

# The IRS: ‘...to create a central international organization...’

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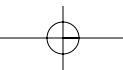
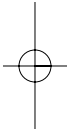
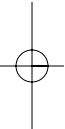
40 years of IRS congresses, 1965-2005

The Official Organs of the IRS- ‘Rhinology’ and the ‘American Journal of Rhinology’

The IRS Today

The Future

Egbert H. Huizing



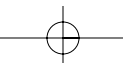
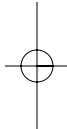
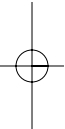
## Preface

Some time ago, the Secretary-general of our International Rhinologic Society Prof. Metin Önerci from Ankara asked me to write a brief history of the society in a similar way as I had done when the European Rhinologic Society celebrated its 40-years anniversary with a magnificent congress in Istanbul in 2004.<sup>1</sup> He knew that I am one of the very few still alive who have witnessed the foundation of the IRS in Kyoto and attended its first congresses.

It was not an easy task. I must confess that my archives of the IRS are not of the same quality as those of the ERS. Nonetheless, with the help of others I managed to bring together for future generations some of the most important facts of the past 40 years of the IRS.

I thereby acknowledge the great help that I received from some of my colleagues and friends. More in particular our former General Secretary Prof. Peter Clement of Brussels, the IRS who did awake the society from a period of relative sleep in the 1980s, Prof. Makoto Hasegawa (Tokyo), our present General Secretary Prof. Metin Önerci (Ankara), Prof Ewine Van Dishoeck (Leiden), and Prof. Valerie Lund (London), editor-in-chief of our journal 'Rhinology'.

Egbert H. Huizing, Laren (NL), October 2007.



## Rhinology- from a subordinate in the ORL-triad towards a flourishing specialty

The specialty of otorhinolaryngology came to life in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The beginning of otology as a separate entity of medicine dates from the 1870s. It resulted, among others, from the steep increase of cases with chronic otitis and its complications, the development of mastoid surgery and the general acceptance of tuning forks tests. Officially, otology was recognised as a new discipline by the appointment of Adam Politzer as a 'Dozent' and two years later, in 1870, as the first (associate) professor of otology in Vienna. This led to the foundation of otological societies and journals and, from 1876, also to regular International Otolgic Congresses.

Almost simultaneously, but independently, laryngology emerged as a new branch of medicine. This was due to the increasing incidence of laryngeal tuberculosis, syphilis and neoplasms and the introduction of cocaine as a local anaesthetic (1884) that greatly facilitated diagnosis and surgical intervention. The first official international Laryngological Congress took place in Milano in 1880.

Rhinology was the third in the bond that is now called in the USA the 'triological'. It had its clinical start in the 1880s and 1890s. Again, the introduction of cocaine and general anaesthesia played a major role. It allowed surgery of the septum, sinuses, turbinates and cosmetic nasal surgery. In most clinics rhinology was

part of laryngology and its head was professor of laryngology or rhino-laryngology. It took until 1908 however, before rhinology was officially included in the laryngological congresses and the 1<sup>st</sup> Rhino-Laryngological Congress was held.

The mergeing of otology, rhinology and laryngology followed a different pathway in various countries. In some, the national societies were called Otorhinolaryngological Society right from the beginning in the 1890s. In others, it took decades before the departments of otology and rhino-laryngology were joined. The first world congress of the three disciplines oto- rhino- and laryngology together did not even take place until 1928 (!).

From the beginning, rhinology has been the least prominent of the triad. This was still the case in the interbellum period and also in the first decades after WW II when great progress was made in otology and audiology. However, from the 1960s onwards the importance of rhinology gradually grew. Our knowledge and treatment options of nasal allergy increased and new surgical concepts and techniques, in particular those of functional nasal surgery and endoscopic sinus surgery brought the discipline of rhinology to the foreground. The foundation of the various rhinological societies in the 1950s and 1960s has played a major role in this process.

# The Conception of the IRS

The idea of founding an international rhinological society resulted from the close coöperation between Prof. Ewout Van Dishoeck of Leiden and Dr. Maurice H. Cottle of Chicago. They worked together in presenting courses on rhinology and functional nasal surgery in the early 1960s (Leiden, 1963, 1964, 1965 and Cincinnati, 1964).

In 1954, Cottle had founded the American Rhinologic Society (ARS) and in 1963 Van Dishoeck laid the fundamentals for a European Rhinologic Society (ERS) that was officially founded at Leiden in July 1964. Having established an American and a European Rhinological Society it was logical to also “create a central organisation”, in other words an International Rhinologic Society.

