

# POLITZER SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



[www.poltizersociety.org](http://www.poltizersociety.org)

The Politzer Society Wishes you the Best for 2013 with Season's Greetings

### In Remembrance of William Fouts House, DDS, MD

P. Ashley Wackym M.D.



**D**r. William F. House, known to tens of thousands of patients and hundreds of trainees simply as Dr. Bill, died in his home on 7 December 2012. He was 89 years old. Traditional and appropriately honorific obituaries have been published;<sup>1</sup> however, I was asked to write a more personal essay that captures Bill as a person, friend, mentor and colleague.

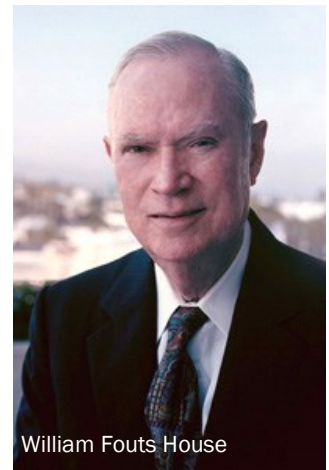
Healthcare worldwide is rapidly undergoing transformation. We all work steadily to improve our subspecialty of otology and neurotology, but when one reflects on the contributions that Bill made to our field it is humbling. He is widely regarded as the Father of Neurotology.<sup>2</sup>

Last year Bill published a book entitled, *The Struggles of a Medical Innovator. Cochlear Implants and Other Ear Surgeries*.<sup>3</sup> I would encourage all of you to read this book. It not only contains interesting biographic information, but also clearly places the human condition in focus. In the book, his passionate innovation is captured as is the loyalty and respect from patients and past trainees. It also includes challenges he faced and unfortunately the pain that betrayal by colleagues brought to him during his life. One of our fellow Politzer Society members wrote an outstanding book review which was recently published in *Otology & Neurotology*.<sup>4</sup> I will quote from the opening paragraph which places Bill's contributions in context.



*Rarely does a colossus walk onto the stage of medical history and bring about such profound and lasting change as has Dr. William F. House. It is said that success has a thousand fathers, and failure is most often an orphan. Although the world bears ready witness to the lights, accolades, and applause, seldom does it realize the magnitude of the struggles and strife to get there.*

Arun Gadre, MD



William Fouts House

Bill was a brilliant neurotologist who was generous with his ideas, time and friendship. He was surprisingly humble, quiet, funny and insightful. His contributions are well known to our community ranging from: adaptation of existing technologies such as the operating microscope to dental drills; reintroducing, refining or developing the translabyrinthine and middle cranial fossa microsurgical approaches; pioneering cochlear implantation; and advancing the work of Michel Portmann related to endolymphatic sac surgery which ultimately allowed astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr. to command Apollo 14's mission to the moon.

### Preview: Politzer Society 2013 Meeting Launches in November in Antalya

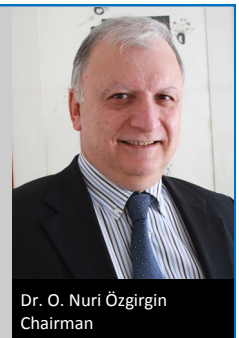
The biannual meeting of Politzer Society will take place again in Antalya after 14 years. It was 1998 which the meeting achieved a great success and also created a big impact, since the Politzer Society has gained great interest by the otologists all over the World. Its meetings became the most prestigious.

The Scientific program of this year's meeting is nearly finalized and already more than 300 distinguished faculty members already confirmed their participation for their contributions. The sessions will run in four parallel sessions.

The catchword for the theme of the Meeting has been announced as **"Let's talk the future of the otology"**. The Politzer Society will be talking about today's and future's science in otology. The task was not easy on finding the "hot topics".

In addition to the classical meeting formats, we planned specific sessions such as "Evidence based otology", "Experience based otology", "Challenging dilemmas" and "Daily otology sessions" as well as "Debates". The plenary sessions are shared by hearing science, vestibular disorders and cholesteatoma.

