

# President's Report

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Dear Colleagues,

It has been a true privilege to serve as President of ASPO this past year. I first joined ASPO in my first year after fellowship and quickly came to think of it as my professional home, a place where I could learn, exchange ideas with colleagues, and connect with mentors and dear friends. Those values of learning, collaboration, and community have guided my efforts to serve our membership during this past year.



I am deeply grateful to ASPO Past-President Dr. David Chi and President-Elect Dr. Margo McKenna, who partnered with me and the ASPO Board to develop a five-year strategic plan designed to strengthen and advance our society. I would also like to thank the Ad Hoc Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Committee, chaired by Dr. Emily Boss. Their thoughtful evaluation of our organization, including how we are perceived by our membership and how we can better serve our community, was invaluable.

Following several strategic retreats, the ASPO Board moved forward with a proposal for a new brand, along with updated mission and vision statements and strategic initiatives to guide our future. I am pleased to share that our new brand proposal passed by an overwhelming margin in our membership vote. With that support, ASPO now has a new identity and logo (see below)!

Our new brand, ASPO-HNS, more accurately reflects the breadth and depth of our field and ensures that members who practice key components of pediatric otolaryngology, such as craniofacial surgery, thyroid surgery, and vascular anomaly surgery, feel fully represented within our society.

I would also like to recognize the outstanding work of the ASPO-HNS Membership Committee, chaired by Dr. Shraddha Mukherji. The committee has refined our membership criteria for Advanced Practice Providers and International Members, creating a clearer and more streamlined pathway to join our society. In addition, the committee proposed bylaws establishing a new Resident Member category, which also passed overwhelmingly in the membership vote. This new category will help create a welcoming home within ASPO-HNS for residents who are interested in pursuing our field.

I would also like to acknowledge the important work of the ASPO-HNS Ad Hoc Industry Relations Committee, chaired by Dr. Meredith Lind, for establishing our new Industry Code of Conduct, now available on our website. This document provides a clear and transparent framework for how we engage with our industry partners to support education and research moving forward.

I would also like to recognize the exceptional efforts of the ASPO-HNS Program Committee, chaired by Dr. Carlton Zdanski, for assembling an outstanding program for our upcoming annual meeting in Phoenix. For the first time, we will host three concurrent sessions at COSM, allowing even more members to share their expertise and learn from one another, something that lies at the very heart of our society.

I am also pleased to highlight our three annual meeting keynote lectures:

Bluestone Lecture: Dr. Robin Cotton (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Kerschner, Cunningham, & Derkay Lecture: Dr. Dana Thompson (Chicago, Illinois)

Rahbar Lecture: Dr. Dahee Kim (Seoul, South Korea)

I would also like to recognize the work of the Ad Hoc Summer Program Committee, chaired by Dr. Douglas Johnston. This committee is developing an outstanding program that will thoughtfully balance scientific content with opportunities for connection and community at our July meeting in Chicago.

Finally, I want to thank all our ASPO-HNS Committee Chairs for their remarkable dedication in support of our membership. I encourage you to take a moment to read about their accomplishments in this newsletter, thoughtfully edited by Dr. Clarice Clemmens.

ASPO-HNS remains a strong and vibrant society, driven by a dedicated membership that continues to advance our field nationally and globally. I joined ASPO-HNS shortly after fellowship, eager to grow in my career and develop my professional identity within this community. At the time, I never imagined that one day I would have the privilege of serving in its leadership. Reflecting on our proud history and our shared commitment to the future, I am honored to serve as the first President under our new brand, ASPO-HNS!

With sincere gratitude,  
Sanjay Parikh  
ASPO-HNS President



**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
PEDIATRIC OTOLARYNGOLOGY –  
HEAD & NECK SURGERY**

**Mission:** ASPO is the global home for pediatric otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, driving advocacy, innovation, and lifelong learning.

**Vision:** A world where every child has access to exceptional pediatric otolaryngologic care, delivered by a connected, innovative, and globally recognized community of professionals.

# Secretary's Report

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It has been an honor to serve as your Secretary over the past four years. Throughout my term, I have remained committed to transparency and advocacy on behalf of our society, and I am grateful for the trust our membership has placed in me.



I want to again congratulate Dr. Sam Daniel who will assume the role of Secretary following the Spring Meeting. As a colleague, mentor, and friend of 18 years, I know he will be a dedicated advocate for our society and its members.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to the membership for electing me as President for 2028. It is a humbling honor, and I am committed to building on the exceptional work of our past leaders as we continue to advance ASPO-HNS.

