I hope this newsletter finds everyone enjoying a great start to the New Year. As you know, the 17th International Symposium on Inner Ear Medicine and Surgery is scheduled for March 12-19, 2016, at the Hotel Theresa in Zell im Zillertal, Austria. For those who have attended the meeting in the past, you probably know why we will return to the Hotel Theresa next year. The Theresa has been a great meeting venue for the past 11 years, and we look forward to having our meeting there again.

I am most pleased and excited to announce that the next Gold Medal Award Recipient will be Ian Curthoys PhD, of the University of Sydney. Professor Curthoys was nominated and chosen by the members of the Society and has graciously accepted this honor. He will join a long list of “GREATS” who have been awarded this honor, and we look forward to seeing a presentation of his work at the meeting.

The setting of the International Symposium is casual and allows time for free discussion and ad hoc involvement. I hope that you will plan to attend the conference and participate in the presentations. As you can see from the last meeting’s program, the content is excellent. The call for abstracts has been placed on the Prosper Ménière Society website at www.prospermeniere.com. Please visit the site and find the meeting details.

Sincerely,

John Dornhoffer, M.D.
Executive Director
Ian Curthoys, Ph.D.

Markham at UCLA but then at Sydney, working with Michael Halmagyi since 1977. Since 2006 he has also been collaborating with Leonardo Manzari in Cassino, Italy.

The goal of his research has been to understand the vestibular system and he has studied many aspects of this system: anatomy, physiology, development, vestibulo-ocular response in health and disease, vestibular compensation, otolith function, vestibular perception and clinical testing and has made original research contributions in every one of these areas.

Some of these contributions are amongst the most cited papers in the vestibular literature. The "head impulse test" of semicircular canal function he developed with Michael Halmagyi is used around the world and has been now realized by Hamish MacDougall as the video Head Impulse Test (vHIT). This is a very quick simple and effective indicator of the function of every semicircular canal. Complementing this has been his research on the mechanisms by which air-conducted sound and bone-conducted vibration activate otolithic neurons. The results of this neurophysiological work underpin the interpretation of the new clinical tests of otolith function – the vestibular evoked myogenic potential tests (oVEMP and cVEMP). He has shown how these new clinical tests, vHIT and VEMPs, allow the testing of all vestibular sense organs and they are being used to allow clinicians to measure the functional changes in patients with Ménière’s Disease at various stages. One theme running through his research continues – the study of vestibular anatomy. With his colleagues he developed a method for visualizing the membranous labyrinth in fixed human tissue using microCT. This provided 3-d images of the utricular and saccular maculae and their spatial orientation, and more recently he has been pursuing the use of this method to reconstruct, in 3d, images of the human membranous labyrinth, including Bari's valve.
Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to:

• Have a comprehensive understanding of the pathophysiology of inner ear disorders
• Identify and discuss appropriate medical and/or surgical treatment regimens for Ménière’s disease and other diseases of the inner ear, including tinnitus
• Assess the indications and basic interpretations of diagnostic findings for vertiginous patients
• Have a comprehensive overview of implantable hearing devices and cochlear implants
• Understand inner ear fluid dynamics and homeostasis in the normal and hydropic inner ear
• Have an improved understanding of the three-dimensional spatial organization of the membranous labyrinth.
• Be able to carry out the video Head Impulse Test (vHIT) of all semicircular canals properly and to be able to identify artifacts and errors and interpret results.
• Have a comprehensive understanding of the physiological basis and clinical interpretation of the new tests of otolith function-oVEMPS and cVEMPS.
THE 17TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOPS ON INNER EAR MEDICINE AND SURGERY

The Hotel Theresa in Zell im Zillertal, Austria
www.theresa.at

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Registration Deadline: December 31, 2015
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