

Editorial

The Laryngoscope and the Korean Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

The Laryngoscope is a global otolaryngology journal. In fact, just under 50% of submissions originate from the United States. There are a number of countries that both submit a large number of high-quality submissions, as well as comprise a meaningful proportion of *the Laryngoscope* readership. South Korea is one such country. In an effort meant to grow the connection between the South Korean Otolaryngologic community and *the Laryngoscope*, and with the Triological Society, please find below an editorial describing the Korean Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Society's mission, achievements, and upcoming meetings. *The Laryngoscope* and the Triological Society looks forward to forging bonds with the national otolaryngologic societies of other likeminded countries.

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Founded in 1947, the Korean Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (KORL-HNS) is dedicated to the fields of Otolaryngology, Rhinology, and Head and Neck Surgery. The society focuses on the prevention and treatment of diseases within the head and neck, striving for excellence in research, clinical care, education, and public health. The mission of the society is "to devote itself to the improvement of ear, nose, face, and neck health for the nation and humanity." Over the past 77 years, the KORL-HNS has established a reputation as an exemplary society, currently totaling more than 5232 members, which includes 4416 specialists and 429 residents, as well as 387 international members. As South Korea is a relatively small country, not only is the reputation of the KORL-HNS impressive for its number of members, but more so for the exceptional level of their academic productivity underscoring the KORL-HNS's position on a global scale. Although the society has a central role in domestic otorhinolaryngology, in the past few decades, it has clearly made a reach beyond the borders of South Korea.

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The KORL-HNS and associated societies have successfully organized numerous prestigious international conferences, including the 5th Asia-Oceania Congress of Otorhinolaryngological Society (1983), the 12th (1993) and 22nd (2003) International Symposium on Infection and Allergy of the Nose (ISIAN), the 5th Congress of Asian-Pacific Deafness (1996), the 25th Politzer Society Meeting (2005), the 2nd (1999), 8th (2011) and 14th (2023) Asia Pacific Symposium on Cochlear Implants and Related Sciences (APSCI), the 20th World Congress of the International Federation of Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies (IFOS, 2013), International Evoked Response Audiometry Study Group Symposium (IERASG, 2015), and the 14th International Facial Nerve Symposium (IFNS, 2022). Furthermore, members of the KORL-HNS will host the Tinnitus Research Initiative Conference (TRI, 2025), the Asia Pacific Pediatric Otolaryngology Group Conference (APOG, 2025), the 37th World Congress of Audiology (2026), IERASG in 2027, the 10th Quadrennial Conference on Vestibular Schwannoma and Other CPA Tumors (2027), as well as the 7th World Congress of Endoscopic Ear Surgery in 2028. Based on these and other activities, the KORL-HNS is poised to contribute significantly to the advancement of Otorhinolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery by integrating innovative ideas, technologies, and research from around the world.

To foster international relationships and academic exchange, the KORL-HNS has established Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with 11 countries and organizations, including China, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Denmark, CEORL, ASEAN, and KAOS (the Korean American Otolaryngology Society). The KORL-HNS is strengthening the relationships and promoting mutual exchange with MOU countries by attending each other's academic conferences, thereby maintaining a supportive connection that benefits our respective societies.

The KORL-HNS also publishes a SCIE-recognized official journal, *Clinical and Experimental Otorhinolaryngology (Clin Exp Otorhinolaryngol, CEO)*. This international peer-reviewed journal focuses on recent advancements in the diagnosis and treatment within the fields of otorhinolaryngology and head and neck surgery, with the ultimate aim to enhance patient care. CEO publishes a range of original articles, including clinical and

basic research, reviews, and clinical trials, to comprehensively cover topics within otorhinolaryngology-head and neck surgery. Launched in 2008, the journal is published quarterly (February, May, August, and November) in English by the KORL-HNS. The journal emphasizes including only evidence-based and scientifically sound articles. According to the 2023 impact factor released by Clarivate Analytics, CEO was recognized as a Q1 journal with an impact factor of 2.9, ranking fifth among 66 journals in the ENT field.

In addition to nurturing the academic growth of Otorhinolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery in Korea, the KORL-HNS aims to promote international collaboration through its annual congress. In 2014, an effort was made to reorganize the congress to become an international event. To further emphasize this change of transforming the annual spring conference from a domestic to an international meeting, the name was changed to The International Congress of ORL-HNS (ICORL) in 2015. Since then, with the exception of a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been held annually each April, firmly establishing its vitality, now for a decade. Typically, the congress attracts around 2000 participants, with approximately 10% being international attendees. Post pandemic, the congress was revitalized in 2022 and currently spans 3–4 days. The congress is typically held in Seoul or various cities near Seoul in the month of April, which is considered one of the best times of the year to visit Korea.

