



Audinews

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This issue's biography honors our Canadian colleague. Dr. George T. Mencher. Probably no one has contributed more to our society, to our profession, and to our discipline than he. Dr. Mencher has served ISA as president, as congress president, as a member of the IJA editorial board, and (for many years) as Secretary-General. He continues as Assistant Secretary General. Much of what follows was included in his successful nomination to receive the Honors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

George T. Mencher, Ph.D. is a man whose contributions to our professions have spanned nearly 40 years and whose mark has been in the building of clinical, academic, national and international programs and centers of excellence; a man whose efforts have affected the lives of millions throughout the world. Dr. Mencher was born in New York, and raised in southern California. He got his doctorate from the University of Michigan, and spent a few years on the faculty of the University of Nebraska before moving to Canada.



His contributions are best exemplified by what he accomplished with the Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Clinic (NSHSC). When George first moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, he did so to assume the position as Director of the NSHSC. At that time (1973), the institution was a small part of the Izaak Walton Killam (IWK) Children's Hospital. Although it had been allocated 10 staff, only 7 were employed. Further, while the NSHSC had a paper mandate to develop services throughout Nova Scotia, it was not expected to do so beyond the hospital. That changed when George became Director.

His first effort was to obtain grants from the Nova Scotia Government to fund training of Canadian students to become Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) or Audiologists. At that time, there was no educational program for the professions east of Toronto, nearly 1200 miles away. As a result, George realized that he initially had to recruit in the United States to fill the vacancies and within a year he had engaged a full complement of staff.

He understood that long range plans required the development of an educational program, so he then began persuading Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia to investigate the need for such a program. Following his own initiative and without academic appointment, George worked tirelessly with several committees within Dalhousie to convince the Senate to approve the establishment of a program. When the University agreed to start the School of Human Communication Disorders, he assisted in recruiting the first Director and faculty. Simultaneously, he helped establish requirements for incoming students, develop a curriculum, and design a facility which is still one of the finest in the country. At that time, the training programs in Canada were not all at the Master's Degree level. George had to labor hard at persuading the Dalhousie Senate that the Master's model, as promulgated by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) was the appropriate one for the profession in Canada. The results of these efforts most certainly contributed to an ultimate decision by the Universities of Toronto and Alberta to abandon lower academic standards and rise to the Master's Degree. The reciprocity agreement that now exists between the American and Canadian Associations, something which George pursued when President of the Canadian Association, would not be possible if the two nations had significantly different standards of practice. His was truly an effort with great forethought producing an international result.

Once Dalhousie University was successful in launching its program, George realized the vehicle for expanding the NSHSC. He began by contracting with various local hospitals to provide services; and, within two years, all the facilities in Halifax were staffed with fully qualified professionals. Slowly, the NSHSC expanded its geographic perimeter primarily by employing Dalhousie graduates. Initially, this was achieved through a grant that George received from the Elks Clubs of Canada to purchase a mobile hearing testing unit which traveled amongst the regional hospitals of Nova Scotia.

In 1996, when George stepped down as Director of the institution after 23 years, the NSHSC had a staff of over 110, and it offered services throughout the Province in 25 permanent clinics. In addition, it served as the Atlantic Provinces' referral center receiving patients from Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and

New Brunswick. George's efforts resulted in an institution providing services to over a million people.

After his instrumental leadership in the development of the Dalhousie program, Dr. Mencher became acting director of the School twice. He still teaches there, even though he has retired from the NSHSC and is the only person to have taught every single graduating student. He continues to receive excellent class ratings for his teaching and supervision. This past year he supervised a student project involving a review of the Early Identification Hearing Loss Program for Prince Edward Island. These significant accomplishments only touch on George's efforts in Nova Scotia.

Early in his career George recognized the need to expand early identification programs for screening the hearing of newborns. It was through his efforts, that Nova Scotia became the first Province in Canada to have a policy in which every newborn at risk for hearing loss had their hearing screened. Over the years, that program was the first to introduce ABR screening, impedance screening and ultimately OAE screening of infants in Canada. His drive to establish screening programs across the country contributed significantly to establishing the Canadian Joint Committee on Infant Hearing and the publication of two major federal documents on screening protocols.

