



Canadian Society of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery /  
Société canadienne d'oto-rhino-laryngologie et de chirurgie cervico-faciale

April 2022

Dear Colleagues,

After two years in hibernation, I think it is safe to say, all of us are looking forward to crawling from our dens and socializing in person in Vancouver in October. With Fred Kozak at the helm as Local Arrangements Chair, it promises to be a spectacular meeting.

For this meeting we are trying something different, partly because we want to but mainly because we must. With the Climate Crisis looming large, and experts now stating we have only until 2025 to reverse the trend of increasing greenhouse gas emissions, we are aiming for a *carbon neutral meeting*. This will require a concerted effort from the Westin Bayshore Hotel Vancouver, from our Local Arrangements Chair and Committee, from our Corporate Sponsors and from each of us.

The Westin has committed to a green meeting: reusable materials as much as possible, linen-less tables, more local plant-based food options, declining daily room service. We have arranged a very favourable room rate so you can stay at the Westin and not commute to and from the meeting. Most/all social events are planned to be within walking distance of the hotel, or a short electric vehicle commute away. We will provide a reusable drinking cup for use during the meeting and for you to take home to enjoy for years to come, a reminder of the meeting that showed all, we can do better. Our invited speakers will tell us about the climate crisis, but more critically will tell us what we can and must do as individuals and as a Society to limit the environmental impact of provision of surgical care.

We are asking/telling our Corporate Partners they need to be part of the solution. This year we will be awarding the *Corporate Social Responsibility Award* as recognition to the top company that does the most to improve health care while minimizing the impact on planetary health. You will not be seeing them flying in tonnes of equipment nor distributing disposable swag. And, you will be part of the adjudication process when you visit their green booths and then rank them on their efforts.

However, it is not all on industry: each of us needs to contribute to the goal of carbon neutrality; each of us needs to find creative and innovative ways to decrease the environmental impact of what we do in our personal and professional lives. We hope to recognize a CSO-HNS Champion with the *Individual Social Responsibility Award* as well for what you do to contribute at the meeting and for what you do in your daily life.

With the global health conference industry responsible for annual greenhouse gas emissions on par with the entirety of the United States, we need to do better, we can do better, and we will do better.

We look forward to seeing you in Vancouver October 1-3, 2022.

Brian Westerberg  
President