

AUDINEWS

The Newsletter of the International Society of Audiology

WWW.ISA-AUDIOLOGY.ORG

Number 54 - VOL 7/4 - 2007

A “WORLD CONGRESS” FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY? ..., OR JUST ONE MORE “INTERNATIONAL MEETING”?

The International Society of Audiology (ISA) is the only professional organization gathering people related to the field of Audiology with a true “international” spirit and representation. Other audiological organizations (national or regional) obviously recruit members from different countries, but they are not “international” in nature. ISA has grown over time representing interests of audiologists from the different parts of the world. ISA members represent more than 75 different countries.

In 1953, the Society sponsored and organized its first international audiological meeting which took place in the city of Leiden, (The Netherlands), and based on the name of the organization, decided to call it as the first “International Congress of Audiology” (ICA). Over the years, our ISA Congress has been identified as such: “ICA” and we successfully held the XXVIII Congress in the city of Innsbruck last year (2006). We are currently preparing for the XXIX Congress in Hong Kong in 2008.

During the Innsbruck General Assembly of the Society an idea was put forward to the membership: to change the name of the Congress from “International Congress of Audiology” to “World Congress of Audiology”. The rationale was simple. No other international meeting

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- A “WORLD CONGRESS OF AUDIOLOGY” for ISA? 1
- President’s Message 4
- Committee on Student Membership and Participation 5
- Humanitarian Audiology: Romanian Hearing Development Program 7
- ISA Congress: Hong Kong 2008 10
- The Research Minute: The Gamma Knife in Acoustic Neuromas 11
- Calendar of Audiology Events 13
- Editor’s Corner 14



in Audiology is organized by an organization that actually represents audiological interests around the world, and that is not a regional or national (domestic) society of professionals in Audiology. Other larger Audiology meetings around the world are essentially that: regional or national in nature, and in their strict condition of regional or national events, they could not and should not be considered “world” congresses. Today there are many other “international” meetings, which means the organizers invite speakers from other countries and/or attendees may represent a variety of countries. Our Society (ISA) has grown larger and more mature than ever and deserves the recognitions of being THE organization with the stature and the moral authority to organize an audiological meeting that can be considered the “World Congress” of Audiology.

In Innsbruck, we did not carry on a strategic, well-organized and intensive campaign to inform and convince members about taking this step. We thought the concept was very straightforward, worth-considering and a matter a pride for the Society and its members. I must say that I was personally very surprised and disappointed. The reactions observed were interesting, somewhat unexpected and some were even intriguing and curious. Some participants were obviously bothered by the idea; some even seemed to react in a cynical and sarcastic way about the concept. Someone bitterly asked: *Are we also changing the name of the Society to “World Society of Audiology”?* *Are we also proposing a change in the name of the Journal?* Of course not... We don’t need to change the names of the Society or the Journal. I think we just need to think about our Society with a higher standard. We just need to think bigger about ISA and demonstrate we are proud of our Society. Or..., are we not? I certainly wonder what purposes - outside ISA - can be related to the idea of preventing our Society to have a “World” congress instead of an “International” meeting. Would it be that larger regional or domestic societies have already started to think that their congresses will become or be sometime baptized as “the World Congress of Audiology”? Is it that tradition and deep-rooted ways of doing things interfere with the possibility of moving ISA into the XXIst Century, with a fresher and more aggressive approach? Should we organize a survey and find out what are our members feelings about this proposal? I bet it would become an interesting epidemiological research piece, considering a statistically significant sample of members would respond.

I hope these thoughts will excite energy lines and reactions within our membership and our organization. We continue to be a little too passive in relation to the role we play in Audiology throughout the world. I would be very interested in getting a paper to be published in AudineWS from someone opposing this idea, and explaining why the International Society of Audiology SHOULD NOT have a “WORLD CONGRESS OF AUDIOLOGY” and why ISA should sit in the back of the room, watching others to conduct international actions needed in the worldwide Audiology scene and waiting for another organization to claim their congress is a “world” congress of Audiology. We need to demonstrate we believe in our Society and that we care about it and about its goals and purposes, as well as about its international leadership. You, the membership, have the floor and the word now.