At the national level in Canada, George has worked successfully toward establishing the foundation for and developing the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA). He has served as Vice President, President and Past President of that national body. During his tenure on the Executive Board, the membership doubled due to his specific Presidential objective and his directed campaign. He edited the membership directory twice, was responsible for developing Human Communication Canada (the journal), and instituted an "Honors of the Association" program.

Although these achievements are certainly significant at the provincial and national level in the development of the professions in Canada, there are two other accomplishments that George considers to be more important contributions. First, George noted that the Canadian Association did not have a convention or unique meeting. It had always simply had "a table" at the various Provincial meetings and often was barely recognized. Dr. Mencher changed that by organizing and chairing the first ever CASLPA Convention. Many date the real growth and independence of CASLPA to that Halifax meeting, as it was the first time the organization stood on its own merits with a unique national identity, held its own meeting, and was recognized as "the" body which could develop national standards of practice and qualifications.

Second, George chaired the group that wrote and implemented the first Canadian Accreditation of Service Programs (CASP) standards. That effort represented the first time that employers were faced with guidelines for service. The Federal Government of Canada recognized the need for such standards and encouraged their adoption throughout the country. At the same time, George joined a large group of Canadians in developing the Canadian equivalent to ASHA's Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) for professionals. The combination of individual and program standards at the national level ensures that all Canadians receive the same quality of treatment and that the treatment meets current professional standards.

The Canadian Government appointed George to a Task Force on "Hearing Impairment in the Child" and a subsequent Task Force on "Hearing Impairment in the Adult". He also served on a Federal Task Force on "Standards of Care" which promulgated various clinical methods and models for professional training.

George was awarded CASLPA's highest honor, "The Medal for Outstanding Achievement" because of his contributions. Service to the Province of Nova Scotia and to Canada would not be enough. His considerable energy took him far beyond the borders of his home province. George has affectionately been called, "Mr. International" by several members of our Association. He began his worldwide activities when he was selected by the then U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to be a site visitor to Belgrade, Yugoslavia and Jerusalem, Israel in the early 1970's. Serving as a consultant to the HEW, he prepared extensive reports on the work being done in electrophysiology, early identification of hearing loss and the verbal-tonal method of training the hearing impaired. This ultimately resulted in a long-term research project in Jerusalem working with Feinmesser and Tell as a follow-up to their U.S. Government grant. Upon returning to Canada, George was in demand to act as a consultant to various programs around the world. Working primarily through the offices of the Canadian Hearing Society, Dalhousie University and the International Society of Audiology as a volunteer professional, George was sent to St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua, the British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Chile, Nicaragua, Thailand and China to work with various governmental and non-governmental groups to develop programs, train personnel and provide services to the people of those various nations. He has been appointed as a consultant to review one of the key programs in Bogota, Columbia; been a consultant with the Medical University in Havana, Cuba; and lectured at the West China Medical School in Chendu, China. He has twice

been to Geneva to the World Health Organization as a consultant to their Prevention of Blindness and Deafness Program.

Perhaps his most important international service effort was a two year project he completed in Costa Rica. This epidemiological study of the entire country to determine the incidence and prevalence of hearing loss in children is a landmark effort having implications for many nations in Latin America. Using Costa Rica as a model, it is now possible to make projections for other Latin American countries having few demographics in terms of hearing loss. Such data are invaluable in helping them plan for training teachers, building schools, providing services to children, etc.

In addition to this full slate of activities, George has been active in the International Society of Audiology (ISA). Since joining in 1970, he has served on several committees and in 1994 he was President of the XXII International Congress of Audiology. That highly successful meeting led to his appointment to the governing Board of ISA. Since that time he has served the Executive Board as President-Elect, President and Past-President of the International Society. During his tenure, the bylaws of ISA were altered and a new, more democratic structure was put into place. ISA had been a predominantly European group but now, all continents and all countries are represented and the resulting increase in membership definitely reflects that change. George was editor of *AudiNews*, the quarterly newsletter of ISA. He also serves as one of the two ISA members on the governing board of the *International Journal of Audiology*, a journal he helped create by actively encouraging the blending of *Audiology* (the ISA journal) with the British and Scandinavian Journals. George currently serves as Assistant Secretary General of the International Society, the second highest permanent ranking person in the organization. He is often seen at the ISA booth during ASHA, AAA, and other meetings encouraging membership to ISA.

