



# Foreword

## Spreading Our Wings: Leadership and Personal Growth in Otolaryngology



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*Consulting Editor*

Although disorders and treatments of the ears, nose, and throat (ENT) were described in ancient Indian, Chinese, and Greek texts, otolaryngology–head and neck surgery as a specialty began in the Western world in the nineteenth century, when doctors figured out that the ears, the nose, and the throat are closely connected by a system of tubes and passages. An important new medical specialty was thus born. ENT problems are the most common reasons for physician visits around the world, both in developing and developed countries and in rural and urban communities. As such, most people have interacted with an otolaryngologist. In addition to guiding, mentoring, and sponsoring younger ENTs, we are uniquely poised to lead, not just in our field but also in the greater House of Medicine and in society.

“Intentionally Shaping the Future of Otolaryngology” is a special section of *Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America* featuring a series of articles authored by leaders in our field and curated by Jennifer Villwock, MD. Two articles from this series will be published in every issue of *Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America*, starting with this one, covering the breadth of opportunities and possibilities. The topics range from mentorship and sponsorship, to strategies for achieving leadership positions in societies and in various types of practice settings, to the importance of thoughtful diversity and inclusion in keeping our field strong, and opportunities for personal and professional growth that may not be obvious to the practicing otolaryngologist.

The first 2 articles of this series are by 2 past presidents of the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. K.J. Lee has held high leadership positions in our field and has advised several presidents of the United States. His article chronicles his leadership experiences at the highest levels and demonstrates how we can affect meaningful change in our communities, large and small. My article,

initially published in *Otology and Neurotology* and reprinted here with permission, looks at the importance of diversity and inclusion within our scientific societies, so that our field continues to grow and appropriately represents our membership and our patients.

I commend Dr Villwock on spearheading the creation of this special section and for guest-editing it. Singer and humanitarian Dolly Parton says, "I'm not going to limit myself just because people won't accept the fact that I can do something else." I hope that the articles in "Intentionally Shaping the Future of Otolaryngology" inspire you to spread your wings.

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