



AUDINEWS

The Newsletter of the International Society of Audiology

Summer, 2003

ISA FORMS NEW COMMITTEE: "HUMANITARIAN AUDIOLOGISTS"

Jackie Clark, Chairperson



There continues to be a growing interest in humanitarian projects in audiology, but thus far, limited opportunities for sharing information or facilitating planning, implementation and outcomes have existed. Unlike other professional activities such as research and clinical practice, the principles and methods for humanitarian projects are not always supported by literature or forums for exchange of information. In fact, due to the severely limited information exchange available to those working abroad, the common report among humanitarian project leaders is that they often have had to learn from experience what is going on in a country and who else is working there. Audiologists who travel to other countries to provide services have reported that, on occasion, they arrive at the destination or return home only to find other audiologists have visited the same region with the same purpose at different times. It is not unusual for clinicians who have been providing philanthropic audiology services to learn of well established resources that have been in place within the country and could have facilitated their humanitarian effort.

Recently, efforts have been made to organize a group of like-minded audiologists, who have provided philanthropic hearing health services, for the primary purpose of creating a network for exchange of ideas and information. For the last few years some "Humanitarian Audiologists" have met during the American Academy of Audiology Conventions as a Special Interest Group for the purpose of learning more about available resources and to meet other's who travel to provide services for humanitarian reasons. In recognition of a clearly developing need, and to help fulfill its mandate to be an international organization of audiologists, the International Society of Audiology Executive Board recently decided to foster the creation of a Committee of Humanitarian Audiologists. The Committee is charged to act as a clearinghouse of shared information for and by audiologists and audiology students around the world who have experience in, or who are considering traveling to, other countries for the purposes of providing humanitarian audiology services. The Committee effort will be directed toward: 1) ensuring that humanitarian audiology services are in accordance with World Health Organization recommendations; 2) establishing a database of supplier's names for needed project instruments and materials; 3) building a database of known organizations with a history of sponsoring projects; 4) creating a reference source for translated materials; 5) directing traveling audiologists to appropriate sources to obtain country protocols, visas, and passports; 6) maintaining records of audiologists and audiology programs in countries visited; and finally, 7) alerting others about needs in each region/country.

There currently are opportunities for any interested audiologist to become part of the Humanitarian Audiologists Committee. As it continues to develop, many logistical issues will need to be addressed. Ultimately, we believe, the goal of improving the quality of hearing health for the underserved or disenfranchised will become just a little easier through the establishment and work of ISA's newest committee. For information or to volunteer contact: E-mail: clark@utdallas.edu.

Inside this issue:

<i>Humanitarian Audiology Committee (Clark)</i>	1
<i>ISA: Identify and Future (Noble)</i>	2
<i>WHO Consultation on Epidemiology of HI (Smith)</i>	3-5
<i>ISA-Amplifon Student Scholarships</i>	4-5
<i>Changes to WWW.ISA-Audiology.Org</i>	6
<i>Amplifon Training Grants, NHS Conference</i>	7
<i>Latest News: XXVII International Congress</i>	8

The International Society of Audiology: Identity and Future

William Noble, President-Elect

For someone whose visibility has largely depended on contributions to the world of scholarly research, setting out to write something more of an opinion-editorial piece generates a small frisson of anxiety. The last thing this writer can pretend to be is a practitioner or professional in the world of audiology, even though the bulk of my endeavour over the last three-and-a-half decades has been addressed to issues of relevance to parts of that practice. Having said which, several points have coalesced in my cognitive system in recent weeks, and the following observations and reports are given so as to show ISA members what the next President of the Society thinks about various matters.



First, what is the identity of the International Society of Audiology? It has been pointed out that the Society very much came into being as a way to cover and manage *International Audiology*, the original title of what later became *Audiology*. With the transformation of the journal into the *International Journal of Audiology*, now the flagship for the International Society, the British Society and the Nordic Society of Audiology, ISA shares proprietary rights over the journal with those other bodies. This does not mean a reduced commitment by ISA to the journal, but the plain point is that the journal is no longer its exclusive domain. It happens that I am an Associate Editor of the journal, and it is my hope that this sort of co-involvement with ISA and IJA will continue in the future, in addition to the formal representation on the ISA Executive of the journal's Editor-in-Chief.