George's superior academic talent has inspired him to publish over 100 articles and write or edit eight books, the first of which, "*Early Identification of Hearing Loss*" was perhaps the earliest text dedicated exclusively to that topic. It was followed by the balance of the famous Elks Conference Series (developed in conjunction with Sanford E. Gerber), including, "*Early Diagnosis of Hearing Loss*", "*Early Management of Hearing*", and "*The Multiply Handicapped Child*". These books were followed by "*International Perspectives of Communication Disorders*", a text exploring George's broader interests. Finally, Mencher, Gerber and McCombe wrote *Audiology and Auditory Dysfunction*", a popular textbook focusing on diseases and disorders of the ear.

In summary, George Mencher is an accomplished professional. He is a clinician, a program builder at the national and international levels, an administrator, and the consummate academician. He is a teacher, researcher and author preaching the gospel of communication disorders to his own students and to governments around the world. He is pursued by professionals for his expertise and by his friends for his time. As clever as he is, he has obviously never understood the term "retirement".

The Society mourns the death of Prof. Edoardo Arslan, of Italy. ISA past-president Pedro Berruecos has provided the following memorial.

I met him in the magical environment of Ferrara, the sweetness of Venice and the elegance of Padua. After my degree at the Faculty of Medicine at the National University of Mexico, I practiced the rudiments of Audiology for two years at the General Hospital of Mexico. Despite this, I knew that it was essential to learn more and that this could be achieved in only a few places in Europe, such as the University Hospital of Ferrara. I thus arrived at the Arcispedale Sant' Anna , then headed by Prof. Ettore Bocca, in the early days of 1968, and stayed until the early months of 1969, having the opportunity to receive the best training from that privileged group in which shone great friends such as Antonio Antonelli and Giampietro Teatini. At that time Edoardo had yet to commence what was to be his long stay in Ferrara. Having spent time in France until 1970 I returned to Europe in 1972 and, on that occasion, I had the good fortune of meeting Edoardo, who in the meantime had arrived in Ferrara. But it was only at the Congress of ORL organized by his father in Venice in 1973 that our friendship began. We immediately developed an exceptional chemistry, because of his bonhomie, his constant search for new knowledge, his relentless dedication to his work, his fascinating way of thinking, his steely, rigorous and quixotic attachment to the precepts of Ethics in his being a physician and an audiologist and his innate ability to be a true friend, immediately coincided with my feelings and innermost thoughts. After the Congress of Venice we went together to Padua and I shall never forget the amazing way in which he drove his Ferrari Dino on the cobbled streets of the noble city. I was really worried that someone would carelessly and suddenly step in front of the car from behind one of the many columns adorning the sidewalks of the historic center.



More than forty years have gone by since that 1972. I am the custodian of many hand-written letters in which he expressed to me his noble feelings of friendship and affection. Later, with the immediacy of email, our contacts became constant, almost daily: this was true whether we were making arrangements to have me participate in a conference in Europe or in the Americas, or whether we were planning one of our sailing trips in the Adriatic, almost always with Ettore, Francesco and Save, to discover new bays, or the many wonders left behind by the Republic of Venice, or the interior of the Balkan Peninsula.

How many times have we met? It is impossible to know! But what is absolutely sure is that the two of us, in one form or another, counted the months, weeks or days left before we could again embrace one another. The close professional relationship, in fact, was largely superseded by the depth of our friendship, but these two things were systematically interwoven. Together, we participated in tens (if not hundreds) of courses, round tables, conferences: in Mexico, of course, in Sinaloa, Puebla, Yucatan, Quintana Roo or in our capital city, without forgetting our "long days of heavy work" in Acapulco, where we structured a research protocol to study "the hearing of the lobster." Together, we also went to France, England, Holland, Austria, Germany, Poland, Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia. And what can one say about Italy, about this much-admired and loved nation? I pride myself on knowing almost all the furthest corners of the boot but many of these, beautiful and unexpected, were introduced to me by Edoardo: from the Sassi of Matera, to San Giovanni Rotondo and the wonder of Trani or the trulli in Puglia; from the Dolomites to the Po Valley, to the lakes of the north, to Parma, Modena and Reggio Emilia and the gentle sweetness of the Tuscan hills, the liveliness of eternal Rome and the beautiful Amalfi Coast. In the Americas, we were together in Guatemala, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina. In

