

## **Introduction to the Bárány Society XXIII International Congress**

**Paris, France  
July 7–9, 2004**

The international meetings of the Bárány Society have long been a unique chance for clinicians and basic scientists to exchange facts and ideas concerning the physiology and pathology of the vestibular system and inner ear. Many fruitful interactions have resulted from the juxtaposition of otorhinolaryngologists, neurootologists, neurologists, ophthalmologists, and basic scientists in the open-minded spirit of the Society.

The meeting in Paris on July 7–9, 2004 is another of these privileged occasions. The Collège de France, where the meeting is being held, is one of the highest academic institutions in France, with more than 50 professors from various disciplines. One noted professor was Marie Jean Pierre Flourens, who around 1840 discovered the function of the vestibular organs in spatial orientation and control of posture. Its 400-year tradition of multi-disciplinary interaction and emphasis on innovative research makes the Collège de France an ideal setting for the XXIII International Meeting of the Bárány Society.

The meeting includes more than 390 communications and posters, 18 thematic symposia, and 6 plenary lectures. As these Abstracts indicate, the presentations cover new findings from a wide range of disciplines and topics, representing research and scholarship from all over the world.

We wish the participants an enjoyable stay in Paris and a fruitful meeting.

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