Another substantial feature of the Society is its sponsorship of the International Congress of Audiology. The Congress has several notable features, including the Round Table plenary sessions that are used to showcase themes of current and emerging importance. Another key feature of the Congress is in enlarging the international reach of the national and regional organizations who bid to run the Congress. Especially for members of smaller societies, or those in more remote parts of the world, the International Congress represents a valuable opportunity to meet and share knowledge with colleagues across a broad spectrum of interests and backgrounds. Though the Congress may not fulfill everyone's hopes in terms of depth of coverage of current issues, it offers good opportunities for people to broaden their awareness of research and to learn of professional developments from around the world.

It is in the spirit of internationalism that I and other members of the Executive see ISA growing and developing. The Society is unique. Whereas national and regional associations often serve as guilds for the advancement of their member's professional interests, the ISA does not have that sort of relationship with its members. There is no constituency in this sense, nor are there government or statutory entities to which ISA would appeal in order to further its members interests. The connection of the Society to bodies like WHO and Hearing International is largely informational or advisory in relation to service needs around the world.

A direction that ISA intends to follow over the next year or two is the articulation of model guidelines relevant to various aspects of audiological practice. The structure of ISA is such as to invite national and regional associations to join as affiliates. The ambition of the Executive is to draw upon the experience and knowledge of affiliate societies in shaping these guidelines. Much more will be said about these matters in coming months. Enough to indicate here that three areas have been identified: 1) Guidelines for Good Practice in hearing aid provision; 2) Model Curriculum for education and training in Audiology; 3) Code of Conduct for Audiological research and service provision. The aim in the first instance will be to identify the components that need to be considered in drawing up any particular set of guidelines or models for use in specific contexts. The aim will not be to prescribe what must be found in any of the areas identified. Another aim will be to invite affiliate societies to identify other areas in which the development of model guidelines would offer value to professional and research practitioners. The ISA, it seems to me, is uniquely placed to draw on the breadth of the international audiological community for the purpose of improving services and practices in relation to people with hearing problems. I look forward to working with colleagues from around the world as we move this type of agenda forward.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION CONSULTATION ON EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HEARING IMPAIRMENT



Andrew Smith

Readers may recall in the Spring, 2003 *AudineWS*, we promised a report from this important WHO meeting. We are pleased to have Dr. Andrew Smith, who convened the sessions, bring us the official summary (gtm).

On 26 to 28 February the WHO programme for prevention of deafness and hearing impairment (part of the Team for Prevention of Blindness and Deafness) convened an Informal Consultation in Geneva on the epidemiology of deafness and hearing impairment in developing countries. The purpose was to review data recently collected using the WHO Ear and Hearing Disorders Survey Protocol and in some other recent surveys, and in the light of this experience, make recommendations for future surveys and for updating of this protocol. The meeting was attended by

survey investigators, and other experts in audiology, otology, epidemiology and health economics. Government and regional representatives from WHO also attended.

Activities by WHO to gather data on deafness and hearing impairment are increasing in importance, not only because of the value of such data to countries themselves, but also for WHO in terms of the contribution of deafness and hearing impairment to the global burden of disease (GBD). From 1995 to 2001, WHO doubled its estimate of the prevalence of hearing impairment. Adult hearing loss is now estimated to rank among the top 20 contributors to the GBD. For the measure of years lived with disability (YLD), one of the 2 components of GBD, it ranks second (4.7% of the total) after unipolar depressive disorders. Reports from some countries indicate that this burden also leads to a massive societal and economic cost.

However, the data available to quantify accurately the extent and causes of this burden remain extremely limited, especially from developing countries, and there is an urgent need for well-conducted surveys to obtain accurate epidemiological and economic information. Governments, as well as donors and other organizations need such data for prioritizing against other health problems, for programme planning and evaluation, and in economic analysis. So far not much has been done. For decision-makers to do more, it is essential that the sources and types of data available to them are relevant and credible.

To address these needs, the Ear and Hearing Disorders Survey Protocol and data entry and analysis software was developed by WHO and

officially released in 1999. Up to the present it has been used as the framework protocol for population-based, random sample surveys in 9 developing countries in 5 WHO regions (Oman, Indonesia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India, Nigeria, Vietnam, China [pilot only], and Brazil). Surveys are being planned in several more countries. The experiences and findings of the survey investigators enables an evaluation of the content, methods and performance of the protocol and software so far, and provides an opportunity to update them in the light of recent scientific and methodological developments, in order to ensure that the data collected are suitable for the purpose for which they are needed.

