

## Editorial

## Award-Winning Research— IAO 2018

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Int Arch Otorhinolaryngol 2018;22:335.

Dear Colleagues,

The IAORL (International Archives of Otorhinolaryngology) is a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to otolaryngology, head and neck surgery, audiology, and speech therapy. The IAORL Scientific Merit Journal Prize is awarded every year and, <sup>1</sup> in 2018, it has awarded the three best systematic and/or literature reviews published in the journal in the year of 2017,<sup>2–4</sup> seeking to highlight articles that form the foundations and concepts of universal knowledge. We believe this serves to identify, evaluate, and interpret all available and relevant studies on a specific thematic issue. The objective is to review the state of the art, confront the existing evidence on a given subject, and thus lead to new lines of research. The 2018 manuscript awards nominees were selected among those who had their articles published in issues 1–4 of volume 21, based on novelty, impact, data quality, and number of online downloads by the journal readers.

When we evaluate a certain subject, we are faced with contradictory results. One way to try to clarify controversies is to rely only on quality studies on the subject. Based on this principle, we have the systematic review of the literature. It is a type of research focused on a well-defined issue, which aims to identify, select, evaluate and synthesize the evidence available. Systematic reviews with meta-analyses are used globally by the medical community and allow us to ensure that we have as precise a summary as possible of all the trials that took place on a particular medical science topic. Systematic reviews should be comprehensive and not biased in their essence. The criteria adopted are disclosed so that other researchers can repeat the procedure. Systematic reviews of good are considered the best level of evidence for decision-making. To explicitly follow the scientific method and present a new result, the systematic review is classified as an original contribution in the majority of clinical research journals.<sup>5</sup>

With this effort, we wish to honor and show our appreciation of the awarded authors, encouraging new talents in international otorhinolaryngological research with a com-

mitment to stimulate education and technological development through research and training.

The studies that stood out were the following:

1. Palma Diaz M, Cisneros Lesser JC, Vega Alarcón A. Superior Semicircular Canal Dehiscence Syndrome - Diagnosis and Surgical Management. *Int Arch Otorhinolaryngol.* 2017<sup>2</sup>
2. Lesser JC, Brito Neto RV, Martins GS, Bento RF. Cochlear Implantation through the Middle Fossa Approach: A Review of Related Temporal Bone Studies and Reported Cases. *Int Arch Otorhinolaryngol.* 2017<sup>3</sup>
3. Lima Neto AC, Bittar R, Gattas GS, Bor-Seng-Shu E, Oliveira ML, Monsanto RDC, Bittar LF. Pathophysiology and Diagnosis of Vertebrobasilar Insufficiency: A Review of the Literature. *Int Arch Otorhinolaryngol.* 2017<sup>4</sup>

**Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest has been declared by the author(s).

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- 3 Lesser JC, Brito Neto RV, Martins GS, Bento RF. Cochlear Implantation through the Middle Fossa Approach: A Review of Related Temporal Bone Studies and Reported Cases. *Int Arch Otorhinolaryngol* 2017;21(01):102–108. Doi: 10.1055/s-0036-1582266
- 4 Lima Neto AC, Bittar R, Gattas GS, et al. Pathophysiology and Diagnosis of Vertebrobasilar Insufficiency: A Review of the Literature. *Int Arch Otorhinolaryngol* 2017;21(03):302–307. Doi: 10.1055/s-0036-1593448
- 5 Meerpohl JJ, Herrle F, Reinders S, Antes G, von Elm E. Scientific value of systematic reviews: survey of editors of core clinical journals. *PLoS One* 2012;7(05):e35732. Doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0035732

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DOI <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0038-1673376>.  
ISSN 1809-9777.

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