



**European Academy of Otorhinolaryngology,  
Head & Neck Surgery**  
www.eaorl-hns.org

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**President**

Prof. Reidar Grénman (EUFOS)  
Turku University Hospital  
Dept. of ORL H&N Surgery  
P.O. Box 52  
20251 Turku  
Finland  
Phone: +358-(0)2 3131 500  
Fax: +358-(0)2 313 3550

**Secretary General**

Prof. Marc Remacle (ELS)  
Department of ORL-Head & Neck Surgery  
University hospital of Louvain at  
Mont-Godinne  
Therasse avenue 1  
5530 Yvoir  
Belgium  
Phone: +32-(0)81 423021  
Fax: +32-(0)81 423023  
marc.remacle@uclouvain.be

**Treasurer**

Prof. Piero Nicolai (ESBS)  
Dept. of ORL, University of Brescia  
Piazza Spedali Civili  
25123 Brescia  
Italy  
Phone: +39-030 399 5319  
Fax: +39-030 395 212  
pieronicolai@virgilio.it

**Executive Committee**

Prof. Dr. Karl Hörmann (UEMS)  
karl.hoermann@hno.ma.uni-heidelberg.de

Prof. Dr. Jean-Louis Lefebvre (EHNS)  
jl-lefebvre@o-lambret.fr

Prof. Dr. Jacques Magnan (EAONO)  
jacques.magnan@mail.ap-hm.fr

Prof. Jan Olofsson (EUFOS)  
jan.olofsson@helse-bergen.no

Mr. David Proops (UEMS)  
david.proops@talk21.com

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Rettinger (ERS)  
gerhard.retinger@uniklinik-ulm.de

Dr. Joao Carlos Ribeiro (PWG)  
jcarlosribeiro@gmail.com

**Business address**

Mondial Congress & Events  
Ms. Andrea Balcar  
Operngasse 20b  
1040 Vienna  
Austria  
society@eaorl-hns.org

**CHRISTMAS LETTER**

Members of the European Academy of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends

I am writing this in Turku, Finland where Christmas is approaching in beautiful weather: the nature is covered with new snow, temperature -10°C, clear sky and the sun is shining. These will be perfect conditions for Santa Claus and his reindeers to travel from Korvatunturi, his permanent residence, in Lapland, Finland with Christmas presents to all well behaving children and adults around the world.

2009 is approaching its end and I think we can look back with satisfaction on the development of European ENT this year. Many important and exciting steps have been taken.

The first purely educational EAORL-HNS meeting in Mannheim supported by EUFOS and the UEMS ENT Section was arranged under the chairmanship of Professor Karl Hörmann. The meeting was a major success, with more than 1000 participants from 75 countries. We were happy to see that the largest delegation came from Romania, an achievement to which I want to congratulate the Romanian colleagues. We all experienced the well planned and executed program nicely balanced between the various parts of our specialty to be a valuable learning experience. Personally I had the possibility to meet old friends, but also to make new contacts and to listen to presentation and learn from them in areas within ENT-HNS, which I usually don't follow that closely. I want to thank Professor Hörmann and his team as well as our PCO Mondial for a well performed work. A central person during the planning of the Mannheim meeting was Professor Klaus Jahnke, former President of the EAORL-HNS to whom I want on behalf of us all express our gratitude and best wishes for the years to come free of the everyday duties of work and positions of trust in international organisations.

I am convinced, that this will be the first meeting of its kind in a long row to follow during the coming years.

During the Mannheim meeting the first written European Board Exam (EBE) was arranged under the guidance of Professor Karl Albegger, Maria de la Mota and their working group. Over 80 candidates participated and the majority passed the test. After taking the exam myself at the same time I must confess, that it was far from easy, but I felt that the questions were well planned and clear.

The first oral part of the European Board Exam will be arranged in Pamplona during the ESPO meeting June 5-8, 2010 ([www.espopamplona2010.com](http://www.espopamplona2010.com)) and the written part in Vienna in conjunction with the ELS meeting September 2-4, 2010 ([www.elsoc.org](http://www.elsoc.org)). The UEMS-ENT section team working with the EBE has done a benchmark work, and I am sure that together we all will be able to support the preparations for the oral part.

During the Mannheim meeting the representatives from EUFOS, EAORL-HNS and the UEMS-ENT section decided to create as an umbrella organisation the



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Confederation of European Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. The Confederation will only consist of an Executive Committee with representatives from the three organisations and have the prime task to coordinate European activities within our specialty.

The planning of the first Confederation congress arranged by EUFOS in collaboration with EAORL-HNS will be arranged in Barcelona under the Presidency of Professor Manuel Bernal-Sprekelsen July 2-6, 2011 ([www.ceorlhnsbarcelona2011.org](http://www.ceorlhnsbarcelona2011.org)). I urge you to mark the dates in your calendar and follow the web pages, where you can see the progress of the program, to which I hope all European ENT-HNS organisations will actively contribute to. The next European educational meeting is planned to be arranged in the fall 2013 in Nice and more information will soon follow.

The UEMS-ENT section has carried the major responsibility of the European Board examination. In planning and executing the oral part of the exam active participation of all subspecialty and national organisations is mandatory to guarantee a good quality and fair examination. This will be the first of many examinations and therefore it is even more important to plan the organisation carefully.

The UEMS-ENT section logbook is implemented in an increasing number of countries and thereby harmonising the specialist education in Europe. Increasing interest has been shown towards the subspecialist or fellow education by colleagues from several European countries as well. The experiences gained among others in USA and Canada during several decades of similar fellow programs have been very positive and become a standard of knowledge and quality in these countries. I have no reason to doubt, that this will not be the case in Europe as well.

2009 has been a very exciting year for European otorhinolaryngology – head and neck surgery. I am very glad, that I have had the opportunity to follow this process closely and participate in it. I take this opportunity to thank all the colleagues and co-workers with whom I have had the possibility to work with in 2009 and wish you all

A Peaceful and Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2010

Reidar Grénman  
European Academy of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery  
President