Editorial

With this issue, *Audiology and Neuro-Otology* introduces a series of sketches on the history of otology and auditory research. These 'otohistorical' sketches follow the careers of several of the investigators and physicians primarily responsible for the 19th-century emergence of aural surgery from professional neglect and disrepute. From that inferior status it soon rose to become an essential, scientifically based, medical and surgical specialty. They are in no way intended as a full-fledged 'History of Otology': that was written and published a century and more ago by Adam Politzer in the two volumes of his indispensable *Geschichte der Ohrenheilkunde*, from which some of the information to be presented here will have been drawn. Rather, they are vignettes concerned with particularly important individual contributors, their lives and their work, as well as with otological conditions that have emerged as important entities in today's research and practice. The articles are written by Joseph Hawkins, a scholar in the field of otological research and an avid otologist, with some modest contributions by Jochen Schacht. They are based on a series of posters that were presented, and on others yet to be presented, at the annual meetings of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology. They will be edited and illustrated specifically for *Audiology and Neuro-Otology*.

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