At the nasal surgery course in Cincinnati in May 1964 that was presented by Cottle and organised by Raymond Hilsinger this idea was finalised. The journal *International Rhinology-Rhinologie Internationale*, that had been started by Van Dishoeck in 1963, informed the members of the ARS and ERS under the heading ‘Official Part’ as follows:

*“During the 6th Course in Corrective Surgery of the Nose and External Pyramid in Cincinnati from May 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> 1964, the proposition discussed in Leiden to found an International Rhinologic Society was consolidated. As temporary president was elected Prof. van Dishoeck (Leiden) and as temporary secretary G. Drumheller (Everett, Wash.). All members of the American Rhinologic Society (A.R.S.) and the European Rhinologic Society (E.R.S.) will be automatically members of this Master-organization.”*<sup>2</sup>

The IRS was thus conceived at Leiden in July 1963 and the idea was consolidated at the course in Cincinnati in May 1964.

The text in the journal continued by announcing:

*“Meanwhile Statutes and bylaws have been drawn up and sent for approval to the A.R.S. and the E.R.S. They will be duly published in the official organ of the I.R.S. - International Rhinology. The first Congress of the IRS is planned on Wednesday October 20<sup>th</sup> 1965 in Kyoto prior to the general ENT-congress in Tokyo.”*

The initiators had learned that Japanese colleagues interested in rhinology had also successfully started a

rhinologic society, the JRS, in 1962. They therefore contacted their board and suggested a pre-congress meeting on rhinology prior to the world congress of ORL in Tokyo in October 1965. This meeting might then serve as the forum to found an International Rhinological Society. Professors Ryo Takahashi from Jikei University of Tokyo and Teruo Takasu from Nagoya University accepted to organise a meeting at the Kyoto International Hotel in Kyoto prior to the world congress at Tokyo.

But before we recall the foundation meeting of the IRS at Kyoto the reader should be told more about these founding fathers of the society.

## THE FOUNDING FATHERS



**Prof. Ewout Van Dishoeck (1897-1970)**

The main founding father of the IRS undoubtedly has been Prof. H.A.E. van Dishoeck of Leiden University in The Netherlands. Van Dishoeck was born at Leiden, the son of a publisher. While working as a family practitioner he used his spare time to perform research at the laboratory of the famous otorhinolaryngologist and professor of physiology at Utrecht Hendrik Zwaardemaker. After finishing his PhD thesis he went to Groningen to train in ORL at the clinic of Prof. Benjamins. In these years, the mid-1930s, he published a series of original articles on nasal physiology that are still cited in the literature. After having finished his training he settled as an ENT specialist at

Amsterdam. During and after the war he continued doing research mainly in otology-audiology and allergology. In 1951 he was appointed professor of otorhinolaryngology at Leiden. In the years until his retirement in 1967 he was tremendously active in various fields. A new department was build, international congresses and courses on audiology (1962, 1963), rhinology (1963) and functional corrective nasal surgery (1963, 1964, 1966) were organised. In these years, Van Dishoeck also started two international journals, 'International Audiology' and 'International Rhinology' (now 'Rhinology'). He also played an instrumental role in the foundation of the International Society of Audiology (1953), the European Rhinologic Society (1964) and the International Rhinologic Society (1965).



***Dr. Maurice H. Cottle (1898-1981)***

Maurice Cottle was born in London, the son of a tailor. In 1913, the family settled at Chicago where he studied medicine and trained in ORL at the Cook County Hospital. In the 1930s, Maurice Cottle devoted himself more and more to rhinologic surgery and developed new concepts and techniques. In the 1940s, he started giving courses on 'Reconstructive Surgery of the Nasal Septum and External Pyramid'. In his teaching he laid emphasis on surgery for function instead of cosmesis and reconstruction instead of resection as was the philosophy and technique of the day. He stressed the need for functional tests like rhinomanometry and introduced various new surgical

methods and instruments. His teaching was not appreciated equally by all his students but the impact of his teaching on the practice of nasal surgery was tremendous, in particular in Europe. He spread his ideas by numerous carefully prepared courses and lectures all over the world. Cottle was the founder and long-time president of the American Rhinologic Society that was founded by him in 1954 and a driving force behind the founding of the ERS (1964) and the IRS (1965). He was an art connoisseur and a very good violin player. He was married to the internationally renowned concert pianist Gitta Gradova.



