Dear Bárány Society member,

Welcome to a new year with the Bárány Society, the worldwide organization for clinicians and researchers working in the field of neuro-otology. The Bárány Society celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2020, and it remains a vibrant society with great potential for further development. I hope that you agree with me that awareness of professional relationships and respect for diversity is fundamental for the Bárány Society.

As you probably are aware, the Society now has a modern and well-functioning web site, www.thebaranysociety.org, and can also be found on Facebook. I recommend that you take advantage of the website. For example, go to the official journal of the society, Journal of Vestibular Research, and you will find the series of consensus documents produced by the Committee for the Classification of Vestibular Disorders. On the website you also find an important note, “Please make sure your email address is registered with the Society”. If you change working place or retire, please send your new email address to the society secretary, Åsa Eriksson (asa.eriksson@akademiska.se).

The Bárány Society plays an important role in supporting the work of the Committee for the Classification of Vestibular Disorders, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all members of the committee for their excellent work.

We are looking forward to the XXXI Bárány Society Meeting in Madrid. This year’s meeting is to be held on September 6th-9th. The event will be presided over by our meeting president Nicolás Pérez Fernández. I hope that a great number of members will have the possibility to attend the meeting, and more information can be found at www.barany2020.com. A satellite meeting will be arranged before the ordinary meeting in the beautiful city of Granada in southern Spain. Our ability to attract new members is normally stronger every second year when a regular meeting is arranged, and we suspect we will see the same tendency this year. New members make an important contribution to the Society’s vitality and obviously enable us to maintain a strong position.
Our business meeting in Madrid will be an important event, and I would like to invite all members attending the Madrid meeting to participate in the business meeting. There are a number of issues that we need to discuss. In my opinion, it is important that the Society’s bylaws keep up with the demands of a worldwide organization in the year 2020. Therefore, an overhaul of the current bylaws of the Society should be initiated.

One of my annual duties is to remind all active members of the dues payment. By paying your membership fee, you get a discount on attendance of the XXXI Bárány Society meeting in Madrid. I would like to stress that we are keeping the administrative costs to a minimum, and the Society will continue to financially support the important work of the Committee on International Classification of Vestibular Disorders. We have not raised the membership fee for many years, and it is still only 60 US dollars or 50 euros. Information about the membership dues renewal is given on our website. We kindly ask that you use the preferred PayPal method of payment.

Finally, I would like to address a serious enquiry concerning possible deceased members. I would be grateful if those of you who know of members who have passed away during 2018–2020 would send relevant information by e-mail to: asa.eksson@akademiska.se

It has been – and still is – an exciting task to serve as President of the Bárány Society. Should you have any suggestions as to how we can further the aims of our Society, please contact me in Uppsala.

With my warmest regards,

Göran Laurell
Bárány Society President