



## Audinews

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(The Newsletter of the International Society of Audiology)

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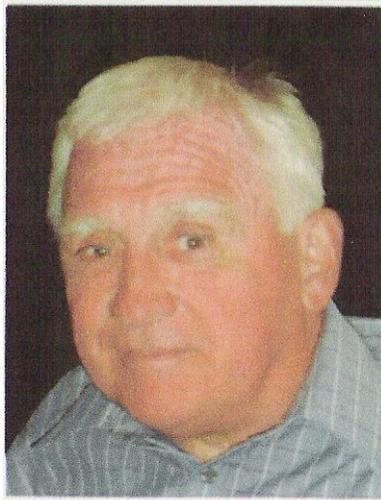
### Member News

We all remember Don Quixote de La Mancha. The Spanish society met in La Mancha at its most recent meeting. In the photograph below, we see ISA president José J. Barajas de Prat on the far right, and to his right is Antonia Angulo, president of the Spanish Society.



The news is not always good. The society is sad to announce the death of Dr. Briseida DeLeon Saez Northrup, Faculty Associate at the University of Texas, Dallas. She was born in Chitré, Panama in 1952, and came to the United States at age 18. She is survived by her husband of 31 years, William, and several children, grandchildren, and step-children. At the time of her death, she was president of the PanAmerican Society of Audiology (PASA), one of our affiliates. Rest in peace, Brisy; we will miss you.

Moreover, more recently, we note the death of Gylfi Baldursson. He was 72. Gyl was Iceland's first audiologist. He first appeared on the international scene when he was called upon to measure noise levels during the famous Fisher-Spasky international chess championship in 1973.



Gyl received his master's degree from the University of Michigan. He had many publications. Perhaps his most important was a study of the degree and type of hearing loss associated with the month of pregnancy in which the mother had rubella. He was also co-author of a basic text in audiology for Scandinavia. Gyl had been a member of ISA for many years. Members may recall that he used a wheelchair as he had had polio at the age of 18.

Gyl was an outstanding artist, leaving behind hundreds of wonderful sketches and watercolors. He was also a fine pianist and composer. He gained some recognition throughout Scandinavia as a regular team member on national "Name That Tune" TV shows. Moreover, he was a chess Grand Master and a bridge Grand Master. Gylbi Baldursson was a remarkable man. His ability to overcome adversity and be the man he was speaks volumes about him. He certainly proved that "A winner never quits." He continues to stand as a role model for all of us.

Indeed, there is also some good news. ISA members Dra. Ieda Russo (our immediate past president) and Dr. Sanford Gerber participated in a meeting at the University of São Paulo - Baurú (Brazil). It was the university's XVII Speech Pathology and Audiology Meeting. Dr. Gerber spoke also at the Federal University of São Paulo.

## **Society News**

ISA president José Barajas has sent us the following message. He addresses us as "Dear ISA members" and says:

"It is a great honor for me to address you all as the President of the International Society of Audiology. All human challenges show that the current state of affairs is the result of the efforts of those who preceded us. In other words, we are what we are because we have been so before. With this in mind,

I start by mentioning the significant number of professionals who have contributed with their effort and dedication to the worldwide recognition and respect our society has today. The list of contributors and supporters is long, and these lines are not intended for long lists enumerating the names and merits of those admirable predecessors.



Since ISA was founded in 1952 in Paris, the Society has been faithfully serving its institutional aims: to facilitate knowledge as well as provide protective treatment and rehabilitation of human hearing impairment. From its beginnings, the Society has attracted researchers from various disciplines related to audiology including anatomy, histology, physiology, biophysics, otology, acoustics, psychology, and epidemiology. The diversity and the opportunity it provides for the exchange of points of view has become one of the Society's strong points.

The World ISA Congresses, held every year, have become the perfect forum for scientific as well as social and cultural interaction. Especially successful was the last congress, in São Paulo, which turned into the meeting point for many outstanding researchers from all over the world. I take this opportunity to warmly congratulate the President of the Congress and Past President of ISA, Ieda Russo, as well as the organizing committee on their outstanding achievement.

The ISA Journal has definitely been an important element in the progress of the Society. In this regard, one of the most important decisions taken lately has been the joint publication of AUDIOLOGY with the British and Scandinavian audiology journals merging into the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF AUDIOLOGY (IJA). The last and positive report by Ross Roeser (Editor-in-Chief) indicates that IJA is on the right track. The excellent work done by the editor deserves our deepest gratitude.

The activities carried out by the ad-hoc committees on Humanitarian and Tele Audiology Long-Distance Learning, under the leadership of Jackie Clark and DeWet Swanepoel respectively, are particularly encouraging. At this point, I congratulate Jackie once more on the instructive and well-attended meeting COALITION FOR GLOBAL HEARING HEALTH CONFERENCE, which, supported by ISA, took place in Washington, DC last June.

On being elected President of this Society, one must look in retrospect to our recent history. Two names come to mind as essential personalities in this Society: Hans Verschuure (former General Secretary) and George Mencher (General Secretary). I express my admiration and thank them both for their great contribution and compromise with our Society.

