

Introduction to XXII Bárány Society Meeting

**Seattle, WA
September 26–29, 2002**

Many of the most significant gains in our understanding of brain function have been the result of close interactions between basic and clinical scientists. In no discipline has this cross-fertilization been more evident and productive than in the field of vestibular research. At its biennial meeting, the Bárány Society has long been providing forums where such fertile interactions have been facilitated. Because the Bárány membership includes scientists from all over the world, our meeting provides a comprehensive exposure to the diverse field of vestibular research. Recently, however, the contributions to the main meeting have become increasingly clinical with the result that attendance by basic scientists has decreased. It is the objective of this XXII Bárány Society meeting to encourage the return of basic scientists to the main meeting, thereby re-establishing the past productive interactions between those of us at the bench and those at the bedside.

We have attempted to promote such scientific interactions in several different ways. First, there will be 3 plenary sessions in which progress on different vestibular issues will be discussed from both a basic and clinical science perspective. Second, each plenary session will be concluded by an hour-long discussion period, involving a free-for-all exchange with audience participation. Third, several individuals have been invited to organize platform sessions around interesting vestibular topics and to choose participants with both clinical and basic science emphases. Fourth, all other platform sessions as well as the poster sessions are organized according to topic so that clinical and basic science presentations will be interspersed. Finally, we will consider the hot topic of vestibular functional recovery in a debate between a proponent of hair cell regeneration and a supporter of the development of a vestibular prosthesis.

According to the list of registrants, we have indeed attracted a balanced attendance of basic and clinical scientists. And based on the diversity and quality of the submitted abstracts, this meeting promises to have many presentations that will appeal to vestibular scientists with varied backgrounds and interests.

The Program Committee
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