

JLO Visiting Professor 2002 – Professor William Wei

It is my honour to be selected as the Journal of Laryngology and Otology Visiting Professor for the year 2002. The sequence of academic activities began with a pleasant social event on the evening of 28 February 2002, where I joined the Royal Society of Medicine council members for dinner at the Travellers Club, London. This was a black tie occasion held at one of the most prestigious and exclusive clubs in the centre of London. At the dinner, besides the excellent food and wine, I also enjoyed the charming company of members from the otology, rhinology and laryngology sections of the Royal Society of Medicine.

My first lecture, *'Surgical Approaches to the Nasopharynx'*, was delivered on 1 March 2002 at the Royal Society of Medicine. The talk was well attended and stimulated discussions among the audience. During the allotted tea break and lunch with the President, I met up with past and current leaders in our specialty, including, amongst others, Professor D.F.N. Harrison, Mr P. McKelvie, Mr N. Weir and Mr P. Bull. I was also able to speak with upcoming colleagues – future leaders of our speciality – whose papers had been selected for presentation in the afternoon sessions.

I travelled to Ireland the next day and on 4 March 2002, I delivered a lecture to the Fellows of the Irish College at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland. The lecture *'The Pathological Basis of Surgery for Nasopharyngeal Cancer'* was transmitted through teleconferencing facilities to several hospitals and institutions in Ireland. Otorhinolaryngologists in Ireland, led by Professor M. Walsh and Professor A. Blayney, later invited me to a delightful dinner where I met most of the leading ENT surgeons in Ireland.

My JLO Professorship travels continued onto Sheffield where Mr P. Bull and Mr T. Woolford were my gracious hosts. The third lecture *'Free Flaps in Head and Neck Surgery – Hong Kong Experience'* was delivered at the University of Sheffield Hospital. In attendance were staff and specialists as well as trainees and interns from around the region. I thoroughly enjoyed the warm and superb hospitality, which included dinner and a pleasant drive through the scenic countryside.

The fourth lecture, *'Carcinoma of the Hypopharynx and Concepts of Reconstruction'*, was delivered on 6 March 2002 at Freeman Hospital of the University of Newcastle. Professor J. Wilson was my host on this occasion, and I again enjoyed the company of the various specialists working in her department.

Throughout my time during these visits, I was accompanied by Mr Roy Clarke, secretary of the Section on Rhinology and Laryngology, Royal Society of Medicine.



FIG. 1
Professor William Wei

He was flying, walking and eating with me, and of course kindly drove me from city to city. To him, I am much indebted. This JLO Travelling Professorship has provided an excellent opportunity for me to meet, in person, leading otorhinolaryngology surgeons in England and Ireland.

I noted that although different centres vary slightly in their practice, all have made excellent progress in providing the best patient care, and in contributing towards academic developments. I would like to express my thanks, once again, to Mr N. Weir, Mr P. Bull, Mr R. Clarke and all those involved in helping to make my visit so enjoyable and illuminating. My four lectures were presented using the PowerPoint format, and with luck on my side, all presentations went well without much hitch.

William I. Wei