



AudineWS

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(send news to the editor: seg49@comcast.net)

We again have a biography of one of our great scientists and scholars. Our Swedish colleague, Stig Arlinger, has provided the following piece about Gunnar Lidén.

Gunnar Lidén was one of the pioneers in audiology in Scandinavia. He was born in 1918 in southwestern Sweden and studied medicine at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, graduating in 1944. He started in pediatrics, but soon changed to otology. In 1950, the First International Course in Audiology was organized in Stockholm, and this had a great impact on Gunnar's future. His first scientific paper, together with a colleague, was published the same year with the title "Differential Audiometry", where the sensitivity to small changes in sound level in relation to recruitment was discussed. He soon started on his Ph.D. project, developing word lists and test procedures for speech audiometry in Swedish, which was published as *Acta Otolaryngologica Supplementum 114* in 1954. In this project, Gunnar cooperated with other pioneers, e.g, Gunnar Fant and Bertil Johansson. Most of the test material, in terms of lists with monosyllabic and bisyllabic test words, are still in use, although based on other recording technology that was unavailable 60 years ago.



The same year, 1954, Gunnar moved to Sahlgrenska Hospital in Gothenburg to establish a department of oto-audiology. The department – later called audiology (without the "oto-" prefix) – gradually grew to become the most active and influential clinic in audiology in Sweden during several decades. Gunnar, together with a group of pioneer colleagues from different

*The editor is grateful for the contributions of his epidemiologist friend, Bill Edstrom, M.P.H.

Professions, established the Scandinavian model of clinical audiology, based on multi-professional cooperation. Teams with physicians, physicist-engineers, teachers of the deaf, social workers, and audiology technicians were organized at the university and regional hospitals in Sweden in the mid-1960s, in order to provide the broad competence that hearing-impaired patients often need to minimize their communicative problems.

In 1975, Gunnar Lidén published the first textbook on audiology in Swedish, which soon became a must for all joining the field. A second, revised, edition was published a few years later. He was appointed Professor of Audiology at the medical faculty of Gothenburg University in 1977. Gunnar and his co-workers soon had a wide range of scientific projects running. Under his mentorship, several Ph.D. theses in audiology were presented by his co-workers. Gunnar's own interest very much concerned middle ear reflex testing and tympanometry, but also included pediatric audiology and noise-induced hearing loss. A Pub-Med search results in a list of 87 papers published between 1950 and 1994 with Gunnar Lidén as one of the authors. The last paper was published as late as 1994, 12 years *after* his retirement in 1982. That same year, he was one of the founders of the Aram Glorig Foundation, and served some years as its president. Retirement didn't mean sitting down doing nothing for Gunnar. He returned to the United States, where he had spent two years (1963-65) at Northwestern University as a colleague of Raymond Carhart. The years between 1982 and 1984, directly after retiring from Gothenburg, he spent at the University of Minnesota Medical School, working with Earl Harford. His main focus then concerned the bone-anchored hearing aid, BAHA, based on the titanium screw developed by Prof. P.I. Brånemark and the actual instrument designed by Bo Håkansson and co-workers at Chalmers Institute of Technology in Gothenburg. His last three publications concerned clinical experience with the BAHA.

Gunnar Lidén was a very active person in Sweden and internationally. He published, he participated actively in congresses and symposia, and he made friends with many colleagues in audiology around the world. He died December 29, 2003 at the age of 85.

Society News

SEE YOU IN RUSSIA!



For U.S. citizens traveling to Russia, there have been some changes in visa regulations. For information, go to <http://evisa.kdmid.ru>.

ISA president José Barajas shares some achievement of the association in the past year. First, though sadly, we mourn the loss of two past-presidents, Ron Hinchcliffe and Ieda Russo.



In 2011, every effort was made to promote ISA across the world and to attract more professionals to the Society. We welcomed the Australian Society of Audiology, which joined ISA thanks to the fruitful conversations between George Mencher and Bob Cowan. We also welcomed the Brazilian Society of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and the South African Speech-Language-Hearing Association as affiliated societies. ISA, as an organization, was present at the American Academy of Audiology and at the European Federation of Audiology Societies. In addition, officers of our Executive Committee meetings related to humanitarian audiology, such as World Wide Hearing and the Coalition for Global Hearing Health that were partly sponsored by ISA.

In this respect, ISA expresses its sorrow for the flood that affected Thailand and made it impossible for the Hearing International meeting to take place. We express our sympathy and support to the congress organizer, Suchitra Prasansuk. We are pleased to report that the meeting will take place on the 1st and 2nd of March, 2012 in Thailand.

