, MD

David Darrow, MD

### AD HOC BY LAWS:

Michael Cunningham, MD

### AD HOC HEALTH ECONOMICS

### AND POLICIES:

Ellis Arijmand, MD

### AUDIT:

Robert Ward, MD

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

George Zalzal, MD

### DEVELOPMENT:

Udayan Shah, MD

### EDUCATION /CURRICULUM:

David Darrow, MD

### FELLOWSHIP:

Kenny Chan, MD

### FINANCE:

Richard Rosenfeld, MD

### INFORMATION / TECHNOLOGY:

David Molter, MD

### LIAISON:

Scott Manning, MD

### LONG RANGE / STRATEGIC

### PLANNING:

Kathy Sie, MD

### MEMBERSHIP / CREDENTIALS:

Stephen Conley, MD

### NOMINATING:

Jerome Thompson, MD

### PROGRAM:

Paolo Campisi, MD

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

Nira Goldstein, MD

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Joseph Kerschner, MD

## President's Report

### Sukgi Choi, MD



Sukgi Choi, MD  
ASPO President

As ASPO starts planning for its 26<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, I cannot help but think of its humble beginnings. ASPO began in 1985 when a group of fifty-six physicians interested in treatment of congenital and acquired diseases of the head and neck in children got together in Bermuda. We have come a long way since then. ASPO is now one of the most well recognized specialty societies and our meetings are among the best attended. Our scope of practice continues to evolve and grow. Pediatric otolaryngologists have become an integral part of every academic department.

Although we have matured as a society, there are hurdles that we must still clear.

Sub certification of pediatric otolaryngology is one of the most important issues that we need to tackle. I am convinced that we must pursue subcertification in order to be truly recognized as experts in our chosen field and for pediatric otolaryngology to be recognized as a credible subspecialty. We should do this ourselves, before it is imposed on us.

These are uncertain times for physicians and there will be increasing regulatory and economic challenges. During this year, I would like to see ASPO prepare for this changing health care environment. We need to accredit and standardize our training programs and to demonstrate continued self-education/improvement by preparing for the coming recertification process. We have to change and better define our relationship with "industry." ASPO must educate and involve its members in addressing issues such as scope of practice, pay-for-performance, patient satisfaction surveys, subspecialty reimbursement and universal coverage. Finally, ASPO must nurture continued growth of ASPO membership and finances.

I am fortunate to be surrounded by an able Board of Directors and committee chairs who are dedicated. I also have had the good fortune to have the framework and groundwork already laid down by my predecessors. All committees will continue to make significant contributions to the progress of ASPO. I would like to highlight several of these committee activities.

Subcertification Committee (Chair, Rich Rosenfeld) will continue its important work of exploring subcertification of pediatric otolaryngology and educating the ASPO membership about this process. To this end, the committee is preparing a panel discussion on "Subcertification in Pediatric Otolaryngology: Doing it Right" for the next annual ASPO meeting.

Fellowship Committee (Chair, Kenny Chan) will hold another ACGME accreditation workshop to help the unaccredited programs navigate the accreditation process. There are currently 9 accredited programs and at least 10 programs that will pursue accreditation in the next 12 months. The Fellowship Committee will also create a database of past and current pediatric otolaryngology fellows.

*Continued on page 2*

## MISSION STATEMENT

American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology (ASPO) exists to foster excellence in the care of children with otolaryngologic disorders through education and research and thereby enhance the profession of Pediatric Otolaryngology.

## President's Report continued

Long Range Planning Committee (Chair, Kathy Sie) will be looking at the standards adopted by other professional societies and come up with a set of recommendations regarding what type of relationship ASPO and its leaders should have with industry. This will be done in conjunction with the Development Committee.

The committee will also be looking at facilitating recruitment of residents into pediatric otolaryngology and fellowship graduates into ASPO. They will examine how to raise awareness of pediatric otolaryngology within the medical community and the public; for example, by creating a "speaker's bureau."

Ad hoc Health Policy and Socioeconomic Committee (Chair, Ellis Arjmand) will work to keep the ASPO membership informed of pay-for-performance, scope of practice, and health insurance coverage issues. Dr. Arjmand will be aided in this by his committee members and also by Dr. Scott Schoem who is the ASPO BOG legislative representative to AAO-HNS. I have asked the Committee to tackle at least one project each year that will educate us on the health care policy/economic issues. The Committee has also been asked to prepare and participate in a health care reform panel discussion during 2010 COSM.

