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Sommario/riassunto	In many ways we are at a new pinnacle of discovery in Biology and Medicine. Never before has there been such rapid discovery of the fundamental issues involving cellular mechanisms, immunology, genetics, molecular biology and neuroscience. Each day we read about diseases for which the cause or a genetic basis has been identified, or for which a successful new treatment has been developed. With some of the best and the brightest students from our medical schools now turning to otolaryngology as their chosen profession, and with the attention of basic scientists newly focused on the inner ear,