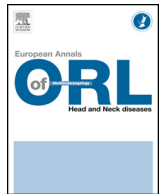




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Young Otolaryngologists of International Federation of Oto-rhino-laryngological Societies (YO-IFOS) committees



Young Otolaryngologists (YO) can face many challenges early in their careers. YO in the developing world might lack access to high quality and inexpensive educational material, although open access resources are increasing [1]. YO practicing in geographically isolated countries or modest academic hospitals might struggle to get opportunities for high-quality clinical or research fellowships [2]. Young surgeons who are active in research sometimes lack the opportunity to shine in international meetings because they have limited access to otolaryngology networks, associations and societies.

There have been few events or societies focusing on young surgeons in our specialty, and these have tended to be at a national or regional level, rather than international [3,4]. A precedent has been set in other specialties; an early example is the creation of an international society for young urologists [5]. Young urologists are also supported via the Young Urologists Committee of the American Urological Society and the Young Urologists Office of the European Association of Urology. During the recent IFOS meeting held in Paris in June 2017, the Young Otolaryngologists of International Federation of Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies (YO-IFOS) group was created. It targets young otolaryngologists under the age of 45, who may be in various career stages: basic training, residency or board-certified otolaryngologists. To the best of our knowledge, YO-IFOS is the first international society for YO. It is a unique opportunity to build bridges that will facilitate access for YO around the world to research opportunities, educational material, networking and will involve budding surgeons in the organization of international meetings, such as the IFOS conference. The YO-IFOS organization has created four committees to address these areas: Research, Education, Networking and Congress organization.

Each committee is composed of a chairperson and a vice-chairperson. There are 12 other representatives from 9 different continents or regions: Europe, North America and the Caribbean, South and Central America, East and South East Asia, West and South Asia, Oceania and Western Pacific, Middle-East, Northern Africa, and Southern Africa. The committee composition will change every four years, following the schedule of the IFOS meetings. This will ensure a constant renewal of committee members who will contribute to YO-IFOS with innovative ideas and youthful energy. Moreover, the YO-IFOS board and regional representatives from these 9 regions will ensure communication between the YO-IFOS and national scientific societies (Table 1). The YO-IFOS board (Table 2) is composed of a president and vice-president from the

country having hosted the last IFOS meeting and a vice-president and vice-general secretary from the future hosting country.

1. Research committee

The research committee is composed of clinicians with an interest in research areas that encompass most of the subspecialties of otolaryngology, such as pediatrics, head & neck oncology, reconstructive surgery, laryngology, neuro-otology, sleep apnea and rhinology (Table 3). Some have interests in additional areas such as education or global health outreach. Additionally, in a globally representative committee such as the YO-IFOS, research in marginalized parts of the world and/or fields of interest can be identified and addressed.

The main objectives of the research committee are as follows:

- conduct international collaborative research:
 - we hope to encourage international collaboration between YO with projects such as reviews, meta-analyses or multi-center studies as advocated by the International Research Collaboration in Surgery (IRIS) ad-hoc working group [6]. We encourage the participation of residents/registrar in these projects to offer them the opportunity to establish ties early in their careers with the international Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery community;
- consulting expertise in research for YO:
 - we plan to develop a research network beyond the borders of our committee to offer a full array of expertise for young surgeons in need of advice to conduct and publish research projects;
- encouraging research efforts from YO:
 - from the start, we planned on collaborating with a PubMed-indexed journal to favour publications from YO. Through the IFOS, we were able to establish ties with the European Annals of Otorhinolaryngology – Head & Neck Diseases. The present special YO-IFOS edition of the journal is a testimony to the achievement of this objective. Publishing an issue dedicated to highlighting the accomplishments of this underrepresented demographic of our community is a generous initiative and a demonstration of the significant commitment this journal has made to fostering the careers of young surgeons. To encourage research from YO, we will also collaborate with the congress organization committee to promote the active participation of

Table 1
Regional representatives of the YO-IFOS.