Ad Hoc Patient Quality and Safety Committee (Chair, Craig Derkay) is a new committee created this year and is charged to complete at least one safety and quality related project each year. This will not only involve surveying the members regarding safety and quality issues but also looking at the standards utilized by various organizations and professional societies. Next year, they will participate in developing outcome surveys for some of the more common otolaryngology surgeries and work to get the survey into the S-CAHPS database (surgical consumer assessment of healthcare providers and systems).

Development Committee (Chair, Udayan Shah); there probably is no more important effort that we are undertaking than creating a culture of giving back to the specialty. In order for ASPO to continue its mission of "excellence in the care of children with otolaryngologic disorders," we need to continue to fund education, advocacy and research. Udayan and his committee members will be working to energize our membership in creating an effective long-term strategy for member and supporter giving.

Membership Committee (Chair, Stephen Conley) will be working on increasing membership numbers. Currently recent fellow graduates' membership in ASPO stands at 50%. Using the database created by the Fellowship Committee, the Membership Committee will extend an invitation to join ASPO to any fellowship graduates as soon as they are eligible.

Bylaws Committee (Chair, Michael Cunningham) is pursuing the possibility of establishing a "fellow" category of membership for ASPO. Dues for this proposed group will be nominal and may allow us to capture fellows for future ASPO membership. The eligibility for this category of membership will need to be determined.

Program Committee (Chair, Paolo Campisi) is in the process of preparing for the ASPO scientific program for Las Vegas meeting in April 2010. The committee will focus on regulatory and socioeconomic challenges and advocacy and improvement in pediatric otolaryngologic care.

ASPO has come a long way from its first meeting in 1985. I am proud of the Society that we have become. I invite all of you to work with me to ensure the continued growth and success of ASPO for many years to come. The Board and I hope to see all of you in Vegas!

Sincerely,  
Sukgi S. Choi, MD

## Secretary Report Joseph Kerschner, MD

It is with great anticipation that I move into my fourth and final year as your ASPO Secretary. So much has been accomplished during my first three years. Dr. Choi has charted an aggressive agenda for this year going forward as outlined in her report. I truly look forward to supporting her in accomplishing these goals. As I have indicated in previous Newsletters, ASPO has truly been blessed with outstanding leadership, energy and dedication among its members. This combination has enabled so much progress. It has been remarkable to see our organization leap to the front of organized otolaryngology.

This will be a historic year for COSM. As most of you are aware, the Secretary of each of the senior societies in otolaryngology form the Secretaries Liaison Committee (SLC) of COSM. This group has enacted some remarkable changes for COSM over the last several years. Those changes have placed COSM on very strong financial grounds and have steered COSM to a bright future. Importantly, the SLC will be interviewing three candidates for the position of Chair at the SLC meeting in San Diego. From these candidates the first new Chair of the SLC will be selected to replace Dr. Jerome Goldstein who has held this position since 1979. It is an exciting time for new leadership and a time of new directions. We are extremely grateful for the outstanding leadership provided by Jerry over the last several decades.

I am happy to report that at the last SLC meeting the committee settled on a permanent template for COSM meetings. This is really an incredible feat given some of the contention over this issue in past years.

## Secretary Report continued

With respect to ASPO, the place that was negotiated for our meeting time is outstanding and provides all of the items that the Board determined desirable.

1. ASPO will continue to have four half-day sessions, which is crucial given our large number of presentations and attendees.
2. ASPO will continue to have the weekend days, which our membership has indicated on many occasions is their preference.
3. ASPO will have the first half-day session on Friday afternoon, with a full day on Saturday and conclude with a Sunday morning session.
  - a. This allows some flexibility in the banquet.
  - b. This allows for continuous sessions without interruption.
  - c. This allows ASPO to avoid a Sunday afternoon session which has been very problematic with respect to vendors, food and drink support and travel.
  - d. ASPO has avoided overlap with ABEA, which will continue to meet on the first two days of COSM. Given the significant overlap of ASPO members with those of ABEA, this was another desirable outcome.