The meeting recommended that credible, accurate and comprehensive data should be collected that is appropriate for the development of burden of disease estimates and economic analysis, and to ensure that the data is analysed and published. The WHO Protocol should be updated and used for this purpose especially where no suitable surveys were conducted previously. Working groups should be set up to address (1) updating the WHO protocol (this has already been set up), (2) targets and methods for rapid assessment, (3) definitions of hearing and hearing loss for the new International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health. Clinicians and other health workers should be encouraged to become aware of public health aspects of deafness and hearing impairment.

In survey design, social scientists, anthropologists and health economists as well as epidemiologists, statisticians, audiologists and otologists should be



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AUDIOLOGY 2004 ISA-AMPLIFON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATION

The Executive Board of the International Society of Audiology is pleased to offer three (3) student scholarships sponsored by the Amplifon Foundation to the XXVIIth International Congress of Audiology to be held September 26-30, 2004 in Phoenix, Arizona USA.

THE SCHOLARSHIP INCLUDES:

- Registration fees for the ICA
- Housing with local families during the Congress

THE SCHOLAR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Transportation from home country to the Phoenix Congress. It is hoped that the student can raise this money through innovative ideas, such as sponsorships or fundraising.
- Food, local transportation and other incidental needs while at the Congress

REQUIREMENTS:

Students must be a full time student in an institution of higher learning taking courses in audiology and preferably working towards a degree in audiology or hearing science. Graduates who have completed their degree in 2004 may apply. The student will submit an abstract and 2 to 3 page description of original research, either clinical or basic science together with a letter of recommendation from the research advisor. The Scientific Committee of ISA will judge each entry and determine the final scholars. Research will be presented in poster format at the time of the Congress.

SELECTION:

The Scientific Committee of the International Society of Audiology will judge the applications. An effort will be made to select scholars representing the worldwide make-up of the Society.

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO:

Sharon Fujikawa Brooks, Ph.D., Director of Audiology, UCI Medical Center

E-mail: fujikaw@uci.edu

Mail: UCI Medical Center
101 The City Drive South
Neurodiagnostics, Bldg 22C, Rte 13
Orange, California, USA 92868

Fax: (01) 714-456 6908

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

December 1, 2003. Scholars will be notified by February 1, 2004.

WHO CONSULTATION ON EPIDEMIOLOGY... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

included in the planning; data on available infrastructure, services and resources, and on potential causes should be gathered at the preliminary assessment. Surveys should collect other data such as at-risk factors (including small on-the-spot case-control studies), educational placement, economic and social burden, and quality of life and participation. Detailed recommendations were made on other aspects of survey design, planning, team training, audiological field testing especially in children, dealing with ambient noise, gathering of accurate information on preventable causes, quality control and validation methods. More WHO Collaborating Centres in different regions need to be set up to help with data collection and using the data for implementation of projects and programmes. WHO should use the data collected to help establish advocacy groups for prevention at global, regional and national level.

The meeting generated a large number of useful recommendations and a road map for this task which is of fundamental importance in raising awareness, determining priorities and programme planning.



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AUDIOLOGY 2004
ISA-AMPLIFON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name of Applicant:

Street Address:

Apartment #

City:

State/Province:

Country

Date of Birth (D/M/Y):

Sex: M F

School Name:

Expected Year Of Graduation:

Advisor's Name:

Advisor's Title:

Advisor's Office Address:

City:

State/Province

Country

Title of Project/Research:

** Attach required ABSTRACT AND 2 -3 PAGE DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH and LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION by advisor to application.

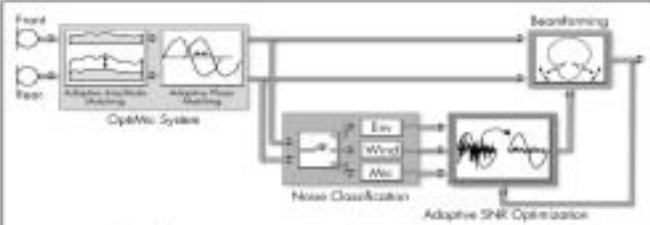
WWW.ISA-AUDIOLOGY.ORG CHANGES, IMPROVEMENTS AND WHAT TO EXPECT

As most of you know, our web site really started to grow toward the end of last year. We have now employed Eloyce Newman to be our developer. She has worked diligently to improve the appearance, accessibility and content of the site. At the last Executive Committee meeting, Jackie Clark agreed to be our Web-master and to work with Eloyce in keeping it current and meaningful. Within the past few weeks several significant changes have occurred.