## ELECTIONS & BOARD UPDATES

The following elections and appointments were completed by majority vote of the membership:

- Dr. Emily Boss has been appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Boss and in thanking Dr. Kevin Pereira for his dedicated service over the past three years.

## APPROVED BYLAW CHANGES

### 1. Name Change – Brand Transition: ASPO → ASPO-HNS

The membership has approved a transition from "ASPO" to "ASPO-HNS" to better reflect the breadth of our field, align with national and international professional associations, distinguish our organization from other entities using the ASPO name, and facilitate a transition to a .org domain.

### 2. Committee Structure Amendment

To support the Society's continued growth, the following updates to our committee structure have been approved:

- The President shall have authority to expand committee membership as needed to meet the evolving needs of the Society.
- Each committee shall maintain a minimum of six members serving three-year terms, chaired by a member for a one- to two-year term, with all members nominated by the President.
- Committee duties and responsibilities will be codified in the ASPO-HNS Operations Manual, which will serve as a living document providing both historical context and current operational guidance.

- Note: The Executive, Nominating, and Bylaws Committees are not subject to this amendment and remain unchanged.

### 3. Additional Bylaw Revisions

- A new Resident Member category has been created to engage residents in ASPO-HNS. This membership carries no dues or voting rights but permits interested residents to serve as non-voting members on ASPO-HNS committees.
- Modifications to International Member and APP membership categories have been approved to streamline the process for candidates to join and participate in our society.
- The EDI Committee has been renamed the Access, Communication, and Engagement Committee.

### COSM UPDATES

Financial: COSM has confirmed that the \$750,000 reserve has been fully replenished following its depletion during COVID-related meeting cancellations. All future meeting profits will be distributed to COSM participant societies. The ASPO-HNS COSM Equity Disbursement for 2025 was \$11,250.30.

#### Sessions:

- COSM 2026: ASPO-HNS has nine half-day sessions
- COSM 2027: ASPO-HNS currently has six half-day sessions; we will continue to advocate for additional concurrent sessions

#### Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- COSM 2026 – Phoenix Convention Center | April 22–26, 2026
- COSM 2027 – Seattle Convention Center / Sheraton Grand | April 7–11, 2027
- ESPO 2027 – Prague, Czechia | April 17–20, 2027
- COSM 2028 – Hyatt Regency Chicago | May 3–7, 2028
- ASPO 2029 – Breakout Meeting (dates and location TBD)
- COSM 2030 – Hyatt Regency Orlando | April 24–28, 2030
- ASPO 2031 – Wednesday through Friday (in accordance with the rotating six-year COSM cycle)

#### ADDITIONAL REMINDER:

The next CPO Examination will be administered on October 8, 2026. Applications are due May 4, 2026.

Thank you for the privilege of serving this society. I look forward to continuing to work alongside each of you.

Respectfully,  
Bob Chun  
Secretary, ASPO-HNS

# Treasurer's Report

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**ASPO Treasurer's Report: Positive performance, assets, and endowment**

ASPO ended Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) with an operating income of \$832,036 (\$57,878 under budget) with the variance primarily due to timing of donation deposits. Operating expenses were \$809,349 (\$127,569 under budget) with the variance primarily due to less than anticipated annual meeting costs due to generous support for the Montreal Premeeting courses. Dues collection was over budget by over \$1,800. Our 2025 break-out meeting in Montreal was very successful, resulting in a profit of \$129,573.



The ASPO endowment is a vitally important tool to ensure the future success and sustainability of the organization. Restricted investment income from the endowment is utilized to support operational expenses related to honorific speakers and research grants as outlined in charitable gift agreements. Due to the incredible generosity of ASPO members the endowment grew by \$150,000 highlighted by major gifts from Dr. Rahbar, Dr. Derkay and Dr. Cunningham.

The total fiscal year net investment activities reflect income of \$353,106. Of this amount, \$288,577 was unrealized and realized gains and \$64,529 was dividends. Another key indicator of ASPO's financial health is its assets. FY 2025 total assets increased to \$3,313,510. This includes a total combined invested endowment balance of \$2,920,919. Total Liabilities are \$63,701 resulting in Total Net Assets of \$3,249,809. This represents the difference between the total assets and total liabilities.

It is our goal to maintain a positive operating performance over operational expenses. The budget for the 2026 fiscal year has been set and included an anticipated operational surplus of \$5,000.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Pheonix. As always, we welcome your feedback and advice. Thank you for your continued support of ASPO.

