



## **AudineWS**

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Editor: Sanford E. Gerber, Ph.D.

(send news to the editor: [seg49@comcast.net](mailto:seg49@comcast.net))\*

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We again have a biography of one of our leading colleagues. The wonderful, talented, brilliant, and very nice Marion Downs is celebrating her centennial year, and we all celebrate with her. Marion turned 99 this past January.

Marion was born January 26, 1914 in New Ulm, Minnesota. She married George Downs after her junior year in college, and they had three children. Husband and children slowed her education, and she left the University of Minnesota in 1934. Still, she completed her studies at the University of Colorado, and got a bachelor's degree in Political Science and English from Minnesota in 1948. She then enrolled in the University of Denver, where she got a master's degree in audiology in 1951. She promptly went to work at that university, teaching audiology and directing the audiology clinic from 1951 until 1959.

In 1959, she went to work as an audiologist in a new otolaryngology clinic at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She worked there until she retired in 1982. There, along with Doreen Pollack, she began the practice of fitting hearing aids on infants by the age of six months. She believed that the earlier remediation began, the better auditory function would be. Of course, she was right. At that time, most children got their first hearing aid at the age of three or four years. In 1962, she developed an observational test on newborns, which she reported in 1964. Later (in the 1980s and 1990s), neurological reports confirmed her early remediation theory. She published two books and over 100 articles on the subject in the United States and, indeed, around the world.

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\*the editor would welcome recommendations for the biographies.



**Marion Downs**

In 1969, she proposed a national committee be established, composed of representatives [editor's note: I was one of them] from professional hearing health organizations, to periodically review and evaluate – as well as recommend a best practices approach – to newborn hearing screening. This led to the formation of the national Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, which has provided interdisciplinary leadership and guidance in newborn and infant hearing issues ever since.

She co-authored (with J.L. Northern) *Hearing in Children*, a textbook for audiology students on how to evaluate and manage children with hearing

impairments. This “best seller” underwent five editions between 1972 and 2004, and has been translated into several languages.

The Marion Downs Hearing Center was named in her honor. It opened in May of 2005 on the campus of the University of Colorado Medical Center.

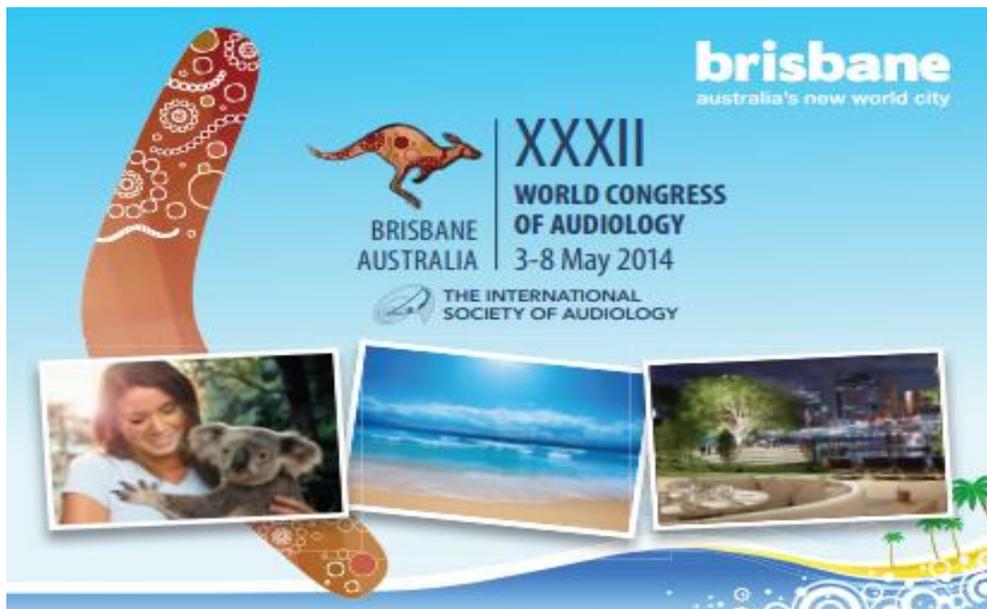
She has received two honorary doctorates: a Doctor of Science from the University of Colorado and a Doctor of Human Services from the University of Northern Colorado. The University of Colorado’s School of Medicine its Gold Medal Recognition, and the University of Minnesota gave her its Outstanding Achievement Award. Of course, she was the first recipient of the Aram Glorig Award. She has been awarded the Medal of the Ministry of Health of South Vietnam, among her many honors from professional societies around the world.