- 1) Perhaps the most significant change is that folks interested in joining ISA may now fill out an application and join on-line. Members can renew membership using the same procedure. The site is designed to take VISA cards. However, we are testing the feasibility of adding MasterCard. The cost associated with adding a second card is high, however, we need your feedback. Should we add MC?
- 2) As readers will have observed from Page 1, we have a new committee designed to link together individuals offering audiology services throughout the world. It is our plan to have that information on-line. If you have suggestions on what should be included, we want to hear from you.
- 3) Because the web site is updated regularly, we are able to process current continuing education announcements, affording members a global view of what is happening. We believe this facilitates continuing education for all. If your institution is sponsoring a formal program open to anyone which can be used for continuing education, we would be pleased to announce it on our site.

In the not too distant future, the "Members Only" section will be activated. Members will receive a code number permitting access to current journals, newsletters, special announcements, extra benefits, and some other surprises - even we haven't figured out yet! Above all, we want to hear from you. This is your society and we need your feedback and suggestions. Please send materials, announcements, feedback, etc., to either: gtmisa@yahoo.com or jclark@utdallas.edu. (gtm)

The Diva™ Digital Difference



Difference #1: Diva Locator

A perfect example of the synergy between dual microphone technology and digital signal processing:

- Continuous microphone matching in sensitivity and phase
- Noise classification unit to minimize wind noise and circuit noise
- Adaptive directionality from omnidirectional pattern to any directional patterns
- Automatic low frequency sensitivity compensation for all directional patterns
- Excellent directivity index (DI) of 5-6 dB across frequencies (KEMAR)
- Available in BTE, ITE, and even ITC (ear permitting)




High Definition Hearing™

The World Leader in 100% Digital Hearing Technology™
1-800-221-0185 • www.widexusa.com



THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT OF *WIDEX* FOR THIS NEWSLETTER.

THE NEXT TIME YOU VISIT A *WIDEX* BOOTH OR SEE A *WIDEX* REPRESENTATIVE, PLEASE PASS ON OUR WORDS OF APPRECIATION



AMPLIFON CRS SCHOLARSHIP 2003 Request for Applications

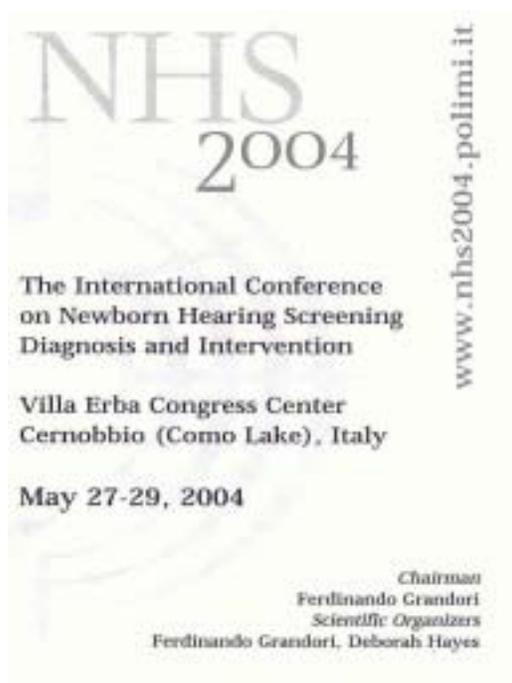
The Amplifon Centre for Research and Studies (CRS) invites applications for a Scholarship in the field of Otolaryngology/Clinical Audiology. The Scholarship is intended to support a training stage of 2-3 months at a specialized Department (different from current affiliation) for trainees in Otolaryngology and/or Clinical Audiology. Applications should include the object and duration of the training, including the Department where it could be undertaken (together with its written agreement), an itemized budget, a CV describing specific fields of interest and previous experience, a list of publications if any and a letter of recommendation from the current Head of Department. Applications (in English) should be submitted by December 15th, 2003 and will be evaluated by three members of the CRS Scientific Committee. The winners will be notified by February 28th, 2004 and the grant will be awarded by June 30th, 2004.

Eligibility requirements:

- 1) University degree from faculties related to the otological and/or audiological fields
- 2) Age under 35 years.