The main theme of the meeting is based on hearing disorders. Audiological medicine has been part of it to be involved in the discussions. The other major issues are the "mastoid and middle ear diseases" and the "vestibular medicine". But there will be also sessions on facial nerve, tinnitus, aural atresia, intratympanic applications, guidelines and monitoring. More than 25 lectures will be given by the experts of the topics.



Dr. O. Nuri Özgirgin  
Chairman

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Of course, there were many other contributions. One of my favorite publications is Bill's Triologic Thesis published in the Laryngoscope in 1961.<sup>5</sup> This work documented his journey in developing the microsurgical techniques used in the middle cranial fossa approach and potential clinical applications. It is well worth reading today.

Living in Portland, Oregon, just 30 minutes away from Bill's home allowed me the rare opportunity to see and talk with many of his past trainees as they came to pay their respects before his death, as all knew that he had metastatic melanoma and was not seeking aggressive treatment. I personally enjoyed telling him the impact he had on my career beginning in 1983 when I first worked in Los Angeles at the House Ear Institute. I was a medical student at Vanderbilt University and Dr. Michael Glasscock generously gave me the funds necessary to support my work there. It was also wonderful to see, prominently placed in his home, reminders of his wife of 64 years, June House who died in 2008. When he spoke of her, his love for her was palpable.

Another one of our Politzer Society members, Dr. John McElveen, Jr., arranged an exceptional evening honoring Bill on 10 November 2012 here in Portland. Past trainees came from all over the world or sent digital videos expressing their gratitude to Bill for all he did for them and what it meant to them to have their life touched by Dr. House. Several Politzer Society members also allowed me to record video messages to Bill while we were recently in Antalya, Turkey, which Bill enjoyed seeing.

Our Politzer Society President Nuri Özgür initiated and led the effort of our Board in nominating Bill for the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his contributions related to cochlear implantation. He was one of the primary innovators of cochlear implants and he thereby shaped the future of hearing rehabilitation many decades ago—thereby changing the fate of those with significant hearing loss. His career's work not only had a great impact, but also was the genesis of the framework necessary for modern cochlear implants to develop. This could only have happened as a result of his basic and clinical research. Today more than two hundred thousand deaf people are able to hear, not only to be able to work, but in all facets of communication. That contribution is staggering. Only two individuals working in the field of otolaryngology research have ever received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine: Robert Bárány in 1916 and Georg von Békésy in 1961. It was in 1961 that Bill implanted his first two patients with a primitive cochlear implant—more than one-half century ago. Unfortunately the Nobel Prize cannot be awarded posthumously; however, at least before his death Bill knew that he was being nominated.

We should all strive to continue his legacy of helping to transform the way our patients are cared for. Bill House would expect nothing less from us.

P. Ashley Wackym, MD,  
Secretary, Politzer Society

#### References

1. Dr. William F. House, Inventor of Pioneering Ear-Implant Device, Dies at 89. New York Times. December 15, 2012. [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/16/health/dr-william-f-house-inventor-of-cochlear-implant-dies.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/16/health/dr-william-f-house-inventor-of-cochlear-implant-dies.html?_r=0) (accessed December 15, 2012).
2. Lambert PR. Neurotology: past, present, and future—the 2012 William F. House lecture. Otol Neurotol 2013;34(1):1-5.
3. House WF. The Struggles of a Medical Innovator. Cochlear Implants and Other Ear Surgeries. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (June 2, 2011), pp. 1-208.
4. Gadre AK. Book Review. Otol Neurotol 2012;33(8):1291-5. House WF. Surgical exposure of the internal auditory canal and its contents through the middle, cranial fossa. Laryngoscope 1961;71:1363-85.
5. House WF. Surgical exposure of the internal auditory canal and its contents through the middle, cranial fossa. Laryngoscope 1961;71:1363-85.