The
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY

is looking for an

EDITOR

for

AUDINEWS

INCENTIVES: Four issues per year, working with an editorial team, developing new columns and areas of interest to members, a budget with funds for necessary traveling, etc.

Those ISA members interested, please, contact:

George T. Mencher (gtmisa@yahoo.com)

**PEACE ON EARTH
AND
GOOD WILL TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN**

**BEST WISHES FOR
2008**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George A. Tavartkiladze, President of ISA

(gtavartkiladze@audiology.ru)

A WORLD CONGRESS OF AUDIOLOGY FOR ISA



Dear Colleagues,

2008 is the year of the International Congress of Audiology which will take place in Honk Kong.

First of all, it is an excellent opportunity for professionals in Audiology to meet and share their ideas and scientific results. Secondly, we have to undertake some key organizational activities: it will be the time to elect half of our General Assembly, the Secretary General, the new President-elect and some new Executive Board members.

During the last two years our Society has been in full development. The number of members of our Society continues to grow. We have done a lot, but I feel that many new things will have to take place in the very near future, such as changes in the managing leaders of ISA, in AudineWS, about the website, etc.

Today, the International Society of Audiology is the leading professional organization in the world, and dictates for us additional responsibilities.

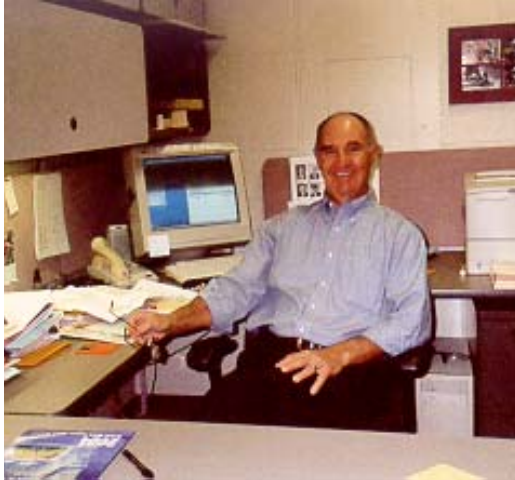
In 2006, during the General Assembly (GA) at the Innsbruck Congress, a proposal was presented by myself and JJ Madriz suggesting to change the name of our congresses from "International" to "World Congress of Audiology". This suggestion was based on a simple fact: most symposia, congresses, conferences and other meeting organized around the world, call themselves "international" because there are a few foreign participants, although they are actually national or regional en essence. I think this situation undermines our Congress and challenges our Society. Unfortunately we were not successful in Innsbruck about convincing the members present at the GA.

There are some good examples of what a "world" meeting is and one of the best is the case of International Federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies (IFOS) and its "World Congress of ORLHNS".

Within this context, I am addressing you and encouraging you to support our proposal to change the name of our ICA, from "International Congress" to "World Congress of Audiology". This, I am sure, will increase the prestige of our Society.

I wish you all the best Season Greetings, and a peaceful and successful New Year.

AUDINEWS highlights the importance of the Committee on Student Membership and Participation. This Committee represents ISA's commitment to strengthen student involvement with the Society and its activities throughout the world.



**ISA COMMITTEE
ON STUDENT MEMBERSHIP
AND PARTICIPATION
(COMMITTEE PAGE)**

Robert W. Keith

**Student Committee of the International Society of
Audiology**

We need your help!!! The Student Committee of the International Society of Audiology is seeking persons interested in volunteering for a special task related to student recruitment and retention. You will recall from previous messages that the purposes of the committee are to promote increased student involvement in the society, identify new opportunities and incentives for student members, increase student membership, and establish mechanisms for helping students in the transition from student members to full members upon graduation. We have many ideas under consideration but need to identify individuals who are interested and willing to serve on the committee in the implementation of the charge.

I hope to hear from students, faculty, practicing audiologists from around the world who can help work with these professional issues. Please let us hear from you. You can contact me at robert.keith@uc.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you, and to seeing the fruits of this new committee.