Indeed, she has served our society on numerous committees, boards, and task forces on local, national, and international projects. In fact, she has twice served ISA as program chair.

Knowing her, one is not surprised that she has been a marvelous athlete. She skied until age 94, she has played tennis for many years (in fact, has competed in the National Senior Games).

Happy birthday, Marion. We all look forward to your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

## Society News



ISA member Bill Hudson seeks information on finding sources for closed set Word Recognition Tests. Of the closed set tests for word recognition now available in English, are any of these available in other languages? What closed set tests are being used around the world? Respond to Dr. Hudson at [bhudson@ksbhospital.com](mailto:bhudson@ksbhospital.com) and put “closed set test” in the subject line.

A special student membership in the International Society of Audiology is available to students at US\$25.00 per year for those students in the fields of hearing science and audiology. This opportunity has been made possible by the generous contribution of Phonak. These memberships include on-line access to the International Journal of Audiology (IJA), reduced fees to the ISA World Congresses, meetings sponsored by ISA Affiliated Societies worldwide, and access to our website and membership. We encourage all ISA members to invite their students to apply.

### Humanitarian News

Sorry about the long address, but do take a look at [cnn.com/video/?hpt=hp\\_c4#/video/world/2013/01/16/pkg-mann-euthanasia-twins-in-belgium.cnn](http://cnn.com/video/?hpt=hp_c4#/video/world/2013/01/16/pkg-mann-euthanasia-twins-in-belgium.cnn).) This is a video about deaf twins who chose to be euthanized when they learned they were going blind. This is quite distressing.

A deaf woman, a sign language user, has brought suit against eBay, because their verification system requires sellers to retrieve a phone password. A judge discarded her case, but she will appeal.

The Coalition for Global Hearing Health has extended the deadline for the call for papers. It has been extended to March 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact: [coalitionforglobalhearinghealth.org](http://coalitionforglobalhearinghealth.org).

### Clinical News

Last December, the World Health Organization held a workshop for developing nations in Guinea-Conakry. It brought together stakeholders to formulate national strategies for promotion of hearing and ear care in the country. Moreover, about now, WHO will publish new estimates on the magnitude of disabling hearing loss.

The American press reports that many military veterans have hearing loss. They say that it is a widespread problem that affects their lives now and later. My, my: what a surprise.

Frank Lin and his colleagues, of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, examined 1,984 people, at an average age of 77 years, and found that 1,162 of them had a hearing loss of at least 25 dB. Over the next six years, they underwent examinations of short-term memory, attention, and the ability to match numbers to symbols. Everybody got worse at these tasks over time, but those with hearing loss had a sharp decline. One cannot conclude that the loss caused the decline, as it may be a result of the psychosocial effects of presbycusis. Still, it merits our attention.

A study from Harvard University found that a failed drug for Alzheimer Disease (a gamma-secretase inhibitor) caused some inner hair cells to transform into others, hence restoring some 20% of loss in deafened mice.

## Research News\*

A study, by Massachusetts Eye and Ear and Harvard University, examined mice that were completely deaf and had virtually no remaining hair cells. Injection of a drug led to the creation of new hair cells. This is the first time this has been done in mammals.

Michelle Hastings and her colleagues, of the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (in Chicago), have designed a genetic patch – a tiny strip of genetic material – to restore hearing in mice with Usher Syndrome. Although the mice's hearing was not normal, it was considerably improved by this method. However, the treatment had to be done within the first two weeks of life.

Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, injected a harmless virus called adeno-associated virus type-1 (AAV1), which carried a working copy of VGLUT-3, into the ears of some animals one day after birth and in others some two weeks after birth. Both groups of treated mice could hear, as measured by ABR. A control group with this mutation got no injections and could not hear.

\*The editor thanks his epidemiologist friend, Bill Edstrom, MPH, for his contributions.

