

July 16, 2014

Dear Physicians,

We, as Otorhinolaryngology (ORL) nurses and officers of the North Carolina chapter of the Society of Otorhinolaryngology Nurses (SOHN), appreciate the opportunity to work for you in providing optimum care to our patients. We respect your dedication to your practices and patients and admire your hard work in maintaining and improving your knowledge and skills.

As nurses, we understand the importance of our profession. We seek to enhance our knowledge and education in order to better assist our physicians in delivering quality care and patient satisfaction. As we all know, continuing education, professional networking, and career advancement opportunities are often found within professional organizations, such as the North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS), North Carolina Society of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery (NCSOHNS), and the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS).

SOHN is the professional organization for ORL nurses. The organization hosts an Annual Congress and Nursing Symposium in the fall that is congruent with AAO-HNS's annual meeting, as well as a Spring Seminar Series, that is also congruent with AAO-HNS's spring meeting. Currently, SOHN has over 1,100 members, compared to 47 in 1976. It is our mission to contribute to the growth of this organization.

The ORL nurses of UNC would like to thank Dr. Pillsbury for his outstanding commitment and generosity in advocating for our professional growth and development. Over the past 30 years, Dr. Pillsbury has been financially supportive in providing our nurses the opportunity to attend the Annual Congress and Nursing Symposium, as well as providing financial reimbursement for our annual SOHN membership. Last year, Dr. Pillsbury sponsored two ORL nurses at UNC to attend the Annual Congress and Nursing Symposium, which was held in Vancouver, Canada. While there, we learned that the North Carolina chapter of SOHN was dissolving. After several meetings with former chapter officers, national officers, and members, we were able to prevent the dissolution from occurring. We have since elected new officers, and are determined to make our chapter a success. However, in order to do so, we need our physician's support. Currently, we have 10 chapter members.

We seek your help in several ways. Please encourage your nurses to become active members of SOHN. This society provides ORL nurses with many opportunities for personal and professional growth through educational opportunities, awards, scholarships, research and literature grants, and lectureships. There is no better way to obtain continuing education hours than through presentations by physicians like you, as well as nursing leaders of ORL. We ask for your consideration in making SOHN's annual membership dues of \$100.00, and NC chapter dues of \$5.00, for your ORL nurses' continuing education and professional development, part of your practice. We also ask for your investment toward the revival of the North Carolina chapter of SOHN, by making a generous donation, to assist us in funding a statewide meeting. Maggie Chestnutt, the national president of SOHN, has agreed to be our guest speaker at our first chapter meeting, tentatively scheduled for November (exact date to be determined). This "Meet and

Greet” meeting will afford members and non-members an opportunity to learn about SOHN and the significance of being or becoming a member. There will be a \$20.00 fee for non-members, and a \$10.00 fee for members to attend this meeting. Continuing education hours will be offered. However, in order to hold this meeting, we will need at least 25 attendees.

SOHN’s mission is to foster the professional growth of the ORL nurse through education and research and will develop a dynamic organization that is responsive to the needs of the membership. SOHN’s vision is to advance the professional growth and development of nurses dedicated to the specialty of ORL nursing. It is through ORL educational opportunities, career growth, and professional networking provided by SOHN, that we learn how to provide better patient care, leading to overall patient satisfaction. We encourage you to support your ORL nurses in making the North Carolina chapter of SOHN a success.

Please distribute questionnaires (included as an attachment with this email) for your nurses to complete and return to us.

You may contact us with any questions or comments at the email addresses provided below.

Thank you for your time and effort in helping us to revive our chapter. If you are interested in presenting at one of our meetings, or would like to host a meeting, please email us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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