

## The JLO 10th British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology Fellowship

### Report from Dr Horatiu Stefanescu, Romania

With participation by more than 500 ORL specialists and 250 papers presented, the tenth British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology held in Cambridge from 4 to 9 July 1999 was a very successful event from both scientific and social points of view.

The Conference was attended by a large number of famous professors and surgeons world-wide. The Guest of Honour, Dr Robin Cotton, the Keynote Lecturers, Professor Paul van den Broek, Professor Heinz Stammberger and Professor Arnold Maran and the extremely distinguished list of invited speakers provided the academic thrust to the Conference. As it was the first international conference I had attended, it was an honour and privilege for me to listen and learn from some of the world's most famous personalities in Otorhinolaryngology. This could not have been possible without the support from the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology* and especially Mr Neil Weir who's assistance during the Conference meant a lot to me.

The Opening Ceremony took place on Sunday 4 July in the Corn Exchange in a very traditional fashion. The new Master of the Conference Mr J. N. G. Evans, a surgeon distinguished in particular in the field of paediatric otolaryngology, was introduced. As customary Scholarships were presented to the recipients at the ceremony. I was very excited and honoured to be introduced to such a distinguished audience.

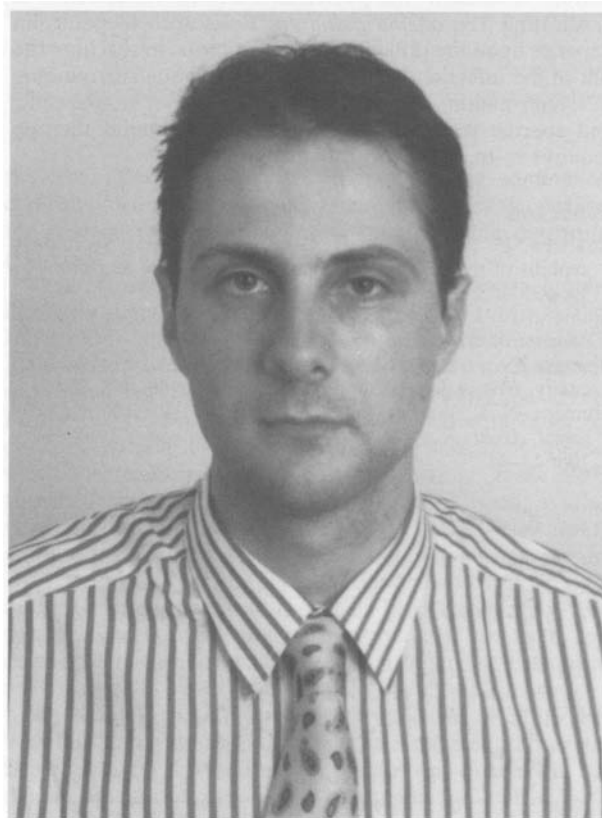
In the morning, the Conference concentrated on scientific presentation and Keynote lectures covering the most important and current topics in all subspecialties of otolaryngology. The topics were presented both in a very academic but also very attractive fashion so that even the most delicate subjects were clearly explained to everyone. Unfortunately there wasn't always enough time to answer all the questions from the audience because of the number of good questions.

In the afternoon there was a very busy programme too. It started with 'live' demonstrations on cadavers done with high accuracy, trying to convince you that nothing is impossible, and with hard work (both theoretical and practical) you could do the same thing!

The Demonstrations were followed by Minisymposia and instructional sessions, both focused on 'what to do' and 'how I do it'. They have been a great help, especially for young doctors who could learn new strategies in the management of different situations that can appear in our practical activity.

The only regret I had was that I could not attend them all!

Despite this very busy programme the organizers – who have done an excellent job – invited us to a magnificent



Dr Horatiu Stefanescu

social programme which included the Opening Ceremony and Opening Reception, the Masters Reception (held in the Fitzwilliam Museum), the Garden Party, the Organ Recital at King's College Chapel, guided tours of Cambridge and, last but not least, the Banquet at King's College.

All these events were extremely well organized and provided an opportunity to make new friends and to talk about otolaryngological problems in a less 'academic' fashion.

In the end I would like to thank *The Journal of Laryngology and Otology* for giving me the opportunity to attend such a high level Conference. It was a wonderful experience and I hope I have learned a lot of new things that will leave a positive impact on my future activity.

Dr. Horatiu Stefanescu