Mexico, near Cancun, with the help of Tonni Quaranta, step by step, slowly and lovingly, leaning on us to overcome his ambling difficulties, we climbed to the top of the, fortunately not too high, pyramid of Tulum, so that Edoardo could see from an altitude and towards the sea, the huge range of colors in the Mexican Caribbean. At Tikal, a beautiful archaeological area of Guatemala, I was able to convince a pick-up truck to carry us to the highest part of the area, the location of the ceremonial center and of the tallest pyramids of all the Mayan civilization. They left us there but, as expected, with a bicycle for Edoardo with which, easily, effortlessly and downhill, he was able to visit the entire old Mayan city. More recently, just a little over a year ago, but as always trying to combine academic work with the view of beautiful things, we visited together the archaeological zones of Sican, the Señora de Cao, Chan-Chan and Sipan, in Peru, which are as important as those of Cuzco and Machu Picchu.

I have always admired the punctiliousness with which he deeply studied his patients in Ferrara, Padua and Treviso, but probably even more his brilliant conclusions and his ability to create focused treatment and rehabilitation programs. He literally was a "doctor of the person" with all that such title entails. From the corners of applied research, he transformed the mysteries of auditory neurophysiology in a diagnostic and therapeutic key that he applied to his patients, all while he taught as a true Professor to the many students who wanted to learn from his experience, taking advantage of his judgments, his knowledge, and his scientific restlessness. Edoardo was a pioneer of modern Audiology and a staunch defender of the identity of our specialty in the medical field, an identity that he pursued with great character and special generosity. Many of us colleagues have benefited from his counsel, which was always loving and never conceited, most often bestowed with happiness and joy of life.

Edoardo enjoyed all forms of art like few have: avid reader, he admired painting, sculpture, architecture and, above all, music. He appreciated art as a gesture of love or as a resistance to conformity, as a way to participate, as invention, ideal, pleasure or feeling and thanks to all of this, as a spiritual sublimation of life. In a charming and obviously joking way, he made fun of what he said was the huge delay of the American civilizations compared to the European ones. I often tried to "attack" his arguments but mostly without success. Sometimes, listening to a concert in his car, we made bets on the name of the author and when I won, I pointed out that there was not much use for many centuries of European civilization, if in the key moments, the American "savages" knew the answer better. Jokes aside, he has always sought in the arts all that is transcendent, superior, abstract, spiritual, and this ongoing research made him an exceptional man, and a true artist in his own right.

Talking or writing about Edoardo would seem an easy task for the many things that could be said of his complex life, but it is not so, because at this time, any person

who has been close to him feels grief-stricken by the speed with which he has gone. We all know that his apparent meekness stood in contrast with the vigor of his convictions as a physician, as a specialist and as a man of integrity. The traits of his personality were as broad as limitless horizons, and were tied to an iron will, the only requirements to achieving important goals. As a good human being, he was an enlightened man who knew all too well what suffering was, but also how to forge his own character to cope with it.

I am convinced that, in the purest style of Bertrand Russell, he always looked for the anxiety of love, pursuit of knowledge and endless pity for mankind's suffering. This to visualize in advance the sky imagined by saints and poets and to understand the 'Human Being', to know why the sun appears in the morning or why the rain falls, to imagine why the stars shine or comets travel. With his anxiety for love and pursuit of knowledge, he had been able to fly and reach the sky but despite his approach to everything that is supernatural and the comfortable situation in his life, he always kept, side by side, his human compassion, therefore with all the strength of his convictions, he never accepted social injustice, pain, oppression, loneliness or poverty.

