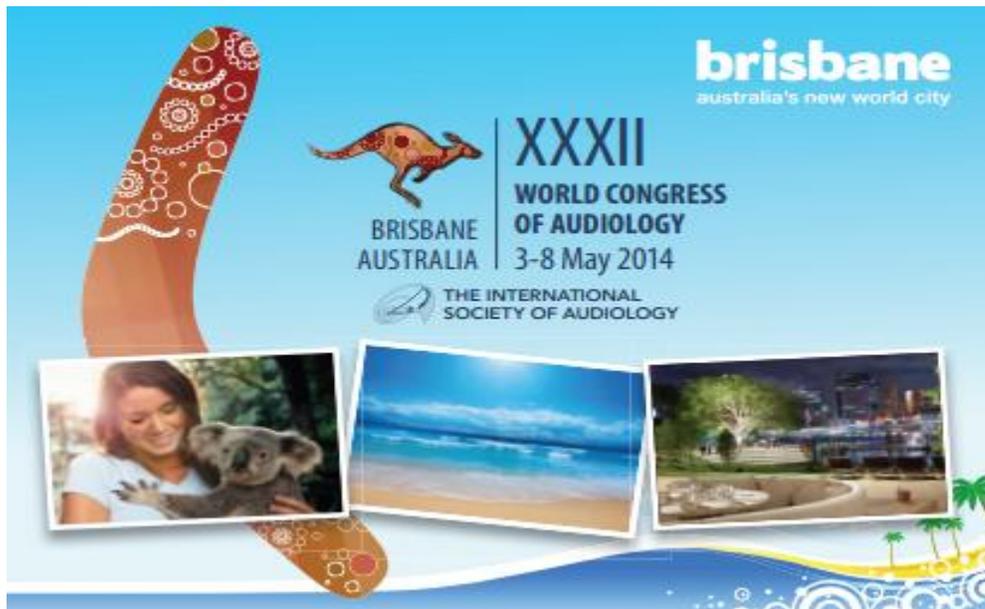




AudineWS

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Society News



Secretary-general George Tavartkiladze announces that the most recent IJA is available at <http://informahealthcare.com/ija>.

Our wonderful Brazilian colleague, Maria Cecilia Bevilacqua, has died. The following memorial was written by her colleagues, Edilene Boéchat and Thais Morata.



Prof. Maria Cecilia Bevilacqua devoted her life to audiology's public health mission. She made history in audiology, defined its reach, shaped and strengthened its practice, while providing the basis for public health policies and programs. She was instrumental in the expansion of audiology services into venues beyond private practices.

Cecilia graduated in Speech-Language Pathology (1970) and in psychology (1977) from Pontificia Universidade Católica de São Paulo. Her master's degree (1978) and doctorate (1985) were from the same university. Recently, she was Professor at that university and at the Bauru campus of the University of São Paulo.

Cecilia was generous with her time and knowledge, and contributed to the creation and development of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology programs throughout Brazil. For example, in the 1990s, she helped create (and headed) the Communication Disorders Graduate Program at Universidade Tuiuti do Paraná. By the end of the '90s, she returned to Bauru where she embraced new challenges by doing pioneering work in the audiological care of patients with cochlear implants. That university's partnership with the National Council of

Technological and Scientific Development led to a resolution of the Federal Health Ministry by which cochlear implants were guaranteed in the public sector, free of charge. Later, this resolution was expanded to include the provision of hearing aids by public health clinics.

In 2000, Cecilia became the director of the Center for Audiological Research, which specializes in hearing service and science, provides treatment to patients, and education for undergraduate and graduate students. She was the first person to represent our discipline in the Brazilian National Council of Technological and Scientific Development. She was a member of the Committee of Experts in Speech-Language Pathology of the Office of Education in the Ministry of Education and Culture. She published 13 books in Audiology, 49 book chapters, and 119 papers in her career. However, all of this does not encompass all of her work. She was a founding member – and, later, president – of the Brazilian Academy of Audiology. ISA assistant secretary-general, George Mencher, noted that Brazil has lost one of its giants. However, a moment with the extraordinary lasts a lifetime. Prof. Maria Cecilia Bevilacqua, and her deep commitment to helping others, will always be with us.