Regions	Regional Representative	Country	Email
North America and The Caribbean	Zoukaa Sargi	USA	zsargi@med.miami.edu
South and Central America	Rebecca Maunsell	Brazil	rebecca.maunsell@gmail.com
Europe	Daniele De Siati	Belgium	romolo.desiati@uclouvain.be
East and South east Asia	Huan Jia	China	huan.jia_orl@163.com
West and South Asia	Vijaya Krishnan	India	drpvk77@gmail.com
Oceania and Western Pacific	Hannah North	Australia	drnorth@ents.com.au
Middle East	Elias El Eter	Lebanon	elieeter@hotmail.com
Northern Africa	Osama Metwaly	Egypt	osama_2030@hotmail.com
Southern Africa	Shazia Peer	South Africa	shaziaper@gmail.com
Cooperation with the French ENT Society	Vincent Couloigner	France	vincent.couloigner@aphp.fr

Table 2
YO-IFOS board.

President	Nicolas Fakhry	France	nicolas.fakhry@ap-hm.fr
General Secretary	Natacha Tessier	France	natacha.teissier@inserm.fr
Vice-President	Paul Hong	Canada	paul.hong@iwk.nshealth.ca
Vice General Secretary	Leigh Sowerby	Canada	leigh.sowerby@sjhc.london.on.ca

Table 3
Composition of the Research Committee.

	Name	Country	Region	Research interests	Email
Chair	Tareck Ayad	Canada	North America and The Caribbean	Head & Neck, Reconstruction, Education	tareck.ayad@umontreal.ca
Vice-Chair	Jérôme Lechien	Belgium	Europe	Laryngology, Education, Head & Neck	jerome.lechien@umons.ac.be
	Federico Dilella	Argentina	Central and South America	Otology	federico.dilella@hospitalitaliano.org.ar
	Karen De Carvalho Lopes	Brazil	Central and South America	Neurootology	kclopes04@gmail.com
	Daniele De Siati	Belgium	Europe	Otology	romolo.desiati@uclouvain.be
	Ludovic De Gabory	France	Europe	Sinus	ludovic.de-gabory@chu-bordeaux.fr
	Geoffray Mortuaire	France	Europe	Sinus	geoffrey.mortuaire@chru-lille.fr
	Marilena Trozzi	Italy	Europe	Pediatrics	marilena.trozzi@opbg.net
	Antoine Melkane	Lebanon	Middle East	Head & Neck	antoinemelkane@gmail.com
	Ahmed Yassin Bahgat	Egypt	Northern Africa	Sleep apnea	ahmedyassinbahgat@gmail.com
	Jessica Mcguire	South Africa	Southern Africa	Pediatric ENT-airway, cholesteatoma, Developing world health-related issues	jkmcguire2@gmail.com
	Huan Jia	China	East and South-East Asia	Otology	huan.jia_orl@163.com
	Raghu Nandhan	India	West and South Asia	Neuro-Otology, Auditory	raghunandhansampath@gmail.com
	Sampath Kumar		Oceania and Western Pacific	Implants & Skull-Base Surgery	
	Position available				

young physicians in the upcoming IFOS meeting in Vancouver, Canada in 2021. Moreover, to develop international studies and educational collaborations, the research committee will work closely with the networking committee and education committee.

As previously stated, YO-IFOS is a unique organization and it is of foremost importance to assess its impact. Other young physicians'/surgeons' associations have been created in the past in many specialties; some of them are currently active on social media and have their own websites [7,8]. Assessment of their achievements and shortcomings are not reported in the literature. The research committee will monitor, document and publish the effects of the creation of YO-IFOS. We hope this will encourage the creation of other international young physicians' organizations who could benefit from our experience. Also, self-assessment will allow identification of areas of underperformance and help to attain our objectives as a new scientific society.

2. Networking committee

The YO-IFOS group aims to enhance the connectivity between YO. The exchange of information and ideas will be fostered and this networking aspect of YO-IFOS will naturally link to the research, education and congress-based aspects of its work. Composition of the networking committee is presented in Table 4.

YO-IFOS has an excellent starting platform; members have a common interest in otolaryngology, global networking and are likely to share a similar life and career stage. The two aspects of networking – professional and social – are often linked. It is our vision that YO-IFOS networking will include the development of quality relationships between individuals and centres and it is hoped that we can take advantage of new technologies to communicate and network. The international mobility of YO will also be promoted to enable clinical, academic and research visits and exchanges. This will be facilitated by the development of the dedicated YO-IFOS website.

Table 4
Composition of Networking Committee.