**Robert W. Keith
Chair**



International Society
of Audiology

香港聽力學會
HONG KONG SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY



ICA 2008

XXIXth International Congress of Audiology
Hong Kong



CALL FOR PAPERS

International Congress of Audiology, Hong Kong

Date: 8 - 12 June 2008
Venue: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Address: 1 Expo Drive, Wanchai, Hong Kong

THEME

LATEST TECHNOLOGIES
NEW PRACTICES
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

ROUNDTABLE TOPICS

- ▶ IMPROVING OUTCOMES OF HEARING PROSTHESES
- ▶ EPIDEMIOLOGY & GENETICS OF HEARING LOSS
- ▶ HEARING LOSS & AGEING

IMPORTANT DATES

FIRST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS	1 MAY 2007
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS	31 JANUARY 2008
NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF ABSTRACTS	29 FEBRUARY 2008

The abstract (no more than 200 words) should be submitted electronically via www.ica2008.com

For more information, please visit www.ica2008.com



HUMANITARIAN AUDIOLOGY (COMMITTEE PAGE)

The purpose of this section is to provide regular articles of interest, announcements and general information about humanitarian efforts throughout the world related to the field of Audiology and hearing impairment.

ROMANIAN HEARING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

JACKIE L. CLARK
(jclark@utdallas.edu)

In 1993, Mike Webb, an audiologist from Sierra Vista, AZ, started the Romanian Hearing Development Project in Cluj, in conjunction with the Cluj University Hospital and continued to work to improve hearing services through 1996, when the project continued under Romanian direction until 1999. Audiologist Tricia Towle arrived in October, 2003 to re-establish the program initiated several years previously by Mike Webb.



Many do not realize that Romania, former Eastern bloc country, is in Southeastern Europe bordered by Hungary, Serbia, Ukraine, Moldova and Bulgaria. At least 60% of the population must survive on a pension of \$100/month, and find themselves forced to struggle with an archaic medical system where audiology services were non-existent prior to 1993.

Personally challenged with hearing loss herself, Towle has a special sensitivity for those struggling with hearing loss. After studying for 8 months to learn the language, Towle left Ardmore, Pennsylvania for Cluj, Romania, and shortly thereafter dispensed the first hearing aid from

her apartment in May of 2004. Patients pay for their earmolds and make a donation for the hearing aids to cover costs and supplies. More than one hundred hearing aids were dispensed during the first 18 months. Binaural fittings have been made possible through donations of hearing aids, accessories and equipment from generous manufacturers.

To resolve the unmet needs for pediatric audiology, Towle established relations with two pediatricians at the Children Hospital, and as a consequence a sound-treated booth was constructed to aid in hearing testing of pediatric patients. By October 2005, The Romanian Center for Early Detection of Hearing Loss was launched with the installation of a computer, a VRA, ABR and OAE equipment. Pediatric patients often must travel 5 - 8 hours to have an audiological evaluation at the only pediatric center with specialized equipment in the country.

Romania is fortunate to reap the fruits of visionaries with long term commitment to a program, such as Mike Webb and Tricia Towle. To learn more about the Romanian Audiology Program, visit Towle's blog at www.joyofhearing.blogspot.com or e-mail her at ttowle07@cs.com.



AN EDITOR FOR AUDINEWS

NEEDED

Contact gtmisa@yahoo.com



A. Charles Holland Foundation

2008 SCHOLARSHIPS

Request for Applications

The A. Charles Holland Foundation invites applications for a Scholarship in the field of Audiology/Otology. The Scholarship is intended to support a training stage of 2-3 months at a specialized Department (different from current affiliation) for trainees in Audiology/Otology.

Applications should include the object and duration of the training, including the Department where it could be undertaken (together with its written agreement), 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 31st, 2007 and will be evaluated by three members of the Foundation Scientific Committee. The winners will be notified by MARCH 31st, 2008 and the grant will be awarded by May 31st, 2008.

Eligibility requirements: 1) University degree from faculties related to audiological and/or otological fields (Medicine as well as Audiology), 2) age under 35 years.

Five Scholarships of 6.000 Euro each will be awarded.