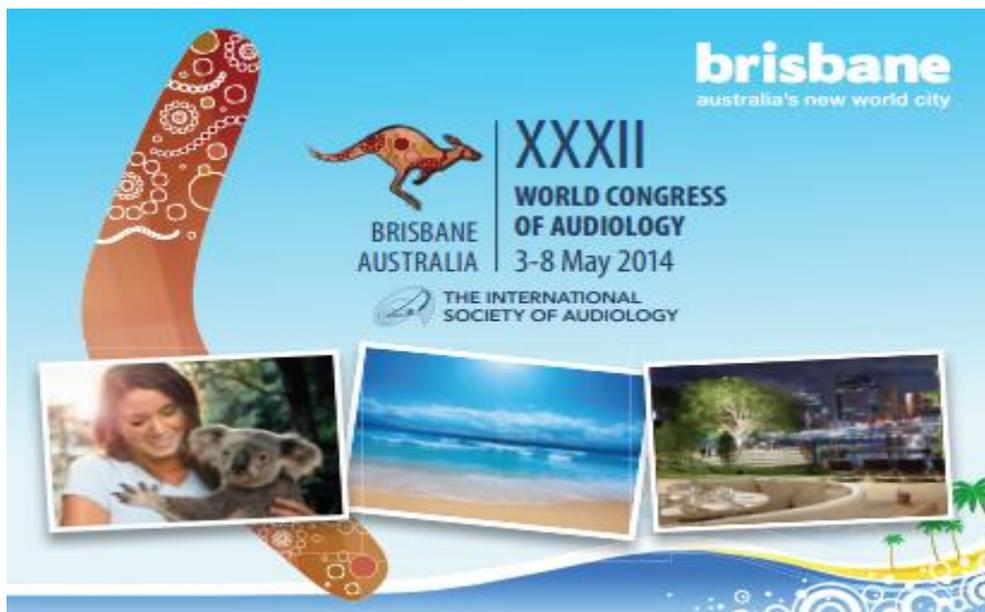
Contrary to the confessions of Borges, he never sought to be perfect. He was always looking to take risks, to make more trips, to see more sunsets, to climb more mountains and to dip into more oceans. He dedicated the best part of his intelligence, his knowledge, his experience, and, above all, his tender and simple love to his dearest Carla, Vittoria, Guido and grandchildren, to his colleagues, students and patients.

He courageously always said what he thought. He criticized what he believed had to be criticized, never with duplicity. He said what he thought without fear of falling in the aphorism that says "we are the masters of our silences and slaves of our words," because he faced challenges with the certainty of those who think that "what we say affects us and to say what we think is liberation " and as such he knew that we cannot be free without accepting to be affected. He was able to debate and argue for his ideas, but he spoke with simplicity and generosity. He had the fortitude and integrity to say many things there were not always welcomed, but no one will ever be able to say that he tried to manipulate someone's feelings with hypocritical greetings or smiles, a virtue that is extremely rare to find.

Another friend of mine said of someone who had just passed away: "How can this planet live without him?" But I do not agree with this, because, despite my deep sadness for not being able to hear his voice in his the last few days, we will continue to think of him drinking a "margarita" or making a reckless yaw on the boat.

All this is the story of more than 40 years of friendship that will forever be alive. Friends, true friends who have left us, in reality remain constantly in our thoughts. His virtues and, why not, also his flaws are so special, like those of an endangered species: loving and sometimes difficult, complicated but gently simple; mysterious but full of light; uncompromising but ready to change his mind. It's the legacy that the Man has left to his students, his patients, his university, his department, his hospital. Edoardo grew up in the Truth, knowing that the Truth is goodness in the long term, that genius is not found in great patience but in the conscience, that life is not what life gives us, but what we give to life. He gave us a lot and will continue to give us many other things, and for this, rather than be saddened by his absence, we should rejoice and thank God every day for the huge privilege of having been able to be close to his unforgettable person.

Society News



We are invited to submit abstracts for the next World Congress of Audiology, in Brisbane, Australia, next may. The deadline for submission is November 22, 2013. Submissions are invited in several areas, including hearing loss prevention, global audiology, epidemiological studies, auditory processing disorders, and many others. Materials may be submitted for 10-minute oral presentations, case studies and grand rounds, oral poster presentations, and posters. For further instructions please see the congress web site: www.wca2014.com.

The next issue of IJA is available on line. To get access, you must first log on to the website and then click on the IJA icon.

Secretary-general George Tavartkiladze has submitted the following report of the recent EFAS meeting.

It was the 11th time that the EFAS (European Federation of Audiology Societies) Congress was organized this year and it took place in Budapest, Hungary. The Congress was held in Hotel Boscolo between 19-22 June, 2013. 710 delegates came from all over the world and an additional 380 Hungarian participants came to the 50th National Conference of the Audiology Sections of the Hungarian Society of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Head and Neck Surgery which was parallel to the EFAS Congress.



Participants came from altogether 55 countries (plus Hungary), most of them from the following: Italy: 160, Germany: 60, France: 60, Austria: 40, Greece: 30, Turkey: 30, Belgium: 30, Switzerland: 30. Some colleagues came from more distant parts of the world, e.g. from USA, Australia, China, Malaysia, Saudi-Arabia, South-Africa, Canada, Israel, and Algeria.