	Name	Country	Region	Interests	E-mail
Chair	Kate Stephenson	UK	Europe	Paediatric ENT, Head and Neck, laryngology	drkatestephenson@gmail.com
Vice-chair	Robert Kesmarszky	Hungary	Europe	Salivary glands, paranasal sinuses, Pediatric ENT	kesmarszky@yahoo.fr
	Michel Nassar	USA	North America and The Caribbean	Pediatric ENT	michelnassar@gmail.com
	Matias Etcheverry	Argentina	Central and South America	Otology/lateral skull base	drmatiasetcheverry@gmail.com
	Marc Pellicer	Spain	Europe	Pediatric ENT	pellicer.marc@gmail.com
	Kishore Sandu	Switzerland	Europe	Pediatric & adult airway, laryngology	kishore.sandu@chuv.ch
	Alaa Ahmad	Syria	Middle East	Rhinology/Facial Plastics	dr.alasahmad@yahoo.com
	Position available		Northern Africa		
	Lisa Burnell	South Africa	Southern Africa	Head and Neck, rehabilitation	hexiburnell@gmail.com
	Devesh Ramdhani	South Africa	Southern Africa	Medical tech, Head & Neck, Facial Plastics, Laryngology	dr.d.ramdhani@gmail.com
	Bin Chen	China	East and South-East Asia	Head and Neck, Laryngology	chbent2014@163.com
	Vijaya Krishnan	India	West and South Asia	Sleep Apnea and Implantation otology	drpvk77@gmail.com
	Niall Jefferson	Australia	Oceania	Pediatric ENT	niallj99@yahoo.com

The objectives of the networking committee are as follows:

- increase potential for communication and collaboration within YO-IFOS:
 - communication and collaboration will be improved by dedicated congress-based networking. E-networking via a web-based forum and communication portal will help to remove distance and travel barriers. A YO-IFOS members directory will also be established, and YO-IFOS exchange programs and observerships will also be available to members. Members who have successfully used the directory for international networking will be encouraged to share their stories online;
- support and collaborate with the other YO-IFOS committees and IFOS:
 - the networking committee will act as a liaison between the different YO-IFOS committees and IFOS at large. Collaborative activities will be fostered, and mentorship opportunities will be facilitated between members.
- an online platform will be created to help YO find opportunities for either a fellowship or a shorter observership outside their country;
- Instructional Courses:
 - the committee will aim for higher participation of YO in courses which are fundamental to their training (temporal bone, endoscopic surgery, robotic surgery, etc.). Special emphasis will be put on encouraging YO to attend from countries where these courses are not readily available.

4. Congress organization committee

Medical congresses are expected to play a critically important role in the process of YO medical education. There are many functions which these congresses serve apart from just education: sharpening skills, ability to interact with peers, trying new equipment and techniques, and discussing internationally relevant ideas.

Exchanging ideas internationally about education, research, clinical practice, implementation of new ideas and how to overcome barriers is of upmost importance for YO. Visiting an international congress, having the opportunity to actively participate in its scientific and clinical sessions and joining networking events can help the young surgeon to reach these goals, in which the YO- IFOS platform can be a perfect start. The congress organization committee is responsible for the organization of different meetings of the YO of different countries throughout the globe.

The congress organization committee consists of a group of YO with good communication skills, ideas and enthusiasm representing each region of the world and covering different otolaryngological subspecialties (Table 6).

The goals of the congress organization committee are as follows:

- Continuing Medical Education (CME):
 - the committee will be involved in developing educational tools that make information readily available and free through an open access format. The first collaborative project is already underway, consisting of an online textbook for basic sciences, compiled by Shazia Peer, under Prof Johan Fagan's mentorship. International guidelines, e-learning and other databases will follow;
- International Exchange Programs:
 - focusing on reaching a specific category of health-care providers (young physicians or YO) rather than targeting (senior) physicians;
 - promoting and increasing the participation of YO in different international congresses and events;
 - defining the themes and subjects of congress sessions aiming at young physicians;
 - representing the needs of young physicians. It is noted that many young physicians are attracted to subjects or research dealing

Table 5
Composition of the Education Committee.

