



AudineWS

June 2012

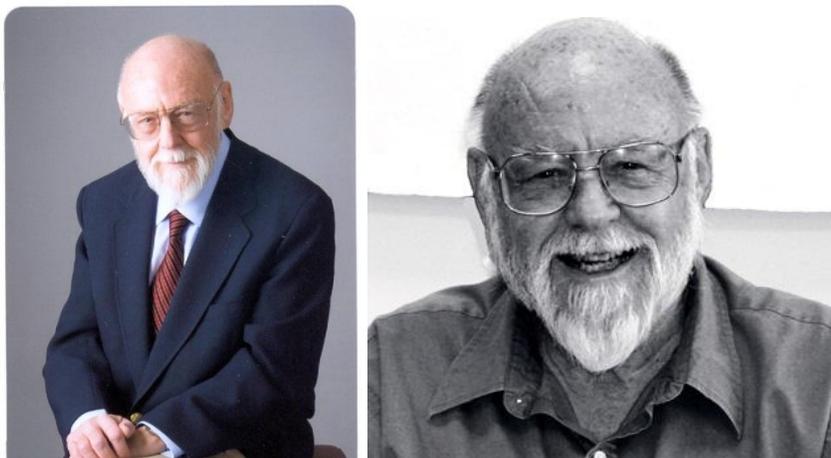
(#67, Vol. 12, Issue 2)

(The Newsletter of the International Society of Audiology)

Editor: Sanford E. Gerber, Ph.D.*

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

We again have a biography of one of our great scientists and scholars. In this issue, IJA editor Ross Roeser has provided a profile of James Jerger.



There are few if any individuals in the United States who have had as much influence on audiology as Jim Jerger. With a highly productive research career that spans more than 60 years, having published over 300 research publications that have appeared in virtually every audiology journal world-wide, having received honors and awards from all of the major audiological organizations, having lectured and presented courses in over 20 countries, and being the principal founder of the American Academy of Audiology, Jim is indisputably THE Father of Audiology in the United States of America. What is equally astonishing about Jim is that besides all of his accomplishments, he's really a nice guy; articulate, well read, good humored, humble, and very interested in the well-being of others.

Jim was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He completed his undergraduate, Master's and Doctor of Philosophy degrees at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. After some interest in speech and theater, Helmer Myklebust and Raymond Carhart, who were on the faculty at Northwestern, profoundly influenced Jim in helping

him to choose audiological research as his career path. After finishing his doctoral work, Jim stayed at Northwestern, first as a Research Associate and then as the Director of the Auditory Research Laboratory, which also included an appointment first as an Assistant Professor and then Associate Professor.

During his Northwestern years, Jim and Raymond Carhart, along with several well-known audiologists including Tom Tillman, Earl Harford, and Don Dirks, published seminal work focusing on diagnostic audiology. Among the procedures introduced into audiological practice were the Threshold Tone Decay test, Short Increment Sensitivity Index (SISI) and Sensorineural Acuity Level (SAL). Jim also started his work on binaural hearing aids. A 1961 JASA publication with Don Dirks was titled, "Binaural hearing aids: An enigma"—an area of investigation that is still intriguing to the audiology research community today. After visits to Denmark and Sweden in the late 1960s, Jim became interested in "impedance audiometry" as it was referred to back then. This latter resulted in the publication of the now universally known Jerger "A, B, C" classification of tympanograms. In fact, in talking to Jim he stated that his work in middle ear evaluation had the broadest long-term effect on clinical practice, because of its continuing impact on audiology practice today. When a relative of his brought him audiological test results to evaluate, he was particularly pleased to see that they included immittance results. He said that looking at the test findings made him realize the importance of his early work in this area; it has been incorporated into standard audiological practice.