***Prof. Teruo Takasu (1911-1976)***

Professor Teruo Takasu graduated from Nagoya City University School of Medicine and then joined the Department of Otorhinolaryngology in 1937. In 1943, he obtained his Ph.D. degree. He was appointed associate professor in 1950 and promoted to Professor and Chairman of the department in 1963. He was the president of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Japan Rhinologic Society that was held in Nagoya in July 1965. He was the president of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Rhinologic Society Meeting that was held in Kyoto in October 20, 1965. In 1975 he retired from his university position. Prof. Takasu's research was mainly devoted to the basic mechanisms of chronic sinusitis and allergic rhinitis. He was one of the pioneers of medical treatment of nasal and paranasal sinus diseases in Japan.

## THE FOUNDING SOCIETIES

The International Rhinologic Society was the result of a combined effort of the boards of the American Rhinologic Society (1954), the Japanese Rhinologic Society (1962) and the European Rhinologic Society (1964). In the 1950s and 1960s there was a general recognition of the need for specialized societies and meetings apart from the major world congresses of ORL that were held every four years in different parts of the world.

*The American Rhinologic Society* was one of them. In the field of rhinology it was the forerunner. Founded in 1954 by Dr. Maurice Cottle of Chicago, it organised meetings every year at different places in the USA and presented nasal surgery courses that were directed by Cottle and his associates. These courses had great impact on the quality of nasal surgery, although very likely more outside than inside the USA. In its early years, the ARS was not generally accepted by the academic world in North America. Later in the 1980s, it became the driving force in the USA behind new developments in rhinology such as endoscopic sinus surgery. In 1987 Dr. David Kennedy (at the time at Johns Hopkins Baltimore, later Philadelphia) and Dr. Guy Settipane founded the very successful bimonthly *American Journal of Rhinology*.

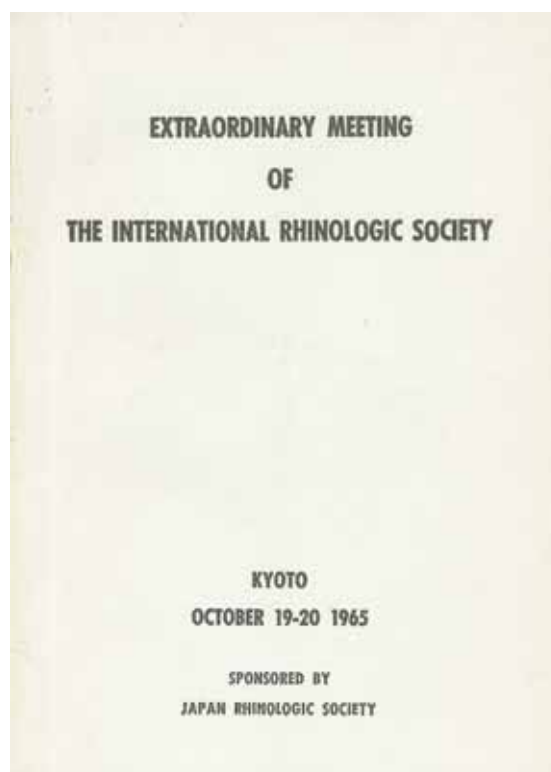
*The Japanese Rhinologic Society (JRS)* was founded in 1962. Its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting took place in Nagano City that same year. Founders of this society were Professors Toshiro Goto (Nagasaki University School of Medicine), Teiichi Kashiwado (Yokohama City University School of Medicine), Yoshihisa Nagoshi (Toho University School of Medicine), Toshio Shiraiwa (Tokyo Medical University), and Ryo Takahashi (Jikei University School of Medicine). In 1966, the JRS started publishing the quarterly *Japanese Journal of Rhinology*. From the very beginning it was supported by the university ENT departments in Japan and counted a large membership. Yearly meetings were held at different locations all over Japan.

*The European Rhinologic Society (ERS)* was founded by Prof. H.A.E. Van Dishoeck at Leiden, the Netherlands, in 1964. Its foundation was prepared at a course entitled "Practice of Rhinology" that was held at Leiden University Hospital in July 1963, the first

international meeting devoted to the specialty of rhinology. Leading rhinologists from various European countries were invited to lecture, among them Sir Victor Negus (London), Prof. Axel Hamberger (Stockholm), Dr. Børje Drettner (Uppsala), Mr Philip Golding Wood (Maidstone, Kent), Prof. Branimir Gusic (Zagreb), Prof. Marcel Gignoux (Lyon), Prof. Léon Flottes, (Toulon), Dozent Dr. E.H. Mayer (Vienna), and Dr. Heinz Naumann (Berlin).