## Preview: 29. Politzer Society Meeting in Antalya

The Global Otolologic Research Forum (GLORF) will be part of Politzer Society Meeting this year. The GLORF Meeting is being organized the first time. It has been founded a few years ago by the contribution of major otology societies of the world.

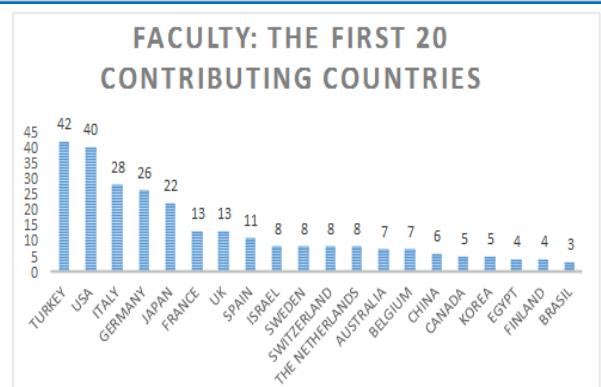
The studies on hearing research, vestibular research, middle ear and ventilation as well as neurotology have already been invited and to allow time to the research people, the deadline for submission is incredibly postponed until 15 September 2013. Extended structured abstracts are needed for GLORF Meeting. There will be prizes for the best research presentations on some specific topics and these will be announced through the website [www.glorf.org](http://www.glorf.org).

Beyond the Politzer Society official website, we developed the 29th Meeting's own web address: [www.politzer2013.org](http://www.politzer2013.org). The details regarding the meeting are already published in the Meeting's website including the online registration and online abstract submission pages. The scientific program is being updated in weekly basis to take place in the website. There are cross links in both sides.

The venue of the meeting is decided to be Susesi Hotel, Belek – Antalya having many facilities in terms of convention and also accommodation. Two more hotels (Cornelia Diamond Hotel and Ela Quality Hotel, Belek-Antalya) being very close, within walking distance are also reserved for Politzer 2013.



The Venue: Susesi Hotel, Belek, Antalya, Turkey



**29. Politzer Society Meeting, 13-17 November 2013, Belek, Antalya, Turkey****Scientific theme:****Hearing loss**

- Conductive hearing loss
- Sensorineural hearing loss
- Autoimmune hearing loss
- Single sided deafness
- Hearing evaluation in pediatric age
- Implantable hearing devices (Cochlear implants, Active middle ear implants, Bone conduction hearing aids & Brainstem implants)

**Middle ear and mastoid**

- Middle ear mechanics
- ET and middle ear ventilation
- Acute otitis media
- Draining ears in children
- Revision surgery
- Tympanosclerosis
- Mastoidectomy reconstruction
- Ossicular chain reconstruction
- Blunting and lateralization

**Vestibular Disorders:**

- Meniere disease
- Non-Meniere vestibular disease
- Perilymph fistula
- Third window
- Bilateral vestibulopathies
- Vestibular compensation
- Failure of liberatory maneuvers

**Other Main Topics:**

- Facial nerve
- Tinnitus
- Skull base
- Aural atresia
- Intratympanic applications
- Imaging
- Viruses in Otology & Neurotology
- Endoscopic ear surgery
- Temporal bone studies
- Intraoperative monitoring
- Guidelines on otology

**Session format**

Besides the session formats like round tables, panels, how I do it, plenary sessions and lectures new types sessions are planned for Politzer 2013 Meeting.

The **debates** sessions will be based on discussing the cons and pros on the specific topic that has been inserted into the program such as treating the Meniere's disease.

**Challenging dilemma** sessions will focus on the topics that is creating difficulties on resolving, such as the rehabilitation of hearing in mid and late ages.

In **experience based otology** sessions we shall have the opportunity of listening to the huge experience that has been gained lifetime by the distinguished otologic surgeons.

**Evidence based medicine** in otology even takes place in Cochrane and some other databases, it has seldom been part of discussions in scientific meetings. Evidence based concepts of otitis media treatment or role of viruses in otologic manifestations will be part of these sessions.