For further information and application forms please call A. Charles Holland Foundation Secretariat: +39-02.57312361 or write to: A. Charles Holland Foundation Secretariat, Via Ripamonti, 133, 20141 Milan, Italy – Fax: +39-02-57312367

e-mail: musatti@crsfoundation.org or crs@crsfoundation.org

ICA CONGRESS 2008

HONG KONG - CHINA

The XXIXth International Congress of Audiology will be held in Hong Kong from June 8 – 12, 2008. The Scientific Program promises to be a very stimulating one, with a wide range of clinical and basic research papers already having been submitted. If you haven't already submitted your own Abstract, remember that the deadline for submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations is 31 January 2008. The three roundtable topics will be lead by speakers with international reputations in their fields. Keynote speaker for the topic *Hearing Loss & Aging* is Professor Louise Hickson, from the University of Queensland. Louise has an international reputation for her research work and for her widely read textbooks in the area of hearing loss in the elderly. Professor Adrian Davis, University of Manchester, renowned for his extensive and pioneering research on the epidemiology of hearing loss, will provide our keynote address on the topic of *Epidemiology & Genetics of Hearing Loss*. The theme of our third roundtable topic, *Improving Outcomes of Hearing Protheses*, will be established by

Professor Ruth Bentler, from the University of Iowa. Ruth is a heavily-cited researcher in the area of hearing aid technology and hearing aid fitting outcomes. All three keynote speakers are gathering an impressive range of panelists for their roundtables. We can assure delegates that they will be challenged and excited by the roundtable discussions at the Congress. Apart from the three roundtable sessions there will be many other opportunities to catch the latest research



directions in Audiology, both at the oral presentations and in the Congress poster viewing area. For those Congress delegates who are unfamiliar with East Asia, the Congress will provide a window on the rapidly expanding world of Audiology—both clinical and research—in China and neighboring countries. The local organizing committee looks forward to seeing you at the XXIXth International Congress of Audiology.

Go to www.ica2008.com for more details, abstract submission and registration.



THE RESEARCH MINUTE...

MARK KRUMM (mkrumm@cc.usu.edu)



WHEN “GOING UNDER THE KNIFE” DOESN’T MEAN “GOING UNDER THE KNIFE”

Recently, a student approached me and asked what I knew about VIIIth nerve tumors. Her father, in his late 50’s, was diagnosed with a slow growing acoustic neuroma (AN) and she was concerned that surgical removal of the tumor would cause profound hearing loss and severe disequilibrium. As I looked at the literature, it was apparent that people with ANs have more treatment options than 10 years ago. While the traditional treatments of monitoring AN growth and surgery are still used, radiation treatment may also be beneficial.

Radiation treatment is not new to AN management as both stereotactic radiotherapy and gamma knife procedures have been employed for a number of years. Due to undesirable side effects, both procedures were used primarily with patients who were not good candidates for surgery due to health reasons. That is, radiation levels associated with stereotactic radiotherapy and gamma knife treatments were considered harmful to patients and, consequently, these procedures were considered to be the least desirable interventions. However, low dose radiation is now increasingly viable with the gamma knife procedures. The advantage of low dose gamma knife treatment is that some of the side-effects of surgical intervention (including meningitis, vestibular nerve damage and possibly hearing loss) can be avoided while halting AN growth.

Presently, gamma knife is often considered the treatment of choice for small ANs. Gamma knife procedures are carried out through the use of gamma beams (equal to 12-13 Gy) generated in a chamber resembling a small magnetic imaging resonance (MRI) machine. To receive treatment, the patient’s head is placed in the cavity of the gamma knife machine. In addition, a “frame” (which looks like a picture frame) is screwed into the patient’s skull around the site of the patient’s AN. Converging radiation beams then are precisely directed to the target tumor location. When successful, gamma knife procedures do not result in the removal AN mass but instead terminates AN growth. As the tumor is not removed, patients will be required to have periodic MRI’s to monitor AN response to treatment. In some cases the AN does continue to grow.

The literature is mixed about preservation of hearing following Gamma knife procedure. Some researchers believe Gamma knife is more likely to preserve hearing acuity than any other intervention. However, other researchers have noted that while hearing loss is not immediately evident, hearing sensitivity may decline over time. In addition, even with gamma knife treatments, vestibular rehabilitation will probably be needed (as is the case for surgical removal of ANs). Vestibular deterioration usually occurs six months beyond treatment but no further damage is typical beyond this period of time. Other possible problems secondary to gamma knife treatments may include Meniere's disease and nystagmus.