## THE FOUNDATION MEETING AT KYOTO, OCTOBER 19-20, 1965

The foundation meeting of the IRS was named "Extraordinary Meeting of the International Rhinologic Society". It was sponsored by the Japanese Rhinologic Society and held in the Rainbow Salon of the Kyoto International Hotel at October 19 and 20, 1965. President of the meeting was Prof. Teruo Takasu (Nagoya University), secretary Prof. Ryo Takahashi (Jikei University, Tokyo)



Program of the Foundation Meeting of the IRS at the Kyoto International Hotel, October 19-12, 1965.



OUTLINE OF PROGRAM		
Meeting Place		
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, KYOTO		
Tuesday, October 19, 1965		
13:00	Opening Ceremony	Rainbow Salon (Basement)
13:30	Business Meeting	Rainbow Salon
14:00	Scientific Session	Rainbow Salon
19:00	Banquet and Social Gathering	Large Banquet Room (Second floor)
Wednesday, October 20, 1965		
9:00	Scientific Session	Rainbow Salon
12:00	Lunch	Medium Banquet Room (Second floor)
15:00	Closing Ceremony	Rainbow Salon

#### Outline of the program

The meeting was opened Tuesday October 19 at 13:00. This author, at that time a young and recently appointed associate professor at Leiden, enjoyed the honour and pleasure to attend. It started with an opening and welcome speech by the president of the meeting Prof. Teruo Takasu who informed us that the conference was attended by "some 150 participants from 15 various countries".<sup>3</sup>

His address was followed by a Business Meeting where, at about 13:45 hours, the Society was officially founded by the accepting the Constitution and Bylaws that had been prepared by Cottle and Van Dishoeck in April 1965.

Article II OBJECTS AND AIMS reads as follows:

*"The purpose of this Society shall be to create a central international organization with which all national and regional societies of the world may be affiliated; to organize international congresses, and instructional courses on all aspects of Rhinology; to stimulate study, research, and scientific advancement in the field of Rhinology and all related sciences; to promote the publication within the field of Rhinology in its official journals."*

Dr. Maurice H. Cottle, Chicago was appointed the 1st president of the IRS, Dr George H. Drumheller (Everett, Wash.) Secretary-Treasurer.

This first business meeting of the newly established society was followed by a Scientific Session at 14:00 hours. In the evening there was a banquet for all par-

ticipants. Unfortunately, we do not have any photographic documents of the meeting.

The next morning the Scientific Session was continued followed by a luncheon and a closing ceremony at 3 o'clock. Altogether 29 scientific and clinical presentations were given, 18 from Japan, five from the USA (Cottle (2), Drumheller, Hinderer, Martin), three from Europe (Van Dishoeck, Guillen, Melon), two from India (Bhatia, Misra), and one from Australia (Blomfield). The papers given by Takasu, Blomfield, Goto, Nakano, Martin, Shiroiwa, Kashiwado, and Melon were later published in full in volume 3 of the journal 'International Rhinology' in 1966. The others papers were published in short in volume 5 in 1967.

In September 2002 this author made a nostalgic visit to the place where the society was founded. The hotel is still there, but has been renamed into 'Kyoto Kucusai Hotel'. The entrance is even more beautiful and welcoming than before and the 'Rainbow Salon' is still there, now under the name 'Rainbow Room'.

#### 40 YEARS OF IRS CONGRESSES, 1965-2005

One of the objectives of the IRS as laid down in the statutes is to organise international congresses in the field of rhinology. The society did so with different intervals. In the beginning an IRS meeting was organised every four years (apart from the remarkable double congress in 1977). Later the intervals were longer and more irregular as we can see from Table 1. More recently, the Board decided to hold a meeting every two years and have it alternate with the biannual congresses of the ERS that are combined with an ISIAN meeting.

The IRS congresses have travelled over all continents except Africa: North America (2), Middle America (2), South America (1), Far East (3), Europe (4) and Australia (1) (Table 1).