	Name	Country	Region	Interests	E-mail
Chair	Ben-Ari Oded	Israel	Middle East	Head and neck	odbenari@gmail.com
Vice-chair	Meller Catherine	Australia	Oceania	Facial reconstruction	cath_meller@yahoo.com.au
	Lerat Justine	France	Europe	Pediatric ENT	justine.lerat@chu-limoges.fr
	Charpiot Anne	France	Europe	Otology	Anne.CHARPIOT@chru-strasbourg.fr
	Michel Justin	France	Europe	Sinus	justin.michel@ap-hm.fr
	Vandevorée Aurélie	Belgium	Europe	Otology, Pediatric ENT	aurelie.vdvoorde@gmail.com
	Unger Yaron	Germany	Europe	Facial plastics	yaronunger@gmail.com
	Beckers Karen	Belgium	Europe	Otology, Head and Neck	karen.beckers@hotmail.com
	Simon Francois	France	Europe	Pediatric ENT	fsimon05@gmail.com
	Schweiger Claudia	USA/Brazil	North America and The Caribbean	Pediatric ENT	causch@hotmail.com
	Jason Leibowitz	USA	North America and The Caribbean	Head & Neck	jleibowitz@med.miami.edu
	Jun Lin	Canada	North America and The Caribbean	Laryngology	linrj@smh.ca
	Otávio Iavarone	Brazil	Central and South America	Head and neck	otavioiavarone@gmail.com
	Reis Mariah	Brazil	Central and South America	Rhinology	reismariahh@gmail.com
	Cisneros Juan Carlos	Mexico	Central and South America	Otology and Neurotology	juancarloscisneros83@gmail.com
	Position Available		Northern Africa		
	Peer Shazia	South Africa	Southern Africa	Paediatric ENT	shaziaper@gmail.com
	Din Taseer	Kenya	Southern Africa	Paediatric, Head & Neck	taseer_d4@hotmail.com
	Els Tim	South Africa	Southern Africa	Paediatric ENT	drtimels@hotmail.com
	Ling-Xiang Hu	China	East and South-East Asia	Otology	hlxfox@hotmail.com
	Harish Muraleedharan	India	West and South Asia	Otology	drharish08@gmail.com

Table 6
Composition of the Congress organization Committee.

	Name	Country	Region	Interests	Email
Chairman	Diane Smit	Netherlands	Europe	Otology & Pediatric ENT	A.L.Smit-9@umcutrecht.nl
Vice	Steven Sobol	USA	North America and The Caribbean	Airway	sobols@email.chop.edu
	Zoukaa Sargi	USA	North America and The Caribbean	Head and Neck	ZSargi@med.miami.edu
	Melissa Avelino	Brazil	South and Central America	Pediatric	melissa.avelino@uol.com.br
	Yann N'Guyen	France	Europe	Otology	nguyenyann@hotmail.com
	Sébastien Vergez	France	Europe	Head and neck	vergez.s@chu-toulouse.fr
	Simon Rassi	Lebanon	Middle East	Pediatric	srassi@hotmail.com
	Osama Metwally	Egypt	Northern Africa	Head and neck	osama_2030@hotmail.com
	Hisham Wasl	Libya	Southern Africa	Otology & Rhinology	hisham7070@yahoo.com
	Cheng-zhi Xu	China	East and South east Asia	Head and neck	xczmed@sjtu.edu.cn/xczmed@126.com
	Vijaya Krishnan	India	West and South Asia	Otology & Sleep apnea	drpvk77@gmail.com
	Hannah North	Australia	Oceania and Western Pacific	Otology & Pediatric ENT	hannahnorth@mac.com

with relatively new techniques such as robotic surgeries, minimally invasive surgeries and different endoscopic approaches;

- encouraging international conferences to offer CME credits, which are essential for YO career progression;
- advocating special discounts for the registration of YO at different international meetings, especially for those who are residents;
- facilitating and supporting the goals of other YO-IFOS committees in education, networking and research during congress meetings. Close collaboration between YO-IFOS committees is needed;
- ensuring that through YO-IFOS global networking, more international participation from remote or less represented specialists across the world is encouraged

One of the important challenges for our committee is the successful organization of the active participation of YO in the upcoming IFOS meeting in Vancouver, Canada in 2021.

5. Conclusion

The YO-IFOS and its committees will facilitate and organize the access of YO to high quality educational material, establish international ties by promoting networking, and nurture research especially for otolaryngologists in areas with limited access to research mentorship. Furthermore, it will promote the participation of young surgeons in the next IFOS conference in Vancouver, 2021.

Disclosure of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interest.

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