I am pleased to report that the previous has been accomplished during my tenure on the SLC. I think this will continue to provide a strong basis for what has been the most outstanding subspecialty meeting at COSM.

As always, if there is anything you wish to bring to the forefront of the ASPO Board or organizational initiatives that you feel are important, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Future COSM Dates

- 4/28/10 – 5/2/10: Las Vegas, NV (Bally's Las Vegas)  
 4/28/11 – 5/1/11: Chicago, IL (Sheraton Towers)  
 4/18/12 – 4/22/12: San Diego, CA (Manchester Grand Hyatt)

Finally, in an effort to keep ASPO membership up-to-date on the activities of the ASPO Board, I continue to include a list of important decisions and action items from the most recent Board meeting.

#### Catalogue of Action Items and Votes

Item # where action found	Motion/Action Item	Result
ITEM #1	Approval of Board Minutes from September 22nd	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM #3	Two Candidates from ASPO being proposed for Chair of Secretary's Liaison Committee of COSM	<b>No vote</b>
ITEM #4	Change checking account to more convenient location in Birmingham, AL – current site of Treasurer's Office	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM #5	Put 10% in high yield bond and reduce large cap stocks to 17%	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM #5	Adjust portfolio to 50% US – 50% International	<b>Agreed - No vote needed</b>
ITEM #5	Transfer \$100K from checking account to Endowment Fund	<b>Approved</b>

ITEM #5.5	ASPO pursuing concept of Subspecialty Certification Broad consensus being sought AAO-HNS and ABO to well-informed Not meant to impact general certificate in otolaryngology	<b>No vote</b>
ITEM #6	Bylaws Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uniform Committees – (with a few exceptions) as noted in Bylaws                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 person committees                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2 new people each year serving 3 years</li> <li>▪ Chair would be in place for 2 years having previously served on committee</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Executive Committee                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expanded to include past-president</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Membership qualifications added to Bylaws                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applicants must attend meeting within past 2 years</li> <li>- Canadians included as full members</li> <li>- Eliminated necessity for AAO-HNS membership - but highly recommend</li> <li>- Eliminate need for doing broad types of pathology – need 80% kids</li> <li>- Eligible for membership two years after completion of 1<sup>st</sup> year of fellowship</li> <li>- Need 2 peer-reviewed publications</li> </ul> </li> <li>• President will nominate individuals to serve positions in other societies</li> <li>• There will be a stipend to Secretary's and Treasurer's offices</li> <li>• Business can be done by email</li> <li>• Audit (full transactional review) by December after Treasurer's term</li> <li>• Education and Bylaws Committees changed from Ad Hoc to regular Committee status</li> <li>• \$50 late fee for non-payment of dues by Annual Meeting</li> <li>• Forfeiture of membership if dues are unpaid within 24 months. Reinstatement requires the Member to pay all unpaid dues from years past and late fee and go through a re-application process.</li> </ul>	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM # 7	Add Fellow Representative to Education Committee	<b>No vote</b>
ITEM # 8	Board has approved recommendation that all Fellowship Programs have ACGME accreditation by 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 have achieved this</li> <li>- Most others have a plan to achieve this</li> </ul>	<b>No vote</b>
ITEM # 9	Funding increase to additional \$20K for 2 more years for resident recruitment initiative	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM # 9	Conduct Fellows survey on annual basis	<b>No vote</b>
ITEM# 10	During the electronic submission process, include the expectation that all abstracts accepted for podium presentation at ASPO annual meeting will be submitted to <i>Archives of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery</i> with right of first refusal regarding publication with possible exemption based on the judgment of ASPO President	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM # 12	President-Elect Candidate: Peter Koltai Member-at-Large: David Darrow	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM# 13	Increase number of ASPO members to CORE grant review - up to 5	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM# 13	Grants approved: Garani Nadaraja, MD = \$15,000 Johannes Grimmer, MD = \$15,000 Scott Brietzke, MD = \$5,000	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM# 13	Approve money to allow for surveys to be done for ASPO via Survey Monkey (~\$300/year)	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM# 16	Change deadline for new Membership Applications from Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> to Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Approved</b>