The 1<sup>st</sup> Congress was the memorable foundation meeting at Kyoto organised by professors Takasu and Takahashi that has already been reported on above. Some 150 participants from 15 different countries attended this first 'Extraordinary Meeting'. Almost all lectures presented were published in the issues of the journal International Rhinology in 1965 and 1966, either in full or in summary.



Visit to the place where the IRS was founded by the author in September 2002. The Rainbow Salon (renamed Rainbow Room) is still there.

Table 1 The official congresses organised by the IRS and their presidents.

	<u>Year/Site</u>	<u>President</u>
I	1965- Kyoto	Teruo Takasu (Nagoya City)
II	1969- Mexico City	Jaime Carillo (Mexico City)
III	1973- Bordeaux	Georges Guillen (Bordeaux)
IV	1977- Rio de Janeiro	Roberto Neves Pinto (Rio de Janeiro)
	1977- Kansas City	Pat Barelli (Kansas City)
V	1981- Budapest	Helmut Masing (Erlangen)
VI	1985- Cancun	Thomas Azuara (Mexico City)
VII	1991- Tokyo	Ryo Takahashi (Tokyo)
VIII	1996- Ghent	Paul B. Van Cauwenberge (Ghent)
IX	2000- Washington	Eugene B. Kern (Rochester, Minn.)
X	2003- Seoul	In Yong Park (Seoul)
XI	2005- Sydney	Kevin Kane (Melbourne)
XII	2007- Venice	Desiderio Passali (Siena)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress was held in Mexico City August 9, 1969 prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> world congress of ORL with Dr Jaime Carillo as its president. This meeting was very well attended too, especially by rhinologists from North America and Europe.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress was organised by Dr. Georges Guillen at hotel 'Aquitania' in Bordeaux, May 12-16 prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> ORL world congress in Venice. The main topics of the meeting were respiratory physiology, rhinomanometry, and surgery of the septum and pyramid.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Congress was organised in Rio de Janeiro March 20-25 following the 11<sup>th</sup> world congress of ORL in Buenos Aires. President was Dr Neves Pinto from Rio. Apart from many colleagues from Brazil and other South American countries it was attended by American and European colleagues on their way home from Buenos Aires, among them from the USA Drs Hinderer (Pittsburgh), Barelli (Kansas City) and West (St Louis) and from Europe professors Krajina (Zagreb), Montserrat-Viladiu (Barcelona) and Sulsenti (Bologna). This meeting was also of historic importance as it witnessed the foundation of the Brazilian Rhinologic Society.<sup>4</sup>

That same year, a "second" 4<sup>th</sup> IRS congress took place

at Kansas City August 21-23 following the 12<sup>th</sup> International Course of Functional Corrective Surgery of the Nasal Septum and the External Pyramid' directed by Dr Cottle. Course and congress were organised and presided by Dr. Pat Barelli.<sup>5</sup> It has also remained unclear to this author how it was possible to have two 4<sup>th</sup> congresses but the facts show how it happened, however.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Congress was held from June 16-19, 1981 at the Budapest Hilton Hotel prior to the 12<sup>th</sup> world congress of ORL. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Helmut Masing from Erlangen. Apart from scientific sessions a 'Postgraduate Course in Functional Surgery of the Septum and Nasal Pyramid' was presented. The meeting was very well attended by rhinologists from Europe, USA, Japan, Brazil, Mexico and other countries. Unfortunately, there were few participants from East-European countries present. The location, the American-owned Hilton appeared an obstacle for them to attend. The course was presided by professors Hasegawa, Masing, Krajina and Kern. Prof. L. Surjan (Budapest) and prof. Takahashi (Tokyo) were invited as guests of honour.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Congress (quadrennial meeting as it was often called) was organised at the Cancun Sheraton Hotel, Cancun, May 22-24, 1985, preceding the 13<sup>th</sup> ORL world congress in Miami. President of the meeting was Prof. Thomas Azuara of Mexico City. This meeting had great importance for rhinologists of the America's who assembled in large numbers at the coast of the Yucatan peninsula.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Congress took place at the Keio Plaza Intercontinental Hotel in Tokyo, September 23-28, 1991 under the presidency of Prof. Ryo Takahashi. It was combined with the 10th ISIAN meeting and the 30<sup>th</sup> annual congress of the Japanese Rhinologic Society. The meeting was opened by H.I.H. Prince Tomohito of Mikasa. It featured an excellent scientific and clinical program Professors Shunkichi Baba, Tetsuo Ishii and General Secretary prof. Minoru Okuda made it a great success. In this respect, also the work done by prof. Yoshio Honda, Hirosato Miyake, Masaru Ohyama, Kiyoshi Togawa, Goro Mogi, Takeru