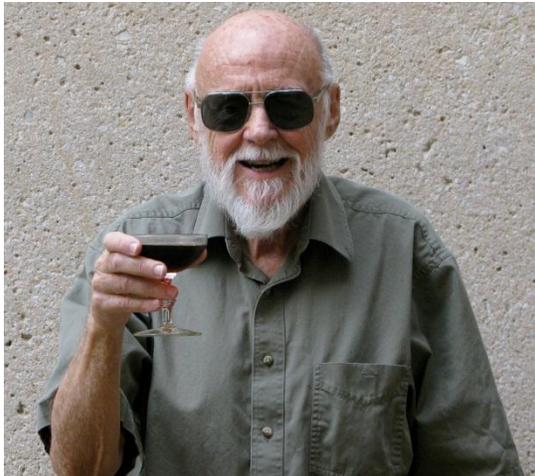
In 1961-1962, Jim moved to Washington, DC where he was Director of the Auditory Research Laboratory at the Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic and Research Professor of Audiology at Gallaudet College. Shortly thereafter he moved to Houston, Texas where for 35 years, from 1962-1997, he was at Baylor University College of Medicine and held multiple appointments at several universities and hospitals. It was at Baylor that Jim became more interested in speech audiometry, hearing aid selection procedures, auditory processing, aging and auditory electrophysiology. His germinal chapter, "Diagnostic Use of Impedance Measures" was published in 1975, which was one of the first major comprehensive works in this area. Jim's Baylor years, among others, introduced audiologists to Synthetic Sentence Identification (SSI), PI-PB function, Acoustic Reflex Decay, The Cross-Check Principle, and crossed vs. uncrossed acoustic reflexes.

In 1997 he, along with his wife Susan, he joined the faculty in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas. Jim holds the very prestigious title—Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence. Jim's current work is focused on electrophysiologic correlates in auditory processing and auditory processing disorders. He is the Director of the UTD/Texas Auditory Processing Disorders Laboratory and seeks out for study interesting patients who have unusual auditory disturbances.

Through the years Jim has collaborated with many audiologists and has mentored a large number of aspiring audiologists. Many of Jim's protégés are respected leaders in the audiology and hearing science community around the world. He continues to be very active in his research lab. His intellectual curiosity, research interests and mentoring abilities have profoundly affected audiology in the most positive way.

Jim feels that the future of audiology is, “top-down, not bottom-up.” He feels confident in saying that electrophysiology holds the most promise. “Twenty years ago not too many would agree that auditory evoked responses were the way to go.” However, he feels that today most researchers would agree that it is. He states that audiologists will need far more training to be able to work in this area, because now that recordings from the brain are being used, basic science education is much more important. Understanding the electrical events in the brain requires, among many other disciplines, in-depth knowledge of chemistry, microbiology, and their interactions. He believes that audiology will continue to thrive in an era where brain and cognition dominate the advances in new knowledge. Such interactions provide the building blocks for the mind, which is intertwined with language processing. His final comment to me was that it is important to accept the fact that meaningful research and clinical evaluations in speech processing need to use more realistic environments with greater ecological validity and more complex listening tasks. He is emphatic when he says, “Single words will no longer do—a parrot can repeat back a single word!”

At the international level, he urges audiologists to communicate with each other in an effective way so that common goals can be defined and common solutions can be developed.



Outgoing president Barajas' speech to the general assembly in Moscow follows:

First, I express my gratitude to George Tavartkiladze for his hospitality and for the organization of this extraordinary congress. In fact, I cannot think of a better place and time than this for ISA to name its conference The World Congress for the first time. This Global presence and the celebration of this congress have been acquired by ISA in its own right with a steady increase in the number and origin of members and affiliated societies. I would like to share with you some of my perspectives, reflections and thoughts as I leave this post of President of ISA, which I have been honored to serve. It is apparent that all of

these professionals share ISA's view that Audiology not only should make a priority of scientific and clinical activities, but also seek to improve humankind's welfare. Our Congresses and the International Journal of Audiology are designed and structured to serve both goals. In the last two years, every effort was made to make ISA more visible across the world and to attract more professionals to the Society. In 2011, we welcomed the Australian Society of Audiology, which joined ISA thanks to the fruitful conversations between George Mencher and Bob Cowan. I also welcome The Brazilian Society of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology (SBFa) and the South African Speech Language Hearing Association (SASLHA) as ISA affiliated societies.

Organizations are entities that flow with times, adapting to new circumstances as they might rise. For this reason, a working group elected from the Executive board (composed of Bob Cowan, Linda Hood and myself) have been working on modifications of our by- Laws, which we strongly believe respond to the needs of the membership. These proposed modifications affect ISA's Statutes and the Rules. For your information, the amendments in the Statutes need to be ratified by Swiss law, while Rules can be passed directly to the GA for voting. We have decided to have the whole document (Statutes and Rules) reviewed by our lawyer in Switzerland before submitting it to the GA. Among the codifications the working group has proposed, it is a priority for ISA to maintain its credibility and reputation in a time of global economic crises in which many institutions have been put into question. Therefore, the working group has proposed that ISA (as almost all not-for-profit organizations) must be submitted to a regular annual financial audit by an outside accountant who specializes in not- for- profit audits. I am motivated to do this and have requested it to the Executive Board as my final act as President, so that my term will end with a positive and healthy fiscal identity. I would also like to inform this membership that our SG, George Mencher, after many years of productive and competent work, has decided to step down as SG. George Mencher (together with Hans Verschuure) has been an important catalyst for the significant advances of ISA in the latest years. His efforts have helped make ISA even stronger. His term of office will mark a turning point in the history of our society. I want to extend our appreciation to Shirley Mencher, whose dedication to ISA we highly value for the many hours she has volunteered at ISA booths for days.