Clearly, gamma knife treatments will be refined in the future. Perhaps future advances will result in procedures utilizing lower radiation levels to preserve auditory functioning. Such advances may mean people will no longer suffer the loss of their hearing for AN management.

If you have changed your address or if you have problems receiving your journals or other materials, please contact
George Mencher, Assistant Secretary General
at
gtmisa@yahoo.com

DID NOT PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2008 YET?

Do it NOW and DO IT ON-LINE

Paying for two years will save you additional money

Members pay \$65 USD for one year and \$110 for two years

LOG ON to: www.ISA-audiology.org

CALENDAR OF AUDIOLOGY EVENTS

- American Academy of Audiology
Charlotte, North Carolina, USA
April 2nd – 5th, 2008
Contact: www.audiologynow.org
- X International Symposium of the Mexican Society of Communication,
Audiology, Otoneurology and Phoniatics, AC
Queretaro, MEXICO
March 5th – 8th, 2008
Contact: amcaof@hotmail.com
- XXIX International Congress of Audiology
Hong Kong, China
June 8th – 12th, 2008
Contact: www.ica2008.com
- NHS2008 Conference: Beyond Newborn Hearing Screening: Infant and
Childhood Hearing in Science and Clinical Practice.
June 19th – 21th, 2008
Cernobbio (Como Lake), ITALY
Contact: nhs@polimi.it or www.nhs2008.polimi.it
- 9th Congress of the International Commission of Biological Effects of Noise
(ICBEN): Noise as a Public Health Problem
Mashantucket, Connecticut, USA
July 21st – 15th, 2008
Contact: www.icben.org
- 2008 ASHA Convention
Chicago, Illinois, USA
November 20th – 22nd, 2008
Contact: www.asha.org
- 9th EFAS Congress
Tenerife, Canary Islands, SPAIN
June 21st – 24th, 2009
Contact: www.efas2009.org

EDITOR'S CORNER

A CRITICAL ELECTION AND THE EDITOR'S FAREWELL



This will be my last issue of AudineWS before sailing away from the Editorship of this fine newsletter. I want to thank you all for your support and to those of you who made important contributions to this publication in the past two years. I think this is a rewarding endeavor and I know that whoever takes over will experience lots of satisfaction. I think, though, that this is a task for a native English-speaking person, or, otherwise, lots of problems will arise before the final approval to upload it to the Society's webpage. I had a great time in the contributing to the Society from this trench and wish for the continuous success of the newsletter.


Profound thought has to be given to the up-coming elections, mostly in relation to the post of Secretary General. Dr. Hans Verschuure has done a superb job over the past years and we owe him and his close collaborators, among other achievements, the success in launching ISA into the XXIst Century with a new and modern structure. The new leadership will encounter many problems, including people within the Society who would like to see ISA weakened and disappearing. It is clear that the growth of ISA will compete with the aspirations and claims of other organizations to take over International Audiology. I encourage the membership to provide deep thinking about finding names to be proposed to the Executive Committee of ISA, for the post of Secretary General. We need to see names of people who really care for the Society and who would put all their healthy efforts in having ISA to grow and mature. We need names of people who are ready to claim ISA's moral right to represent international Audiology and to continue as a leader of professionals in Audiology worldwide. Dr. Verchuure's job has been superb and difficult to top. We have to recognize and appreciate his great accomplishments. The new challenge is now open.

The
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

will have to renew its members from North America, Asia and Western
Pacific
Start thinking in your candidates

The
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
will soon be contacting you



widex  Inteo™

WIDEX®
high definition hearing

Contacts: International Society of Audiology (www.isa-audiology.org)



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: SG@ISA-AUDIOLOGY.ORG
or verschuure@erasmusmc.nl

AudiNews—ISA Newsletter
Juan J. Madriz, MD., Editor
Department of Audiology - ORL
National Children Hospital - CCSS
University of Costa Rica
P.O. Box 223
San Jose 1007 - Costa Rica
Phone: (506) 222-0122 (Ext. 3410)
Fax: (506) 290-2966
E-mail: juan.madriz@gmail.com or
j13madriz@yahoo.com