Former First Lady of the USA Mrs Barbara Bush with the nine senior rhinologists who were voted by their colleagues to receive the Life-Time Achievement Award of the IRS. From right to left: Hiroshi Moriyama, representing laureate Ryo Takahashi (Tokyo), Charles Gross (XXXX), Egbert Huizing (Utrecht), Fausto Lopez-Infante (Mexico City), Heinz Stammberger, representing laureate Walter Messerklinger (Graz), Wolfgang Pirsig (Ulm), Georgio Sul senti (Bologna), Eugene Tardy (Chicago), and Malte Wigand (Erlangen).

Ishikawa and Tadami Kumuzawa must be gratefully mentioned. The congress was attended by no less than 489 participants from 33 different countries (258 from Japan, 231 from other countries).

The 8<sup>th</sup> Congress that was organised by Prof. Paul van Cauwenberge in Ghent, September 8-12, 1996 was equally successful. Prof. van Cauwenberge combined the 16<sup>th</sup> ERS, 15<sup>th</sup> ISIAN, and 8th IRS congress into a 'Week of the Nose'. The conference was patronised by Her Majesty Queen Paola of Belgium. Guest of Honour was Prof. Okuda (Tokyo), vice-presidents were B. Bertrand (Ghent) P. Clement (Brussels), E. Kern (Rochester Minn.) and M. Tos (Copenhagen), while great work was done by Secretary General Koen Ingels (Ghent).

The 9<sup>th</sup> Congress held in Washington (DC) September 20-23 was another highlight in the history of the IRS. Congress President Prof. Eugene Kern from the Mayo

Clinic Rochester (Minnesota) baptised it 'The Nose 2000... And Beyond'. The conference was held in the Omnishore Hotel and turned out to be the largest gathering of rhinologists in the United States to date. Approximately 1400 rhinologists from over 70 countries came to Washington to exchange ideas and debate issues. During the opening ceremonies, the United States Marine Corps band, 'The Presidents Own' from the White House provided the music. Sessions were in conjunction with the American Academy of Otolaryngologic Allergy Foundation and the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Former First Lady Mrs Barbara Bush, the spouse of former US president George Bush (and she stated in her speech, the mother of the future president!) was the special guest of this millennium conference. On behalf of the Society she offered 'A Life-Achievement Award' to nine distinguished senior rhinologists for their contribution to rhinology.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Congress organised by Prof. In-Yong-Park at the Hilton Hotel in Seoul, October 23- XXX 2003 was another major event. The meeting enjoyed a huge attendance especially by colleagues from Asian countries. Guest of honour was Egbert Huizing from Utrecht. As the main topics of the conference were chosen: pathophysiology of chronic sinusitis, image-guided surgery, dynamism of mucosal system and endoscopic surgery. The outstanding dinners offered at this meeting will be remembered by many for their gastronomic quality and elegance.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Congress was held jointly with the meeting of the Australian Society of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at Sydney from October 25-29, 2005 under the excellent presidency of Kavin Kane. The conference was attended by over 600 delegates from 45 different countries. In all, participants were offered over 95 invited papers, 26 instructional sessions, 6 plenary and 7 panel discussions.

#### **THE OFFICIAL ORGANS OF THE IRS- 'RHINOLOGY' AND THE 'AMERICAN JOURNAL OF RHINOLOGY'**

Together with the ERS Van Dishoeck, in 1963, founded the journal International Rhinology- Rhinologie Internationale, the first journal in the field of rhinology. Members of the ARS and ERS were automatically subscribers of the journal. Their membership fee included receipt of the quarterly issues and all the supplements published by the journal.

Thus far the papers presented at congresses and symposia had usually been published as congress proceedings. It took great effort to produce such books and

their distribution was limited. As Van Dishoeck remarked, "They are not an effective way of publication". "For these reasons and especially for the furthering of the interest in rhinology we think that a special international journal of rhinology will be able to maintain a distinctive position". This expectation has certainly become true. Soon, the journal became one of the field's most important platforms for publishing basic research and clinical studies. Nowadays it has a circulation of 2250.

