



Audinews

The Newsletter of the International Society of Audiology

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Society News

This is a farewell message from your editor. This is my last issue; it is time to retire. I have been a member of ISA for more than 50 years; so this is enough. This assignment has been a pleasure, a task, a labor, and sometimes a frustration. In all, I have enjoyed it. I cannot thank all those who have contributed; there are too many of you. Yet, one stands out: my epidemiologist friend Bill Edstrom has provided much of the clinical and research news. Thanks, Bill. I wish the greatest success to my successor.

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

Invitation to Attend



Invitation from Congress President and International Society of Audiology

Dear Colleagues

It's my great privilege and pleasure to extend an invitation to you to attend the XXXII World Congress of Audiology, May 3-7 2014. This the second occasion that the World Congress has travelled 'down under', and on behalf of the International Society of Audiology (ISA), and our Organising Committee, we look forward to welcoming you to Brisbane, the gateway to Australia's Great Barrier Reef, golden beaches and national heritage-listed islands and rainforest.

The XXXII World Congress is being hosted by Audiology Australia, the principal professional organisation representing audiologists in Australia, and the HEARing Cooperative Research Centre, a consortium of twenty-six organisations dedicated to improving the prevention and remediation of hearing loss. Together, these organisations represent a wide array of the hearing healthcare sector in Australia, ensuring that the XXXII World Congress will have a broad representation.

Since our last World Congress in Moscow, the field of audiology has faced many new challenges, in particular the development of global audiology movements to address the staggering rates of hearing loss in developing countries, an increasing use of internet-based audiological service protocols)) and recognition of the perils of living in our ever-noisier world. We hope that the XXXII World Congress will provide a unique forum and opportunity for audiologists, physicians, speech pathologists, habilitationists, early intervention educators, hearing scientists, hearing aid dispensers, audiometrists and consumer advocates from across the globe to meet and exchange ideas and current knowledge in the field.

Three major themes have been identified for in-depth Round Tables: Living in a Noisy World, focused on issues of health and hearing-related issues from noise exposure; Central Auditory Plasticity, focusing on new research into the brain's abilities to process sound, and what this might mean for management of infants and the growing population of elderly adults; and Audiology Service in the Next 10-20 Years, what is changing?, a review of the current challenges and opportunities for clinical audiology in our interconnected global village. The Round Tables will be complemented by a wide-ranging scientific program including special symposiums on global audiology and other hot topics. Colleagues are invited to submit abstracts for free papers, clinical case presentations, and poster presentations on all aspects of audiology and hearing sciences.

Clinical News

The BBC reports a survey by a group called Action on Hearing Loss that showed about two-thirds of people have tinnitus after a night out at a club or pub. Half of those surveyed claimed to listen to music from one to six hours a day, perhaps a background at work or on a wearable device. However, one in five of those with tinnitus report that they would do nothing differently.

A study from several institutions in the Boston area has shown that aspirin could stop the growth of vestibular schwannomas. It was a retrospective study of 689 people of whom 347 were followed with MRIs. A significant inverse association was found among aspirin users and growth of schwannomas.

Researchers at the University of Maryland and at Johns Hopkins University have observed that neural connections from the thalamus were strengthened when mice were kept in the dark for about a week. We have all known blind people whose auditory abilities seem to be enhanced.

Colleagues at Oulu University, in Finland, claimed that there is no improvement in quality of life among children who had tympanoplasties with respect to those who did not.

Science Daily reports that researchers in Boston “have developed a new, low-powered signal-processing chip that could lead to a cochlear implant that requires no external hardware.”

Consumer Reports on Health observes that personal listening devices can be hazardous to hearing.

Research News

Smithsonian magazine reports what is probably the world’s oldest telephone. It comes from the Rio Moche Valley in northern Peru, and is some 1,200 years (or more) old. The device is made from gourd and twine, and is probably functional although too fragile to test. It is essentially the same as the ones we made as children: pull the twine tight and listen and talk into the gourd.

A quite amazing find was reported in *Popular Science*. According to Takao Hensch of Harvard University, administration of valproic acid to adults “restores the plasticity of the brain to a juvenile state.” One effect of this is that it seems to restore an ability to acquire “perfect pitch.”

A 20-year study at Harvard University found that exercise and maintaining a healthy weight (in women) “may” reduce the risk of hearing loss.

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.

The South African Association of Audiologists “represents the eyes, ears, voice and conscience of the profession of audiology..” So far, in 2014, it has addressed ethical queries, promoted the profession through numerous channels, and provincial day seminars for the year.

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@audiologiabrasil.org.br.

April 30 – May 4, 2014. BIAP Convention, Vienna, Austria. Contact: www.biap.org.

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

May 7-10, 2014. CASLPA (Canadian Assn. of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists), 50th annual convention, Ottawa, ONT. Contact: caslpa.ca.

May 14-23, 2014. British Academy of Audiology ERA and OAE course, Manchester. Contact: eratrainingco.uk

May 15-17, 2014. 3rd Malaysian Audiology Scientific Conference, Koatan, Prahang. Contact: masco2014@gmail.com.

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

Oct. 15-18, 2014. Canadian Academy of Audiology 17th conference and exhibition, Whistler, BC. Contact: conference@canadianaudiology.org.

Nov. 21-23, 2014. British Academy of Audiology, Bournemouth. Contact: admin@baaudiology.org.

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

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