Sincerely,

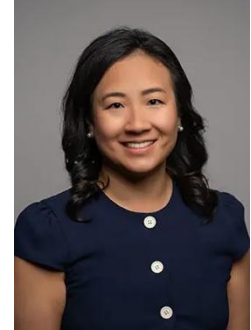
James Schroeder

## Early Career Development Committee

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This past year, we have been hard at work creating programming on mentorship. Additionally, we are working to create panels for the ASPO summer meeting that should be of interest to those early in their careers and trainees - stay tuned!

Sophy Shay  
Early Career Development Committee Chair



## Fellowship Committee

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We are currently in the middle of Fellowship Interview Season and look forward to meeting all of our fellowship applicants for this year. The committee continues to help run the interview and match process and will give updated numbers on applicants to Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship at the Spring ASPO Meeting.

We are initiating a new fellowship highlight program in conjunction with the social media committee. Each fellowship will submit an "interesting case" and a "highlighting our program" post that will be shared on all ASPO social media platforms.

We are starting to plan for the annual 2026 ASPO Resident and Fellow Seminar program that will be held this year in LA at the onset of the AAO-HNS meeting. It will be held on Friday afternoon October 16th, 2026 prior to the start of the Annual meeting.

Amanda Stapleton  
Fellowship Committee Chair



## Information Technology Committee

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The IT Committee is excited to announce that the new job search function will be available with the new website domain and CSurgeries will now be available to ASPO members behind the ASPO paywall!

### Full CSurgeries Access for ASPO Members

ASPO members now receive complimentary access to CSurgeries, a physician-owned, peer-reviewed surgical video platform trusted by more than 40,000



surgeons worldwide. With hundreds of accredited videos across 20+ specialties, CSurgeries delivers high-quality, case-based learning along with opportunities to earn CME directly on the platform.

What you get as an ASPO member:

- Free access to the full CSurgeries video library
- CME credits available on select peer-reviewed videos
- Opportunities to publish and share your own cases
- Access to a global network of surgical educators and specialists

How to access your benefit:

**New to CSurgeries?** Use the [ASPO access link](#) to create your account and activate your free access.

**Already have a CSurgeries account?** Log in to your account, then click the [ASPO access link](#) provided here and follow the prompts to verify your ASPO membership and unlock your benefits.

For assistance, contact [info@csurgeries.com](mailto:info@csurgeries.com)

Steven Goudy  
Information Technology Committee

## International Committee

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The international committee worked with the membership committee to help adjust the current ASPO international membership criteria. The changes have helped address potential barriers to obtaining international membership and improve access to ASPO resources for Otolaryngologists around the world.

We have also focused on outreach to international ASPO conference participants. We have sent personal thank you notes for all international non-members who attended ASPO 2025, encouraging them to consider applying for membership.

There have been 8 new international applicants so far this year. We have also worked with Dr. Parikh and Dr. Zdanski to reach out to our three international guest societies for ASPO 2026. We created and translated invitation letters that could be posted on the guest societies' websites and social media accounts. Finally, we have sent out a welcome letter to all of the international participants currently registered to ASPO 2026. This letter contains helpful links for the conference, membership application information and the personal contact information of the international committee chair so that international participants have a point of contact. This will also serve as the basis for a WhatsApp group to foster a sense of community for international members.

Nikolaus Wolter  
International Committee Chair



## Membership Committee

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The Membership Committee had a strong start this year, focusing on initiatives to enhance recruitment and engagement. A new Resident Membership category was introduced, and updates to the International and APP membership pathways were proposed to improve accessibility and increase participation. All proposed changes were approved by the Board and the Bylaws Committee.



Efforts were also directed toward increasing APP engagement, including development of the summer ASPO program to foster interest and participation.

Over the past year, ASPO welcomed 36 new Fellow members, 39 Full members, 8 International members, and 5 APP members, reflecting steady growth across membership categories.

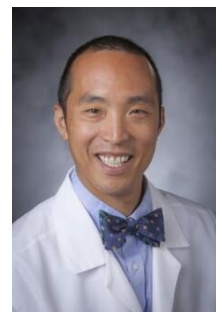
In the coming year, the committee will continue to support membership growth, monitor the impact of recent changes, and prioritize engagement—particularly among International members and APPs.

Shraddha Siddharth Mukerji  
Membership Committee Chair

## Quality and Safety Committee

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The ASPO quality and safety committee is working to promote quality improvement science and make it more accessible for every day practice. We held a webinar in July 2025 introducing some quality improvement concepts, NSQIP-P info and leadership/change management strategies. Moving forward we will be producing short 5 minute chalk talks on different quality and safety topics to help build quality and safety identity.