We express our gratitude to Ross Roeser for his splendid work with IJA, with submissions rising in number, and for his attempt to have the articles have equal worldwide representation. Also, thanks to Sandy Gerber for the very informative

AudineWS and to Jackie Clark who has done an excellent and enthusiastic job in the field of humanitarian audiology, for which she merits our admiration.

I warmly congratulate, in the name of ISA, Dr. Diego Santana, Director of Fundación Totalí and “Hear Bolivia” for his appointment as Christian Blind Mission Senior Advisor in Ear and Hearing Care and Shelly Chadha, secretary-general of Sound and Hearing 2030 Society on her appointment as Medical Officer of WHO. These are two professionals with a proven interest in transnational projects and wide exposure to the management of hearing disabilities in developing countries.

Finally, I wish all success to George Tavartkiladze, president of XXXI World Congress of Audiology. I hope to meet all of us in Russia.

Humanitarian News

Save the date for the Coalition for Global Hearing Health Conference in Pretoria, South Africa from 30 May to 1 June, 2012. (See calendar below.)

Clinical News

A recent investigation at the University of California, Irvine, found that some noise-making toys can reach levels as high as 100 dB or even more. Many exceeded 90 dB at least. However, all were found to be less than 70 dB if held more than 12 inches from the ear.

Three recent papers that appeared in the *American Journal of Audiology* (<http://aja.asha.org>) are of interest. One reported that Gabapentin's effects on tinnitus are unclear. Gabapentin is a drug used to treat seizures and neuropathic pain, but was not found to be superior to a placebo. A second revealed that noise reduction algorithms available in some hearing aids tend to improve listening. And third, newborn hearing screenings may be delayed in infants where there are co-occurring birth defects.

Research News

A new report from Florida Atlantic University tells us that, starting around six months of age, babies begin shifting from the eye gaze of earlier infancy to looking at mouths when people talk to them. By the age of one year, they begin shifting back to eyes, but look at mouths when hearing an unfamiliar language.

The New York Times reports a study from Johns Hopkins University finding “a direct relationship between ... the degree of hearing loss and ... risk of later developing dementia or Alzheimer's disease.”

We all believe that old violins (e.g., Stradivari) are superior to new ones, but for unknown reasons. Now, a group of colleagues from France and the United States has studied that idea. They had 21 violinists compare the sound made by a variety of instruments, both old and new. The most-preferred violin

was a new one, and the least a Stradivari. And most of these violinists could not tell if the instrument they heard was old or new.

A recent paper in *Child Development* shows that 4- and 5-year-old children correctly identify pitch change contours as indicating happy or sad in puppets exaggerating these changes. Two- and three-year-olds, on the other hand, employ facial expressions and body movement cues in the same task.

A study from Dartmouth University shows that tarsiers (small primates found only in Southeast Asia) seem to have ultrasonic vocal skills. They may use these sounds as warning signals. It appears, further, that they can hear such sounds when made by small insects.

Affiliates' News

Last month marked the 19th Brazilian and International Congress of Speech Language Pathology with the theme "Communication as a right for all." There were more than 1,500 papers presented with 10 of them winning an Excellence Award and 20 more getting Honorable Mention.

The New Zealand Audiological Society reports that "around 400,000" people in that country have hearing difficulties. This corresponds with the international prevalence of about 10%.

A talk by Dr. Richard Gans on the International Hearing Care Technician Certificate Program is available on-line at <http://www.aicme.com/HCT/>

Our South African colleagues are doing several short learning programs in the coming months. There is one on Industrial Audiometry on 12-16 March, 16-20 July, and 12-16 November. The University of Limpopo is offering a series on Management of Pharmacotherapy Induced Ototoxicity on 28-30 March, 18-20 June, and 26-28 September. For all of these contact www.audiologysa.co.za.

Meetings

March 28-31, 2012 American Academy of Audiology, Boston. Contact: www.AudiologyNOW.org.

April 14-17, 2012. 27th International Meeting of Audiology. Bauru, Brazil. Contact: aba.audiologiabrasil.org.br.

April 27 – May 3, 2012. Bureau International D'Audiologie (BIAP), Berlin, Germany. Contact: leboechat@terra.com.br.

April 29 –May 3, 2012. The XXXI World Congress of Audiology, Moscow, Russia, Contact: wwwWCA2012.ru.

May 7-10, 2012. New Zealand Audiological Society, Hamilton. Contact: www.audiology.org.nz.

May 9-12, 2012. CASLPA Conference, St. John's, Newfoundland. Contact: CASLPA Website

May 19, 2012. South African Speech-Language-Hearing Assn., Evidence-based practice seminar, Cape Town. Contact: admin.sasla.co.za

May 30 – June 1, 2012. Coalition for Global Hearing Health Conference, Pretoria, South Africa. Contact: <http://cfghh.org/>

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*deceased