Most recently, ICORL 2024 in conjunction with the 98th Annual Congress of the Korean Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and the 2024 Spring Meeting of the Korean Association of Otorhinolaryngologists, was held at the Suwon Convention Center in Suwon, Korea, this past April (<https://www.koreaorlmeeting.org/workshop/2024spring/>). This venue, strategically located in a vibrant city, offers a unique blend of tradition and modernity. Despite facing difficulties due to the Korean medical crisis in 2024 resulting in residents having minimal attendance at the conference, over 1300 otolaryngologists and related professionals participated meaningfully in the conference. Notably, 52 invited speakers from various countries including the United States, Canada, Denmark, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam presented their work. Overall, there were approximately 150 international attendees from 18 countries. The congress program featured an 85% English-language curriculum and covered over 77 sessions on diverse clinical and basic research topics in both surgical and nonsurgical fields. The program included keynote lectures, symposiums, round tables, “Meet the Professor” sessions, “Masters of Surgery” demonstrations, debates, hands-on courses, interest group meetings, and free paper presentations (both oral and poster). In the field of otology, a wide range of topics were addressed, including genetic hearing loss, inflammatory diseases, hearing restoration through cochlear implantation, congenital anomalies, dizziness, tinnitus, eustachian tube dysfunction, facial nerve disorders, and lateral skull base surgery. Regarding the rhinologic program, there was considerable interest in topics such as endotypes of chronic rhinosinusitis and the use of biologics, sleep

disorders, rhinoplasty, olfaction, and allergy as well as other topics. These subjects encompassed a wide array of both basic and clinical research, making them particularly intriguing areas of study. The head and neck program covered a variety of topics of global interest including robotic surgery, reconstruction, salivary gland diseases, voice disorders, and functional rehabilitation following advanced cancer treatment. These areas reflected the latest advancements and challenges in the field, addressing both surgical techniques and postoperative care.


In addition, at the most recent congress in 2024, in an effort to promote the Triological Society, a presentation titled “Joining the Triological Society: What, How, When & Why,” was given to introduce and publicize the Triological Society’s objectives and activities. The Triological Society was unfamiliar to most of the KORL-HNS members and other attendees of ICORL 2024. However, this introduction provided a valuable opportunity for many attendees to gain an understanding of its overall mission and activities through a detailed and accessible explanation to the audience. This initiative sparked significant interest among participants and resulted in eight KORL-HNS members applying for candidacy as active fellowship in the inaugural year of Korean applicants to the Triological Society.

Additionally, there are pre-congress workshops organized by renowned domestic universities that take place the day before the start of the main congress. These include a temporal bone dissection workshop and an international course on endoscopic surgery of the nose and paranasal sinuses. As these workshops allow both domestic and international participants to engage, they provide excellent opportunities, especially for trainees and young otolaryngologists, to gain in-depth study and enhance their knowledge in specialized areas. Such interactive learning experiences are invaluable for further developing their skills and expertise in the field of otolaryngology, allowing participants to stay updated with the latest advancements and techniques.


Looking ahead, the ICORL 2025 (<https://www.koreaorlmeeting.org/workshop/2025spring/>) is planned for April 18–20, 2025, again in Suwon. Spring in Korea, particularly in Suwon, is known for its beautiful and mild climate, making it an ideal time for such events and visiting Korea. The 2025 congress will be especially significant as it marks the 10th anniversary of ICORL. Renowned speakers from the countries with which the KORL-HNS has established MOUs are expected to be invited, providing an excellent opportunity for attendees to learn from leading experts from around the world in our specialty.

In summary, the KORL-HNS continues to play a pivotal role in advancing the fields of otorhinolaryngology and head and neck surgery, both domestically and internationally through its dedicated members, successful conferences, and impactful publications. The ICORL provides an outstanding opportunity for broad academic exchange that encompass both Western and Asian perspectives, as well as the chance to cultivate personal relationships within the field. This distinctive blend of professional interaction and


networking makes it a highly valuable conference for attendees, offering them the chance to enhance their understanding and collaboration across diverse cultures and disciplines in otorhinolaryngology and head & neck surgery.

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