George Tavartkiladze, current Assistant SG, will take over the position of SG. George Mencher has agreed to remain as Assistant Secretary General for two years before his definitive retirement from the EB. The working groups have also proposed that the SG shall be appointed by the EB for a maximum of a 6-year term subject to biannual ratification by the General Assembly at each ordinary Congress.

Special thanks to Ross Roeser for his splendid job with IJA. The number of manuscripts received by December 2011 shows a steady increase in paper submission. Our gratitude to Sandy Gerber for his well-elaborated and informative Newsletter. Bob Cowan and Linda Hood have done an

extraordinary job in updating ISA Statutes and Rules, and deserve our most sincere recognition. Congratulations to Jackie Clark, whose activities confirm ISA's status of global organization. I wish her every success as organizer of the meeting of the Coalition for Global Hearing Health that will take place in a few weeks in Pretoria (South-Africa).

I am very pleased to mention the excellent job done by De Wet Swanepoel, his LinkendN Audiology Professional already has 585 members. My appreciation to Viktor Koci for taking care of our webpage and DavidMcPherson for his dedication to the Student Committee.

I finish by expressing my deep gratitude to you for allowing me to serve this Society. The time spent as ISA President has provided me, no doubt, with the possibility to enrich my understanding of this world while enjoying a unique opportunity to learn a great deal about human behavior. I hope that these experiences can help me in the future. I wish Bob Cowan every success in his condition as President of ISA and the next Congress President. Thank you very much.

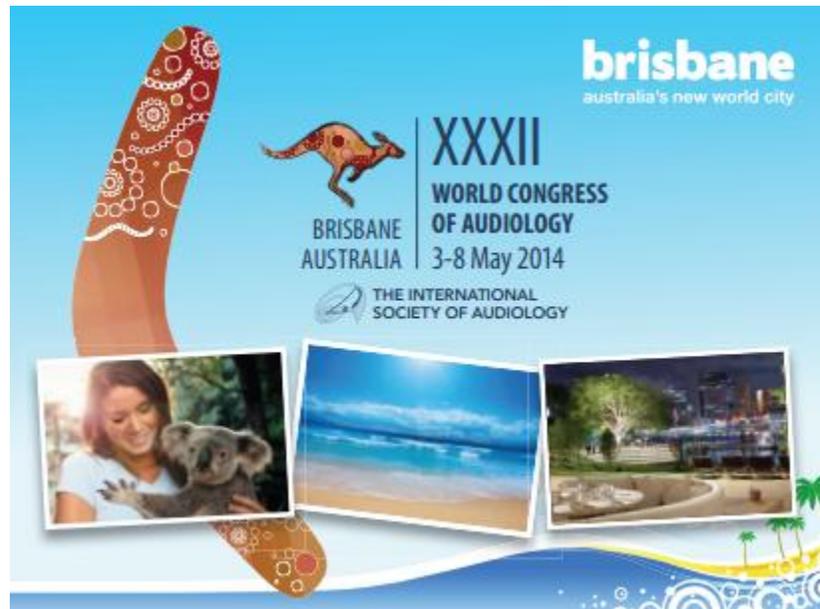
Society News

At the recent congress in Russia, a new executive board was chosen. The new board consists of Bob Cowan (Australia), president; Linda Hood (USA), president-elect; José Juan Barajas de Prat (Spain), past-president; George Tavartkiladze (Russia), secretary-general; and George Mencher (Canada), assistant secretary-general. The members-at-large are De Wet Swanepoel (South Africa) and Lena Wong (Hong Kong). Ross Roeser (USA) continues at editor of IJA, Sanford Gerber (USA) continues as editor of Audinews, and Victor Koci (Austria) continues as webmaster.