ITEM# 16	Recommend slate of new members to full membership for approval as ASPO members	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM# 17	Work to increase number of ASPO generated articles in the AAO-HNS <i>Bulletin</i> this year	<b>No vote</b>
ITEM # 19	Agreement with accountant Dolce/Dolce will end this year – continue with this accounting firm	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM # 22	Bylaws for AAO-HNS Subspecialty Council have been approved and ASPO representative to this Committee is Dr. Derkay – serving a 3 year term. Alternate to Dr. Derkay will be the ASPO President or Past-President	<b>No vote</b>
ITEM # 22	Two seats on the AAO-HNS Board have been approved for subspecialty representation from the Subspecialty Council created by the AAO	<b>No vote</b>
ITEM# 23	Will continue to examine appropriateness of funding of Newsletter by Corporations	<b>No vote</b>
ITEM # 24	List Conflicts of Interests for Board Members for past 2 years in Annual ASPO Program Book	<b>Approved</b>
ITEM # 24	Approve \$10K to develop a survey to work with S-CHAPS	<b>No vote</b>

### **Ad Hoc Patient Quality and Safety Committee Craig Derkay, MD**

Ad Hoc Patient Quality and Safety Committee is a new committee created this year by Dr. Sukgi Choi. The committee is charged to complete at least one Safety and Quality related project each year. This will not only involve surveying the members regarding safety and quality issues, but also looking at the standards utilized by various organizations and professional societies. Over the next two years, they will participate in developing outcome surveys for some of the more common otolaryngology surgeries and work to get the survey into the S-CAHPS database (surgical consumer assessment of healthcare providers and systems).

The Committee was composed to encompass ASPO members with experience in the fields of patient safety and quality. It is being chaired and co-chaired by Craig Derkay and Ellen Deutsch. Its members include Dave Roberson, Ellis Arjmand, and Steve Sobol. Dr. Choi has also assigned Rich Rosenfeld and Rahul Shah to the committee as consultants.

The first project being tackled is a dual survey of the ASPO membership and the OR Directors of the CHCA Hospitals regarding surgical time-out, site marking and surgical checklists being employed around the country for routine pediatric otolaryngology procedures. The committee endeavors to have the results collated by the time of the Academy meeting and a "consensus recommendation" formulated for presentation to the ASPO Board. It is hoped that such a recommendation will carry some weight with the Joint Commission and help ASPO members working with their hospitals and ambulatory surgery units to formulate guidelines that provide safety to our patients without being overly burdensome to the surgeon.

### **President's Appeal Udayan Shah, MD**

Our ASPO President Dr Sukgi Choi has asked the Development Committee to coordinate an effective long-term strategy for member and supporter giving. We understand that in this tough economy, not everyone will be able to give. Please understand that this is the beginning of a long-term mission and not a "one and done" solicitation.

As we are facing poor returns from the market, there is also less industry support of our educational mission. In order for ASPO to continue our mission of "Excellence in the care of children with otolaryngologic disorders," we need to continue to fund education and research. The dollars paid in dues simply do not cover these costs and if ASPO is to continue to thrive, the organization will need to grow the funds available to support these efforts.

Member giving is critical to our continued excellence within and beyond Pediatric Otolaryngology. We want to develop a culture of annual giving.

To this end, we would like to try to build an ethic of "A little bit from everyone:" a small contribution by check (even \$50 this year for example, if possible, from each ASPO Member) to be mailed to:  
Udayan Shah MD  
1600 Rockland Road  
Wilmington DE 19803

Please write "ASPO 2009 Presidential Appeal" on the memo line. This amount is tax-deductible, as will be noted in our acknowledgement once we receive your contribution.

We on the Development Committee will be calling to touch base if needed. You may contact me for any concerns via email or phone (office 302-651-5829).

Your help will keep ASPO successful.

Thank you for your consideration of this important mission for our Society.