As regards to future trends, ISA will maintain its cooperation with CBM (Christofel Blinden Mission) and support of WWHearing Program for affordable hearing aids. The achievements of recent years with an increase in the number of affiliated societies will continue. ISA will maintain its support for active and trusted international audiological organizations, such as Hearing International. In sum, ISA will continue with its global vocation, making the necessary efforts to foster knowledge and understanding and, of course, to support the work those audiology researchers whose voices, due to geographical or other reasons, have not been heard worldwide. ISA needs to keep its international scope as well as its traditional role as the natural forum for those working in Audiology regardless of their academic background.

I wish my best to George Tavartkiladze, President of the next International Congress of Audiology (World Congress of Audiology, on this occasion) to be held in Moscow in May 2012. Also, I congratulate our President-elect, Bob Cowan.

Finally, my deep recognition to our last Aram Glorig Awardee, Sandy Gerber, for his important contributions and achievements in Audiology, his solid support of ISA and, above all, for his loyal friendship along so many years."

General Secretary George Mencher sends us the following report: "We have had a quiet summer. Here in Nova Scotia it is coming to an incredibly strange end, with the temperature setting new records for heat daily and a hurricane (Earl) about to hit our shores. We knew it was too good to be true that we could take it easy for a while! The same is true for the International Society of Audiology. It has been a quiet summer, following on the heels of a wonderful International Congress in Brazil. We all needed a rest. Now, all of a sudden, things are picking up rapidly.

For starters, we are very pleased to announce that Deborah Hayes and the Bill Daniels Center for Children's Hearing at the University of Colorado are making a monograph entitled 'Guideline for Identification and Management of Infants and Young Children with Auditory Neuro-pathy Spectrum Disorder' available at no charge to all members of ISA. It will be included in a package containing the International Journal of Audiology. Be sure to look carefully when your next journal arrives (probably October). The monograph is the work of a Guidelines Development Conference held in Como, Italy in 2008. The editor is Jerry Northern and there are papers from such luminaries as Yvonne Sininger, Arnold Starr, Gary Rance, Barbara Cone, Kai Uus, Patricia Rouse, Jon Shallop, and Charles Berlin. This is an exciting and landmark work, and ISA is very pleased to have it available to our members.

As some of you know, the three owners of the International Journal of Audiology (ISA, the British Society of Audiology, and the Nordic Audiological Society) have been involved in a long and protracted law suit against B.C. Decker, the former publisher of the IJA. The issues focused on Decker's lack of payment of a portion of the original contract for publication of IJA. I am delighted to say that we won the case in lower court and after Decker appealed the case to a higher court in Canada, the decision of the lower court was upheld. We have won the case and Decker must now pay what he owes and a penalty to cover our legal costs. Once this is settled, we can make all back issues of IJA available on line.

We have recently heard from Hearing International that the HI Newsletter, which our members have been receiving, will now be available only as an electronic document. We will be sending you the first one shortly. In fact, you can expect information about it to accompany this newsletter. In the future, as with our Audinews, we will send you a link you can use to read the HI Newsletter as it becomes available.

I have heard that Robert Cowan and Linda Hood, both on our executive committee, are working on a revision of our by-laws. We will let you know when that work is finished and ask you to review their suggested changes prior to a vote by the membership."

There is a program called "WWHearing" of which ISA is a participant. WWHearing stands for World Wide Hearing Care for Developing Countries. This initiative was founded in 2003 by members of concerned organizations, including ISA. It is established as a "charitable association" in Switzerland and has a project collaboration agreement with the World Health Organization. On its web page it says that its "mission is to promote and enable better hearing worldwide through the provision of affordable hearing aids and services." Our former general secretary, Hans Verschuure, is our representative.

Hans participated in a meeting held in Geneva last fall. He reports that there are pilot projects in place in Brazil, the Philippines, and in Jordan. They show fair progress. Also, he tells us that WWHearing has employed a consultant on how the organization can be better organized and structured, and what the major problems were. The consultant reported that "there was a need for more cohesion within the membership as members interpreted the aims and strategies in different ways..." A major problem is that many local authorities have a low awareness of the impact of hearing impairment on one's life, and this translates into a lack of funding from local sources. A sense of the meeting was that all members are willing to follow the recommendations, but the world (including WHO and the World Health Assembly) are difficult to motivate re hearing issues. Clearly, this is a serious matter, and ISA is pleased that Hans participates on our behalf.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

It is that time of year when we ask folks to renew membership. We send out a first notice near the middle of October, a second at the beginning of November, and so on. It gets very frustrating for us to keep sending these messages (not to mention how time-consuming it is), but it is just as frustrating to our members to be constantly asked to renew. "I will do it when I have time" or "I will do it when I have some extra money" are two of the typical notes received. However, folks do not always remember their commitment or something gets in the way. So, we apologize to those of you who have been bugged by our persistence. On the other hand, if we don't keep asking, you may forget and we will lose a member. It is a real quandary for all of us. The easiest way to resolve this problem is for you to go to the ISA website and renew your membership when you receive your first notice. We will process your materials within a few days, you will continue to be a member and receive the IJA and other goodies from ISA, and we won't have to bother you. Further, the two-year renewal option saves you money and time, and it also saves us time so we don't have to contact you each year. Please keep this in mind when we contact you. Welcome to September and the start of a new and exciting work year for all of us. George

## **Humanitarian News**

The recent inaugural conference of the Coalition for Global Hearing Health was a great success. The conference took place this past June in Washington, DC. There were attendees from 17 countries, so it was truly international.

