



Udayan K. Shah MD 2011-2012

My Presidential year was personally and professionally fulfilling. After six years as Treasurer, and a year as President-Elect, I found that this new leadership role reinforced my conviction that SENTAC is a vibrant and relevant organization comprised of passionate and innovative people. Whether new or long-term members, the 395 individuals who comprised SENTAC's membership rolls as of the Annual Meeting helped to shape a meaningful and productive year.

My top priority for the year was to broaden and deepen SENTAC's reach. During my Presidential year, three initiatives were started to achieve this. Interdisciplinary care was the focus. We sponsored a \$5000 Cleft Palate Research Award to be given to a research proposal competitively vetted from among many submitted to support a year's work on a specific project for children with Cleft Lip and/or Palate. The winner will present their work at our next Annual Meeting in 2013, in Long Beach, California. A \$1000 Cleft Palate Abstract award will be awarded to the best presentation at our 2012 Annual Meeting on Cleft Lip/Palate. The Cleft Palate focus was chosen after a particularly powerful series of interdisciplinary presentations on the same at the 2011 Kansas City meeting, and in recognition of our alliance with the American Cleft Palate Association. This alliance is an information-sharing agreement for the most part, and promises to spread the word of SENTAC beyond our traditional venues.

We also sponsored five "Non-Otolaryngologist Non-Member" Travel Grants to bring those not within an ENT practice to the meeting. This was also a competitive proposal, with the winners chosen from names submitted by membership. We hope these new attendees will not make this SENTAC meeting their last.

I also wanted to update our Web interface. Marc Steele, our Webmaster, was charged with creating a new interface with expanded functionality. This was achieved towards the end of 2012, with the potential to add much more content and vitality to this critical communication mode.

Perhaps the greatest joy from my time as SENTAC President has been to help guide a forty-year-old organization towards its next forty years. The continued growth of membership and the retention of many long-term members will allow us all to enjoy the fundamental reason for SENTAC's durability: the collegiality and camaraderie which mark the honest dialogue we share in caring for children's ear, nose and throat issues.