Past secretary-general Hans Verschuure (Netherlands) has been honored by his government as Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau. Congratulations, Hans.



Note that the location of the 2014 congress, in Australia, has been changed from Sydney to Brisbane. The dates are 3-8 May, 2014.



At its last meeting, the American Academy of Audiology honored three ISA members: Danielle Glista, Birger Kollmeier, and Deborah Hayes. We are delighted, and congratulate all of them.

ISA welcomes the National Hearing Conservation Association as its newest affiliate.

Clinical News

HIMSA, the maker of NOAH, is starting a Noah User Group. Contact himsa@himsa.dk for information.

A BAHA registry is being developed in the UK. It is expected to contain information on patient demographics, audiological data, main indication for BAHA use, and length of time between surgery and fitting. For information contact bawtry.net/page/BAHA

Polish colleagues, in a recent article in the *Journal of International Advanced Otology* (2011), remind us that hearing screening is not only for newborns. Good advice.

An article in *The ASHA Leader* (April 3, 2012) reminds us that not all nystagmus is Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo. Nystagmus may be caused also by (e.g.) alcohol, certain medications, and nicotine.

It is reported that 26.7 million Americans over the age of 50 have hearing loss only about 14% of them use hearing aids. A paper in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* suggests that an additional 23 million more could benefit.

Good news: beginning this year, Canadian audiologists will be able to provide services to First Nations, Inuit and Métis patients covered under the Non-Insured Benefits Provision of Health Canada.

Colleagues from Johns Hopkins University report that people with “mild” hearing loss are three times more likely than those with good hearing to have fallen during the past year.

A group at San Diego State University has found that children who contracted HIV perinatally or who have been exposed to HIV may have an increased risk of hearing impairment.

British colleagues, in *ENT & Audiology News*, report that an auditory brainstem implant is “an established intervention” for some patients with neurofibromatosis type 2. That same journal, in its March/April issue, has a series of papers dealing with ototoxicity.

Research News

Three recent articles in *Journal of the American Medical Association* inform us that noise is dangerous to hearing. Really?

Take a look at the March issue of *IJA*. In addition to the usual selection of brilliant papers, it contains the abstracts of a recent meeting of the British Society of Audiology.

Colleagues in the UK (at Southampton University and the University of Leeds) have been looking at the echo-location abilities of bats. One potential application of this work is to improve the location-finding abilities of those who use cochlear implants. Their results were published in the journal *Bioinspiration and Biometrics*.

Researchers at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital (in Houston) are looking into the safety of autologous umbilical-cord-blood transplant for children with acquired sensorineural hearing loss. This idea is based on work that showed that such cells engrafted in mice cochlea did result in inner ear repair.

A group at Duke University has found that birds’ singing ability begins to decay within 24 hours of hearing loss onset.

Meetings

June 28 – July 2, 2012. Alexander Graham Bell Assn. for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, annual conference, Scottsdale, AZ. Contact: www.agbell.org

Sep. 5-7, 2012. British Society of Audiology, annual conference, Nottingham. Contact: bsa@thebsa.org.uk

4-7 October 2012. 6th National Congress of Audiology and Speech Pathology, Istanbul, Turkey. Contact: www.istanbulodyoloji2012.org.

Nov. 8-10, 2012. Academy of Doctors of Audiology convention, Phoenix, AZ. Contact: www.audiologist.org

Nov. 12-13, 2012. British Academy of Audiology, annual conference, Manchester. Contact: www.baaudiology.org.

April 3-6, 2013, American Academy of Audiology convention, Anaheim, CA. Contact: www.audiology.org

March 23-27, 2014. XXXII World Congress of Audiology, Brisbane, Australia.
Contact: www.isa-audiology.org
March 26-29, 2014. American Academy of Audiology convention,
Orlando, FL. Contact: www.audiology.org

ISA EXECUTIVE

President: Robert Cowan (Australia)
President-elect: Linda Hood (USA)
Past-president: José Juan Barajas de Prat (Spain)
Secretary-general: George Tavartkiladze (Russia)
Asst. secretary-general: George Mencher (Canada)
Representing affiliated societies: DeWet Swanepoel (South Africa)
Representing the General Assembly: Lena Wong (Hong Kong)
Editor, International Journal of Audiology: Ross Roeser (USA)
Editor, Audinews: Sanford E. Gerber (USA)
Website: Viktor Koci (Austria)

H DEFINITION HEARING

WIDEX[®]

HIGH DEFINITION HEARING

