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# NIDCD National Temporal Bone, Hearing & Balance Pathology Resource Registry

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The Registry produces and disseminates a semiannual newsletter on advances in opportunities in otopathology, targeted primarily towards physicians and researchers. The newsletter has a circulation of over 12,000. Contents typically include short scientific articles focused on recent developments in otopathology, spotlights on temporal bone laboratories, and news and announcements about relevant meetings, courses and workshops.

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Newsletter of the NIDCD National Temporal Bone, Hearing and Balance Pathology Resource Registry

## HUMAN OTOPATHOLOGY AND BASIC SCIENCE: PARTNERS IN TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Symposium held at the meeting of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology, February 7, 2010, Anaheim, California

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*The REGISTRY is published semiannually by the NIDCD National Temporal Bone, Hearing and Balance Pathology Resource Registry. The Registry was established in 1992 by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) of the National Institutes of Health to continue and expand upon the former National Temporal Bone Banks (NTBB) Program. The Registry promotes research on hearing and balance disorders and serves as a resource for the public and the scientific community about research on the pathology of the human auditory and vestibular systems.*

Human temporal bones provide a valuable resource for the study of the pathology and pathophysiology of disorders in hearing, balance and facial nerve function. Advances in cellular and molecular biology over the last several years have provided new opportunities for enhancing our understanding of ear disease. A 3-hour symposium sponsored by the Human Temporal Bone Consortium for Research Resource Enhancement took place at the recent meeting of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology in Anaheim, California, on February 6, 2010. The goal of the Symposium was two-fold: 1) to show how human otopathology research and basic science approaches can complement each other in advancing our understanding of and development of treatments for otologic disorders; and 2) to demonstrate the resources developed by the Temporal Bone Consortium that have been made available to the broader research community. The symposium was moderated by Samuel N. Merchant, M.D. and M. Charles Liberman, Ph.D. In this issue of the Registry's newsletter, we present a synopsis of the proceedings of the Symposium.

Introductory remarks were delivered by Christopher Platt, Ph.D., Program Director, Hearing and Balance Central Pathways/DSP, National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) (Figure 1). Dr. Platt pointed out that the inner ear, which contains some of the most delicate and highly tuned sensory structures in the body, is housed deep within the temporal bone where it is surrounded by theotic capsule, the densest bone in the body. The inaccessibility of the inner ear to direct examination and to surgical biopsy during life makes it particularly challenging for physicians and scientists trying to decipher the pathologic and molecular underpinnings of otologic disease. These challenges notwithstanding, Dr. Platt noted that recent advances in cellular and molecular biology have paved the way for application of innovative ideas to the study of human temporal bones. One result has been the establishment of the Human Temporal Bone Consortium for Research Resource Enhancement, a



Figure 1. Dr. Christopher Platt, Program Director, Hearing and Balance Central Pathways/DSP, National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) making introductory remarks.



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