Five Scholarships of 6.000 Euro each will be awarded

For further information and application, please call Amplifon CRS Secretarial office (+39-02.57472361) or write to:
Amplifon CRS Scientific Secretariat, Via Ripamonti, 133, 20141 Milan, Italy Fax +39-02-57400384 E-mail: crs@amplifon.it



At the recent ISA Executive Committee Meeting in Crete, Hans Verschuure comes up with a brilliant idea! “Hmmm, how about if we”

**WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!! PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL WITH YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS
TO: gtmisa@yahoo.com**

LATEST NEWS FROM THE CONGRESS!!

The Round Tables and Special Sessions have taken shape:

1) Josef Miller, University of Michigan, is organizing a Round Table on Molecular Biology slated for Monday September 27th.

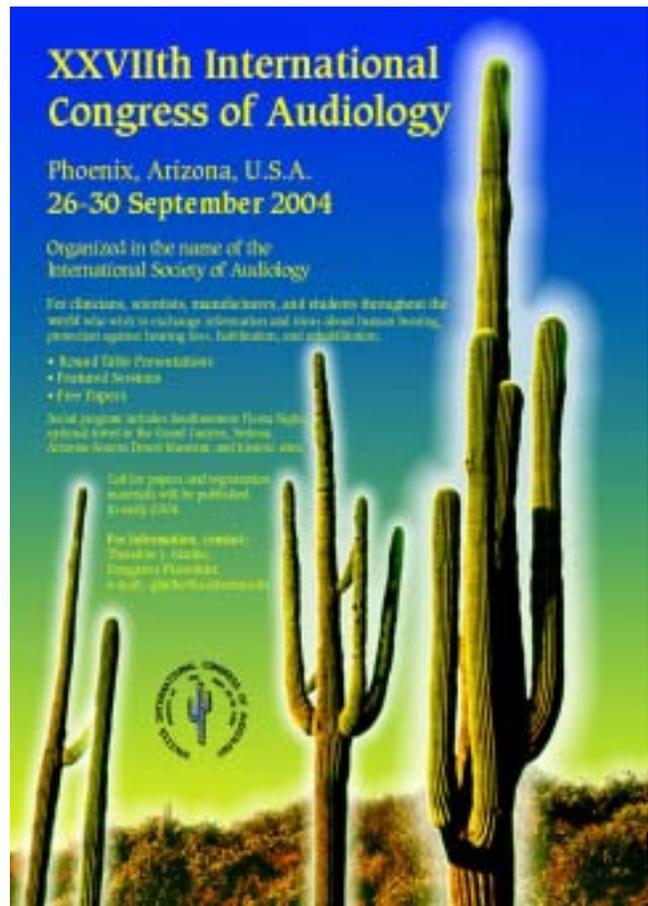
2) Kathy Pichora-Fuller, University of Toronto, will lead a Round Table on Cognition on Tuesday, September 28th.

3) Deborah Hayes, Denver Children's Hospital, will start the Congress day by chairing a Round Table session on Pediatrics on Wednesday, September 29th.

4) A special session on Ethics, Educational Training and Clinical Practice will be presented by the ISA Executive Committee.

5) Delegates from the Barrows Neurological Institute are preparing an update on Vestibular Assessment in Pediatric Populations.

Bring your cowboy boots! Tuesday evening will find us at the nearby Corona Ranch for an evening of Western music, dancing and dining.



Did you know: The International Society of Audiology Congress is held every two years, but rotates amongst three general locales: Europe, the Americas, and the Pacific. In Europe it has been held in many countries, including Hungary, Netherlands, and Italy. Next time it will be in Innsbruck, Austria (2006). In the Americas it has been held in Canada, Mexico and Argentina and will return to the United States in 2004 (Arizona). In the Pacific it has been held in Japan and Australia and will probably be in Hong Kong, China in 2008. Plan to attend the ISA Congress - no matter where it is!



Contacts:
International Society of Audiology
Dr. J. (Hans) Verschuure, Ph.D., Secretary
General
Audiological Center, ENT Department
Erasmus University Medical Center
Rotterdam-Dijkzigt
Dr. Molewaterplein 40, NL-3015 GD
Rotterdam, Netherlands
Phone: 31 10 463 9222 Pager 4586
Fax: 31 10 463 4240
E-mail: verschuure@erasmusmc.nl

AudiNews—ISA Newsletter
George T. Mencher, Ph.D., Editor
School of Human Communication Disorders
Dalhousie University
5599 Fenwick Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 1R2
Phone: 1 902 477 5360
Fax: 1 902 494 5151
E-mail: gtmisa@yahoo.com