Van Dishoeck served as the editor until he passed away in 1970. In 1972-Prof. Egbert Huizing was appointed editor-in-chief by the Executive Committee of the IRS. In coöperation with the international Editorial Board he changed the name of the journal into 'Rhinology' and gradually managed to increase its quality and gave it a more modern outlook. The journal 'Rhinology' has been cited over the years in Embase and Excerpta Medica, but for reasons unknown until the present day, it took a long time before it was given an impact factor. Huizing stayed on duty for more than 30 years and was succeeded by Prof. Valerie Lund of London as editor-in chief and Prof. Wytse Fokkens of Amsterdam as co-editor in 2004.

After a long-lasting discussion the American Journal of Rhinology was also accepted as official organ of the IRS. It was considered debatable whether or not a national journal could be the spokesman of an international society. However, the high quality of this journal and its worldwide impact on the science and practice of rhinology made it desirable to appoint it to this position.

## THE IRS TODAY

### Honorary Members

Prof. Ryo Takahashi (Tokyo),  
appointed at Sydney, 2005

Prof. Egbert H. Huizing (Utrecht)  
appointed at Sydney, 2005

Prof. Peter Clement (Brussels)  
appointed at Sydney, 2005



Honorary members: Ryo Takahashi (Tokyo), Egbert H. Huizing, Utrecht, Peter Clement (Brussels).

### Presidents

1965-Maurice H. Cottle

1969-Jaime Carillo (Mexico City)

1973-Georges Guillen (Bordeaux)

1977-Pat Barelli (Kansas City)

1978-Carl B. Sputh (Indianapolis, Ind.)

1981-Helmut Masing (Erlangen)

1985-Thomas Azuara (Mexico City)

1991-Ryo Takahashi (Tokyo)

1996-Paul Van Cauwenberge (Gent)

2000-Eugene B. Kern (Rochester, Minn.)

2003-In Yong Park (Seoul)

2005-Kevin Kane (Melbourne)

### Secretaries General-Treasurers

1965-1985 George Drumheller

1986-2005 Peter Clement Brussels

2005- Metin Önerci (Ankara)



General Secretaries - Treasurers: George Drumheller and Peter Clement.

### Executive Board (as of October 2005)

President: Kavin Kane (Melbourne)

Past President: In Young Park (Seoul)

President-Elect: Desiderio Passali (Siena)

General-Secretary-Treasurer: Metin Önerci (Ankara)

Editor-in-chief of the journal 'Rhinology': Valerie Lund (London)

Historian without voting rights: Egbert Huizing (Laren, NL).

**Regional Vice-presidents on the Board of Directors with voting rights (in alphabetic order)**

Am. Rhin. Soc.: David Kennedy (Philadelphia, Penn.)  
 Austr. & New Zeal. Rhin. Soc.: Kavin Kane (Melbourne)

Chin. Rhin. Soc: Huang Weigo (Xi An City)

Eur. Rhin. Soc.: Markus Rautiainen (Tampere)

Jap. Rhin. Soc.: Hiroshi Moriyama (Tokyo)

Kor. Rhin. Soc.: Tae Young Jang (Inha)

The membership of these societies per 2007 is as follows: ARS: 673; Austr-New Zeal. RS: 270; Chin. RS: 100; ERS: 663; JRS: 2000; KRS: 826, totalling 4532 paying members of the International Rhinologic Society.

**Regional Vice-presidents on the Board of Directors without voting rights (in alphabetic order)**

Association of South-East Asian National Rhin. Soc.:  
 Balwant Singh Gendeh (Kuala Lumpur)

Egypt Rhin. Soc.: Reda Kamel (Cairo)

Latin-Am. Rhin. Soc.: Aldo Stamm (Sao Paulo).

**Regional Vice Presidents on the Board of Directors without voting rights but authorized as observer (in alphabetic order):**

A representative from

Africa,

the All India Rhinologic Society,

the Middle East and

the Pakistan Rhinologic Society.

**The Future**

Predicting the future is hazardous, as we all know. The future tasks of the IRS are standing clearly before us, however.

The IRS must, in the first place, be instrumental in planning and organising world-congresses on rhinology. These meetings should be held every four years on a different continent and in cooperation with IFOS, EUFOS, and the various continental rhinologic societies in order to avoid duplicates.

The second task of the IRS is to spread knowledge. This might be accomplished by supporting and organising instructional courses. These are in great demand, in particular in developing countries.

A third undertaking would be to promote founding national rhinologic societies in these countries.

If the IRS manages to fulfil both tasks in an active way in the coming decades it will prove its right to exist.

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