



American Association of Eye & Ear Centers of Excellence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The American Association of Eye and Ear Centers of Excellence Elects Board of Directors and Officers

Arlington, VA (October 19, 2010) – The Annual Meeting of the American Association of Eye and Ear Centers of Excellence (AAEECE) formerly the American Association of Eye and Ear Hospitals (AAEEH), took place October 17-19, 2010 in Chicago, Illinois. Membership held elections for the new leadership of the Board of Directors. The Board and Officers assume their new two year terms, beginning January 1, 2011.

John Fernandez, of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston, Massachusetts was elected the new Chairman of AAEECE. Current Chairman, Michael Gittelman, of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Miami, Florida will now serve the role of Immediate Past Chairman. Joe Bilson, of Wills Eye Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, becomes Chair-Elect. Bill Kenney, of the Phillips Eye Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota, will serve as Treasury/Secretary. Robert Betz, PhD will remain as the AAEECE President. Dr. J. Robert Rosenthal, of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, was re-elected to the AAEECE Board of Directors as a Member At-Large. Also elected as a Member At-Large, was Richard C. Thomas, of the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, Maryland. Francis Hiddema, CEO of the Rotterdam Eye Hospital, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and former Chairman, will continue to serve the Board of Directors as a Member At-Large.

“I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to our outgoing Board members. The service they have given AAEECE over the past two years has been invaluable. I have confidence that the new AAEECE Board of Directors for the upcoming two year term will foster great success and growth for the Association,” outgoing Chairman, Mike Gittelman said.

The American Association of Eye and Ear Centers of Excellence is comprised of the premier centers for specialized eye and ear procedures in the world. Association members are major referral centers, offer some of the most innovative teaching programs in the world, and routinely treat the most severely ill eye and ear patients. The mission of these specialty institutions requires them to maintain leading edge technologies, enabling them to provide highly specialized services not available in general acute care hospitals.