The scientific program was in four tracks with 27 speakers. The four tracks were: Epidemiology; Technology; Local support and sustainability; and Strategies, ethics and social awareness. ISA is proud to have been one of the sponsors of this conference, and our president, José Barajas was in attendance.

## **Clinical News**

According to a couple of recent articles in our journal (IJA), "approximately 5-10% of all referrals to ENT" have normal audiometric thresholds. That is not my experience. How about you?

The press has reported (from the Journal of the American Medical Association) that the proportion of American teens with "slight" hearing loss has increased 30% in the past 15 years. One in every five has at least some loss and one in every 20 has a more severe loss. Furthermore, a recent Australian study found a 70% increased risk of hearing loss associated with the use of headphones with portable music devices.

## **Research News**

A recent study in England found that caffeine does not cause or contribute to tinnitus. Similarly, elimination of caffeine does not alleviate tinnitus.

However, eating fish is good for your hearing. A recent report (Blue Mountains Hearing Study) finds that people over the age of 50 who eat at least two servings of fish a week have 42% lower risk of developing presbycusis than those who don't eat fish.

## Meetings

For the first time in the history of the International Society of Audiology, the ISA Congress will be held in Moscow, Russia. At the XXIX ICA, the general assembly of ISA voted to change the name of the International Congress of Audiology to the World Congress of Audiology.

The scientific program will include three symposia, free papers, and poster sessions. The selected symposia are: 1) Biological and Genetic Basis for Hearing Loss; 2) Implantable Technologies in Rehabilitation of Hearing Loss; 3) Evidence Based Practice in Audiology. The social program will include the President's Reception; City tour; Russian night; and the gala dinner. Moreover, one should take the opportunity to visit the Tretyakov Art Gallery or the Pushkin Art Museum, with their thousands of fine art masterpieces.

Congress president, George Tavartkiladze, says that he is "optimistically looking forward to seeing in Moscow leading scientists and clinicians in the field and am sure that the Congress will be the right place to share the latest results in basic and applied audiology."

Sept. 19-22, 2010. International Association of Physicians in Audiology (IAPA) XVth Anniversary Symposium in Audiological Medicine, Krakow, Poland. Contact: [marśliw@imp.lodz.pl](mailto:marśliw@imp.lodz.pl).

Oct. 5-8, 2010. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Academy of Audiology Conference, Montreal. Contact: [caaconference@canadianaudiology.ca](mailto:caaconference@canadianaudiology.ca)

Nov. 18-20, 2010, American Speech-Language-Hearing Assn. annual convention, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: [www.asha.org/events/convention](http://www.asha.org/events/convention)

March 1-4, 2011. New Zealand Audiological Society, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Asia-Oceania ORL-HNS Congress, Auckland. Contact: <http://www.asia-oceania2011.org/about/>.

April 6-9, 2011. American Academy of Audiology, Chicago. Contact: [www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org).

April 15-16, 2011. Spanish Association of Audiology (AEDA), Badajoz.

April 17-20, 2011. 26<sup>th</sup> International Meeting in Audiology of the Brazilian Academy of Audiology, Maceió. Contact: [aba@audiologiabrasil.com.br](mailto:aba@audiologiabrasil.com.br).

May 12-15, 2011. The 10<sup>th</sup> European Symposium on Pediatric Cochlear Implantation, Greece, Contact: [www.espci2011.com/en/](http://www.espci2011.com/en/).

June 22-25, 2011. EFAS is the European Federation of Audiology Societies. The 10<sup>th</sup> EFAS Congress, Warsaw, Poland,. Contact: [www.efas2011.org](http://www.efas2011.org).

June 26-30, 2011. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Symposium of the International Electric Response Audiometry Study Group, Moscow, Russia.

July 14-16, 2011. The 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Cochlear Implants in Children, Chicago, IL, Contact: [www.ci2011usa/](http://www.ci2011usa/)

April 29 –May 3, 2012. The XXXI World Congress of Audiology, Moscow, Russia, Contact: [www.ICA2012.ru](http://www.ICA2012.ru).

### ISA EXECUTIVE

President: José J. Barajas de Prat (Spain)

President-elect: Bob Cowan (Australia)

Past-president: Ieda Russo (Brazil)

Secretary-general: George Mencher (Canada)

Asst. secretary-general: George Tavartkiladze (Russia)

Representing affiliated societies: DeWet Swanepoel (South Africa)

Representing the general assembly: Linda Hood (USA)

Editor, International Journal of Audiology: Ross Roeser (USA)

Editor, Audinews: Sanford E. Gerber (USA)

Website: Viktor Koci (Austria)