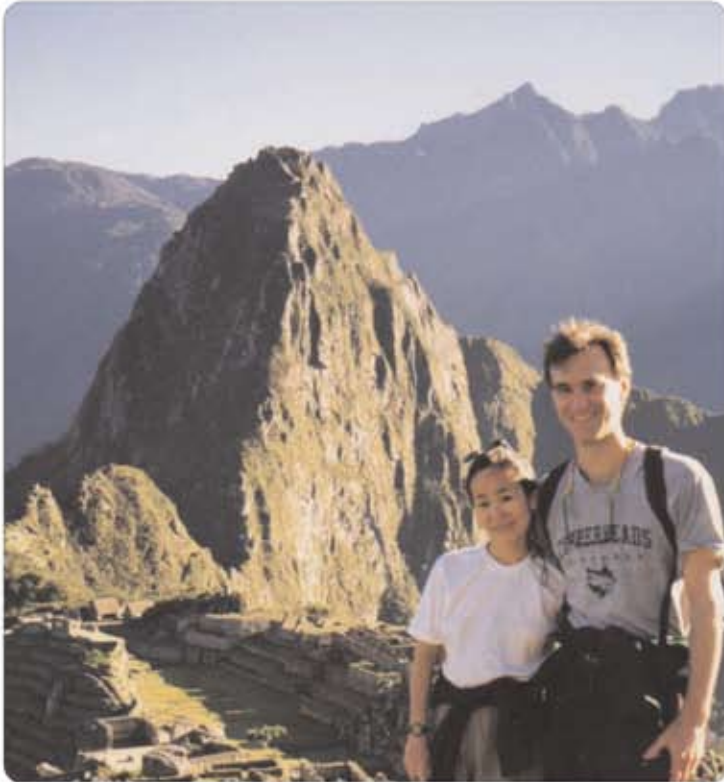
With our best regards,  
The ASPO Development Committee

Udayan Shah MD, Chair  
Diane Heatley, MD  
Ian Jacobs, MD  
Richard Kang, MD  
Joe Kerschner, MD  
Bob Ward, MD

## President's Personal Photo

In keeping with our recent tradition, I have asked our President to share a personal photo with all of us.

This photo of Dr. Sukgi Choi and her husband was taken at Machu Picchu in Peru.



## Calendar of Events

ASPO/COSM 2010  
April 28, 2010-May 2, 2010  
Bally's Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, NV, USA  
sheilaseid@mac.com  
www.aspo.us  
www.cosm.md

AAO-HNS Annual Meeting & Oto Expo 2009  
October 4, 2009-October 7, 2009  
San Diego, California, USA  
www.entnet.org

SENTAC  
December 3, 2009-December 6, 2009  
Salt Lake City Marriott Downtown  
Salt Lake City, Utah, USA  
www.sentac.org

XXXII Panamerican Congress Otorhinolaryngology & HNS  
March 21, 2010-March 24, 2010  
Cancun - México  
www.panamorl.com.ar

10th International Congress of the European Society of Pediatric  
Otorhinolaryngology  
June 5, 2010-June 8, 2010  
Pamplona, Spain  
www.espopamplona2010.com

British Association for Paediatric Otorhinolaryngology  
September 17, 2010  
Portland Place, London  
www.bapo.org.uk

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4/28/11 – 5/1/11: Chicago, IL (Sheraton Towers)  
4/18/12 – 4/22/12: San Diego, CA (Manchester Grand Hyatt)

American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology  
ASPO Meeting Planner  
1721 Gascony Road  
Encinitas, CA 92024

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Permit No. 3431

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[www.aspo.us](http://www.aspo.us)**

**ASPO ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION**

**ASPO BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**ASPO PROGRAM ARCHIVE**

[http://www.aspo.us/information.php?info\\_id=10](http://www.aspo.us/information.php?info_id=10)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

<http://www.aspo.us/employment.php>

**FELLOWSHIPS**

<http://www.aspo.us/information.php>

**MEMBER LOCATOR**

<http://www.aspo.us/members.php>

**NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE**

[http://www.aspo.us/information.php?info\\_id=18](http://www.aspo.us/information.php?info_id=18)

**RESEARCH AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

[http://www.aspo.us/information.php?info\\_id=12](http://www.aspo.us/information.php?info_id=12)

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

[http://www.aspo.us/UserFiles/File/pdf/ASPO\\_application\\_2006.pdf](http://www.aspo.us/UserFiles/File/pdf/ASPO_application_2006.pdf)

**ASPO MEETING PLANNER**

Sheila Seid  
760.942.9965 (*phone*)  
[sheilaseid@mac.com](mailto:sheilaseid@mac.com)

**WEBMASTER**

Marc Steele  
801.696.9966 (*phone*)  
[march@marcsteele.com](mailto:march@marcsteele.com)