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Dear Colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you as well as you can possibly be at this time. I have the honor of succeeding Dr. Bob Standring as president of the Michigan Otolaryngological Society. Under his leadership, we have experienced an energized group of new members, which is vital to the society.

Of course, this has been a tumultuous year in many ways. There's nothing I can say about the drastic changes prompted by COVID-19 that has not already been said. As it relates specifically to the members as professionals, we must navigate the waters of practicing in a new environment. We also need to recognize the strides that have been made in recognizing racial inequities but also the fact that we have so far to go.

With these challenges in mind, we also have the opportunity to mold the MOS to the evolving needs of the membership. With your input, I want to identify ways that we can help each other improve the practice of otolaryngology in Michigan. Whether it be working on reimbursement for virtual care, support for obtaining PPE, education about implicit bias, reducing health care disparities, and many more areas, a state specialty society can help.

We are here for you, but we also need to hear from you about specific things that impact your practices. With the current move to temporary meetings, we would also like to bring more statewide otolaryngologists in on a routine basis. The locations of the meetings have favored metro Detroit members, but we are no longer tied up by location, so let's also use this time to be more inclusive of members throughout the state.

As always, thank you to Bob Standring and Karen Carter for your leadership and support over the last year. Thank you all for continuing to provide excellent care to your patients in the face of the increasing challenges that 2020 brought.

Sincerely,

Ross Mayerhoff, MD
2020-2021 MOS President