In **ask the expert** sessions the participants will have the chance of learning the expert's opinion on the announced topics.

The last but not the least will be the problems that we have to deal during our **daily otology practice**. Ossiculoplasties and graft lateralizations following tympanoplasties will take place in these sessions.

**Prizes****Politzer Prize**

Politzer Prize session will take place on **November 15th, 2012**. The best presentations both on Clinical and Basic Researches will be awarded with 2000 Euros each. The regulations submitting for Politzer Prize are announced in the Meeting's website.

**GLORF Prizes**

The prizes for GLORF are being announced.

Award for the best basic Research on Middle ear and Eustachian Tube disorders (2000 Euros)—to be given by The European Academy of Otology and Neurotology

Awards for the two best basic researches on Hearing Science (each being 2000 Euros) to be given by the Cochlear Company

Award for the best basic Research on Vestibular Medicine (2000 Euros) to be given by ABBOTT Company.

The other prizes that will be announced later on, will take place in the Politzer 2013 and GLORF Websites.

**Highlights:**

- There will be no registration fee for the participants of GLORF Meeting ONLY (further details: [www.glorf.org](http://www.glorf.org))
- New Prizes are being announced for GLORF.
- The deadlines:
 

• Deadline for the Abstract Submission for Politzer Meeting	June 14, 2013
• Notification of Abstract Acceptance for Politzer Meeting	September 2, 2013
• Deadline for the Abstract Submission for GLORF	September 15, 2013
• Notification of Abstract Acceptance for GLORF	September 22, 2013
• Deadline for Early Registration	January 31, 2013
• Deadline for Regular Registration	February 01— October 13, 2013
• Deadline for Late & Onsite Registration	October 13, 2013
• Deadline for Cancellation of Hotel Booking	June 3, 2013
- Online abstract submission is open now:
  - For Politzer Meeting: <http://www.abstractmodule.com/2013politzer/?pIng=eng>
  - For GLORF: <http://www.abstractmodule.com/2013glorf/?pIng=eng>



## From the Treasurer

**Dear Politzer Society Member,**

Your annual subscription for 2013 to the Politzer Society is now due. The Constitution of your Society requires you to subscribe to its official publication, 'Otology and Neurotology' (at a greatly reduced personal rate).

The **Standard Politzer Subscription** is **£140.00 (GB Pounds)** to include Otology and Neurotology

A **Reduced Politzer Subscription** of **£60 (GB Pounds)** is payable if you already have a personal subscription or obtain the journal through one of the Societies listed as: American Neurotological Society, American Otological Society, European Academy of Otology and Neurotology

If you are over 65 years old and not in full-time practice - no Society subscription is payable (please reply for registration purposes only) but if you wish to subscribe to Otology and Neurotology the **Senior Politzer "Journal" Subscription** is **£80.00 GB Pounds**

The Politzer Board would wish you to pay by credit card.

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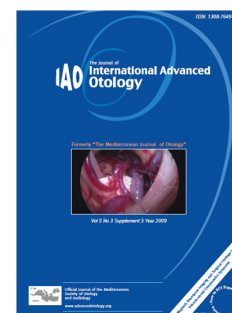
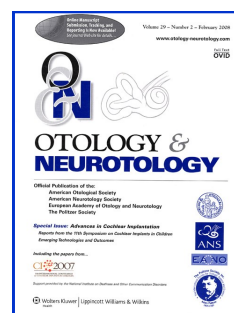
### Politzer Society coming Meetings:

2013—29. Politzer Society Meeting (Nuri Ozgirgin—Antalya, Turkey)

2014—4. Videoconference (Rubens de Brito—Sao Paulo, Brazil)

2015—30. Politzer Society Meeting (Sugata Takahashi—Niigata, Japan)

2017—31. Politzer Society Meeting (Angel Ramos—Spain)



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## Global Otology Online Discussion Forum

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