Our first quality and safety chalk talk provides a quality improvement and patient safety architecture: <https://youtu.be/dmUarIV8k0E>

Jeff Cheng  
Quality and Safety Committee Chair

# Social Media Committee

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The Ad Hoc Social Media Committee has made substantial progress over the past several months, strengthened by the addition of Isabelle Boyer as coordinator and Dr. Alyssa Smith as co-chair and social media lead. The committee has also benefited from the continued leadership and strategic direction of Liz O’Keefe, whose guidance has ensured steady forward momentum. The committee’s mission is to provide value to ASPO and its members, educate both physician and parent communities, and increase awareness of the organization’s identity and impact.



The social media team has maintained an active presence across Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Metrics from September 2025 through March 2026 demonstrate strong overall growth, driven primarily by Instagram, which achieved a 41% increase in followers alongside consistently high engagement and viewership. LinkedIn reflects early but steady audience development, while Facebook demonstrates stable reach with intermittent spikes in engagement. Collectively, these trends indicate a successful expansion of ASPO’s digital presence, with Instagram as the leading platform and opportunities for continued growth on LinkedIn and Facebook.

The committee has worked closely with multiple ASPO committees—particularly the IT Committee—to align efforts and drive traffic to the ASPO website. In addition, the social media team has supported other committees and workgroups by amplifying their initiatives, including recent posts highlighting the impactful work of the Pay for Call workforce. Collaboration has also begun with the Fellowship Committee on a new “Fellowship Spotlight” series, designed to highlight the unique attributes of ASPO pediatric otolaryngology fellowship programs, provide insight into the fellow experience, and offer prospective applicants a clearer understanding of available training opportunities.

The team has established a consistent posting cadence that includes content aligned with key awareness months (e.g., button battery safety, cleft and craniofacial awareness and prevention), promotion of webinars, seminars, and simulation events, member spotlights, historical features on ASPO, and highlights of Annual Meeting keynote speakers and named sessions. This structured approach has enhanced both the consistency and impact of ASPO’s social media engagement.

Eric Gantwerker  
Social Media Committee Chair

## Summer Program Committee

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An update from the ASPO Summer Program Committee for the upcoming meeting in Chicago from July 17-19th: The program committee is hard at work planning for educational content that will focus on the needs and accomplishments of our young physician members and our Advanced Practice Providers. We will have panels to generate discussion and conversation, as well as scientific podium presentations. We are looking forward to fun afternoon and evening activities that will highlight what Chicago has to offer after the half-day morning meeting sessions are finished. We will encourage all attendees to consider bringing significant others and/or their children to enjoy the city of Chicago.



Douglas Johnston  
Summer Program Committee Chair

## SWOT Committee

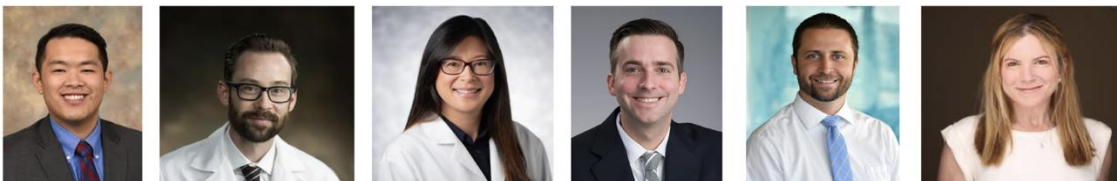
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The Ad Hoc SWOT Team (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) worked hard over the summer and fall to prepare a scintillating report for the ASPO board. Members Yaan Fu-Ku, Joshua Bedwell, Kimberly Lou, Bill Parkes, Christian Francom, and Emily Boss sought to evaluate the current strategic landscape of pediatric otolaryngology and ASPO in light of declining fellowship applicants, increasing labor demands, and evolving practice structures. The committee incorporated review of multiple data sources (including compensation/workforce survey, CPO requirements, ACS-CSV requirements, ACGME residency standards, SF Match applicant trends, CMS Medicare physician fee schedule/RUC, on-call schedules) and queried leaders and stakeholders to inform their recommendations. Core weaknesses and threats related to duration of trainee exposure, oversupply of fellowships, sub-specialization creating siloes and heavier call burden, respect from peers across OHNS, RVU parity and reimbursement, and threats to Medicaid and healthcare finances, opportunities to leverage partnerships with peer organizations and streamline initiatives. The committee suggested opportunities to leverage partnerships with peer organizations, focus on integration of students and trainees into the specialty, and strengthen social media and public relations. The ASPO board used this framework as a foundation in developing strategy for sustainment and growth.



Emily Boss, SWOT Committee Chair

### The SWOT Team



Yaan Fu-Ku (UTSW), Josh Bedwell (TCH), Kim Luu (UCSF), Bill Parkes (Nemours), Christian Francom (Colorado), Me.