

# COMBINED OTOLARYNGOLOGY SPRING MEETING, SAN DIEGO, USA, 18–22 APRIL 2012

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The annual COSM – Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meeting – took place between 18 and 22 April. The meeting is attended mostly by American scientists and a fairly large group of international experts involved in otorhinolaryngology. This year’s meeting took place in San Diego, California, USA. The uniqueness of the conference lies in the fact that it is a combined meeting of numerous American societies with interest in otolaryngology such as the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery; American Broncho-Esophagological Association; American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology; American Laryngological Association; American Neurotology Society; American Otological Society; American Rhinologic Society; and the Triological Society.

COSM’s mission, enshrined in its statute, is “... to establish cooperation of companies involved in the COSM, otolaryngology residents, medical students and professionals from related fields in order to disseminate and exchange the latest clinical and basic research”. This noble objective has been realised by the COSM organisers since 1970, when the first such meeting took place. The uniqueness of COSM is that only original work, never presented before, is eligible for consideration.

A highlight of this year’s conference was the admission of Prof. Henryk Skarzynski to the American Otological

Society as a corresponding member. The AOS is the oldest otorhinolaryngological society in the United States and one of the two oldest American professional societies. Prof. Skarzynski’s membership was a unique expression of his personal contribution to the world of science. The event took place on Saturday April 21 at an evening event attended by distinguished American scientists.

During the meeting discussion topics revolved around many different issues: oncology, including skull base tumors, pediatric otolaryngology with congenital disorders, tissue engineering, voice disorders, reconstruction, facial and plastic surgery, craniofacial trauma, upper airway constriction, sleeping disorders, and allergy. A considerable amount of time was devoted to the topic of otology. Among the most interesting lectures were sessions dedicated to patients with semicircular top canal fistula, diagnostic methods, and results of surgical treatment. Two further sessions of the ANS (American Neurotology Society) were devoted to general issues of cochlear implants. Other societies such as the Triological Society and the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology also devoted separate sessions to otology.

More information on the COSM meetings can be found on the website: <http://www.cosm.md/>.