## Affiliates' News

Congratulations to ISA member Edilene Boechat, who will become president of the Brazilian Audiology Association in 2013. She is also active in our affiliate, BIAP – The International Bureau for Audiophonology, which was created by a Belgian Royal Decree in March of 1967. This bureau consists of delegates from companies, national or regional audiophonology committees, delegates from international professional associations within the disciplines encompassed by the definition of audiophonology, and associated members. International experts are called upon to give their opinion and to participate in devising and writing recommendations, which will then be widely disseminated by the BIAP office. Within this framework, delegates, associate members, and international experts, grouped into specialist technical committees, work together on a specific theme; these groups constitute the main activity of BIAP.

ISA member Arthur Boothroyd remembers the birth of the British Society of Audiology. During the 1966 Congress (in Mexico City), Aram Glorig sought out the British contingent because the society “urgently needs someone to organize the 1968 Congress.” However, at that time, there was no British society and they needed to create one. By January 13<sup>th</sup> of the following year, it was formed and had its inaugural meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. (Actually, the initial meeting was in a bar in Mexico City.) Satisfied that a British Society of Audiology had been created and that the next congress would be in London, ISA's executive brought one of the British contingent on to the executive committee. That was

our late colleague, Ron Hinchcliffe, who served our society for the next 30 years as secretary-general and president. BSA has now had a period of growth of more than 45 years.

Now, the British Society of Audiology has established a number of committees and advisory panels. One, the Pediatric Audiology Interest Group, represents BSA on the ENT-UK Commissioning Guidance Development Group on conductive hearing loss in children. Another represented BSA at a conference on "Health Reforms – their impact on services for people with hearing loss and deafness" organized by the UK Council on Deafness. These are only examples of how the BSA shares knowledge and expertise.

Affiliates' chair DeWet Swanepoel has sent us the following report. Audiology in South Africa evolved over the past 50 years from being an adjunct to Speech-Language Pathology to the autonomous profession it is today. The late Prof. Pierre de Villiers Pienaar brought both of these to South Africa. The first speech pathology education program was established in 1938 at the University of the Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg. Now, more than 70 years later, with a new government and a new health care system, the aim of audiology in South Africa continues to be available to all our people. Our South African colleagues will host ISA's 2018 congress in Capetown.

## Meetings

March 27-April 3, 2013. BIAP, Venetta, Malta. Contact: laurentchp.demanez@chu.ulg.ac.be.

April 3-6, 2013. American Academy of Audiology convention, Anaheim, CA. Contact: [www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org)

April 24-27. Brazilian Academy of Audiology. Salvador, Bahia. Contact: aba@audiologiabrasil.org.br

May 3-4, 2013. 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Coalition for Global Hearing Health. Nashville, TN (USA). Contact: <http://cfghh.squarespace.com/>

May 14-16, 2013. 5<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Audiology and 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium "Modern Problems of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing". Suzdal, Russia. Contact: gtavartkiladze@audiology.ru

June 9-13, 2013. International Electrical Response Audiometry Study Group, 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, New Orleans, LA (USA). Contact: cgfowler@wisc.edu.

June 14-15, 2013. 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference: Management of Tinnitus. University of Iowa. Contact: [healthcare.uiowa.edu/otolaryngology/TinnitusCourse/](http://healthcare.uiowa.edu/otolaryngology/TinnitusCourse/)

June 19-22, 2013. 11<sup>th</sup> EFAS Congress. Budapest, Hungary. Contact <http://www.efas2013.eu/>

September 4-6, 2013. British Society of Audiology. Keele. UK. Contact: [www.thebsa.org.uk](http://www.thebsa.org.uk).

September 28 – October 1, 2013. Annual SASLHA/SAAA/ENT Conference. University of the Free State, South Africa. Contact: audiologsa.co.za.

December 4-7, 2013. V Iberoamerican Congress of Cochlear Implants and Related Sciences, Cancun, Mexico. Contact: asoda@prodigy.net.mx.

March 26-29, 2014. American Academy of Audiology convention, Orlando, FL. Contact: [www.audiology.org](http://www.audiology.org).

May 3-8, 2014. XXXII World Congress of Audiology, Brisbane, Australia. Contact: [www.isa-audiology.org](http://www.isa-audiology.org).

#### **ISA EXECUTIVE**

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