Cecilia is survived by her husband, Prof. Orozimbo Alves Costa Filho, two sons, and a daughter. Her daughter, Julia Bac, is a published poet. From her, we find “With her I learned to give a hearty laugh, which bursted from the lungs; with her I would like to learn to see the world with eyes to the most intense of all beauty.”

Assistant Secretary General George Mencher represented ISA at a regional workshop on integrating ear and hearing care programs within primary care. The workshop was in Doha, Qatar, in November. The full report is available from him. Here are some of the workshop's recommendations. It was recommended to member states that:

1) national plans for ear and hearing health be developed; 2) that national committees should be established led by health ministries; 3) minimum standards need to be developed for primary, secondary, and tertiary levels; 4) technology gaps at all levels need to be addressed; 5) training programs for promoting primary hearing health need to be initiated; 6) identify ear and hearing health information needs; 7) revitalize advocacy efforts; and 8) conduct a situation analysis of ear and hearing health services. In addition, recommendations were made to the WHO secretariat similar to those recommended to the member states.

Furthermore, Dr. Mencher went with secretary general George Tavartkiladze and affiliates chair DeWet Swanepoel to Capetown, South Africa on a site visit with respect to the 2018 congress (see photo below).



Humanitarian News

The Rochester Institute of Technology – a school in which 5-10% of the students are hearing-impaired –has gotten a \$900,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to improve retention of such undergraduate students majoring in science, engineering, and computer science.

There is need for “an experienced, eager, considerate audiologist” in Malawi for a short stay in January. Contact: pandbartlett@yahoo.com.

A pediatric audiologist, Annerina Grobbelaar, in South Africa has established audiological services as a charity. Contact: info@soundforsilence.org.

Clinical News

UCLA’s “Vital Signs” magazine reports that, in the United States, there are an estimated 613,000 people with Ménière disease and more than 45,000 new cases are diagnosed annually.

Colleagues at Washington University (St. Louis) have found that too *little* ambient sound to which preterm infants are exposed leads to less mature brains than those who stayed in an open ward. Even two years later, the less exposed babies performed worse on language tests.

This is another example of the current idea that noise-induced hearing loss is a good thing. In the United States, football stadiums compete to learn which is the loudest. Recently, 137.5 dB were recorded in Kansas City.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control are recommending that children with cochlear implants or are candidates for cochlear implantation should receive pneumococcal conjugate vaccine 13, noting that these children are at increased risk for bacterial meningitis.

Research News

We humans aren't the only ones to experience presbycusis. Chinese scientists have measured high-frequency hearing loss in a 40-year-old bottle nose dolphin.

Conditioning mice with loud, but not deafening, noise seems to prevent hearing loss from chemotherapy. This is in a report from the U.S. National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Science News reports that French scientists (at the University of Toulouse) have found "the more the area of the brain responsible for vision immediately after [cochlear] implantation, the better the individual's speech understanding performance six months later." It is also reported bilateral implantation in children exhibit "hearing similar to ... normal ..."

Here is further evidence of the joys of music. Nina Kraus and her colleagues at Northwestern University, in a paper in *The Journal of Neuroscience*, report that adults (aged 55 to 76) who took music lessons at a young age process speech sounds faster than those who didn't.

Affiliates' News

The British Academy of Audiology has been busy. They are planning for their annual conference, they seek an editor for their journal (any volunteers?), and their student group is growing.

Meetings

March 26-29, 2014. American Academy of Audiology convention, Orlando, FL. Contact: www.audiology.org.

April 13-16, 2014. Brazilian Academy of Audiology international meeting, Florianópolis, Santa Catarina. Contact: aba@audiologybrasil.org.br.

April 30 – May 4, 2014. BIAP Convention, Vienna, Austria. Contact: leboechat@terra.com.br.

May 3-8, 2014. XXXII World Congress of Audiology, Brisbane, Australia. Contact: www.isa-audiology.org.

May 9-10, 2014. CASLPA (Canadian Assn. of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists), 50th annual convention, Ottawa, ONT. Contact: caslpa.ca.

July 25-26, 2014. 5th International Conference of the Coalition for Global Hearing Health, Oxford, England. Contact: www.coalitionforglobalhearinghealth.org.

Nov. 20-22, 2014. AHA (American Speech-Language-Hearing Assn.), annual convention, Orlando, FL. Contact: asha.org/events.

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