The EFAS runs as a non-profit organization and the association of National Audiology Societies of European countries. The goal of EFAS is to widen the exchange of experiences about the science of audiology and the knowledge of specialists, as well as to facilitate the scientific cooperation in Europe. A further objective is to appear as a common representative of European audiology when communicating with other societies. The president of



the 11th EFAS Congress was Prof. Dr. József Géza Kiss, scientific adviser of the Rhino-Laryngology and Head- Neck Surgery Department of the University of Szeged, and the president of EFAS is Prof. Dr. Kurt Stephan, professor at Innsbruck Medical University. The Congress was accredited with 14 CME credit points by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME), and for 20 credit points by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Audiologie e.V. The Congress took

place in four parallel sections, with more than 200 presentations, of which 165 were free papers. Furthermore, 64 posters were shown in the poster session and poster presenters could also share their results as a short oral presentation. Internationally renowned scientists were invited to talk about the following topics: Molecular Biology and Genetics of Hearing; Time, Speech and Brain; Electric-acoustic and bimodal stimulation in patients with implanted hearing devices. Special sessions were arranged to represent the current activities of EFAS, namely, BA/MA Education in Audiology and European School Children Hearing Screening. Structured sessions were arranged covering the following topics:

Rehabilitation for children and adults after cochlear implantation – long-term follow-up programs in Europe; Audiology, auditory neuropathy and genetics; Modeling the impaired ear; Speech tests independent from language; Combined acoustic and electric hearing. The themes offered the most modern technologies, newest research data and many other scientific curiosities from all over the world for specialists of audiology who participated. The Congress had an outstanding scientific program which covered all the up-to-date topics relating to research and clinical practice in the field of audiology.

It was supported by several companies, the main sponsors being the following: Platinum Sponsor, Cochlear/Amplifon; Golden Superior Sponsor, MED-EL; Gold Sponsor, Siemens; and Silver Sponsor, Advanced Bionics.



In the last Audinews, we reported that ISA member Louise Hickson won the International Award of the American Academy of Audiology. Below is the announcement from The University of Queensland.

Professor Louise Hickson was the first Australian woman to receive the prestigious *International Award in Hearing* from the American Academy of Audiology. Professor Hickson, Head of UQ's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, received the Award at the Academy's annual conference held in California in April. She was also an invited speaker at the conference. The largest audiological professional organization in the world, the American Academy of Audiology has an active membership of more than 11,000 worldwide and is dedicated to providing quality hearing care services through professional development, education, research and increased public awareness of hearing and balance disorders.

The *International Award in Hearing* was presented to Professor Hickson in recognition of her ongoing research into hearing impairment in older people and the development of strategies and interventions to provide the best possible audiological rehabilitation to that population. She said she was both honored and thrilled to receive the Award. Professor Hickson is also the new President of the Audiological Society of Australia, the professional national association for audiologists. As President, she is responsible for the promotion of audiology and high-quality hearing health care for adults and children in Australia, including liaison with key stakeholders to provide input on government policy targeted at the prevention of hearing loss.

Co-Director of UQ's Communication Disability Center, Professor Hickson has published over 170 research articles, books and book chapters addressing topics including patient-centered audiological rehabilitation, measurement of hearing aid outcomes, and impact of hearing loss on the unimpaired partner. Her research into audiological rehabilitation also led to the development of Active Communication Education, a rehabilitation program that is now implemented by audiology clinics around Australia and overseas. She is a member of the Federal government's Hearing Services Consultancy Committee.

Humanitarian News

The Coalition for Global Hearing Health has recently had its 4th conference, and it had a record number of firsts. Many disciplines were represented from around the globe, amounting to 15 countries. These firsts included offering individual and organizational annual membership, awarding a travel scholarship to an attendee, donating 12 portable audiometers to humanitarian projects, and providing a poster session during the meeting. A highlight of the conference was the keynote speech by Lady Jean Wilson (OBE, FRC Opth [hon.]). Lady Jean founded the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, with her late husband, Sir John Wilson. Currently, she is chair of the Hearing Conservation Council, President of the UK Project Impact Foundation, and vice president of Sightsavers International. Their next conference is in Oxford next July (see calendar).

The World Health Organization reports that “roughly 360 million people live with a disabling hearing impairment globally.” Moreover, “in low- and middle-income countries, fewer than 3% of people who need a hearing aid actually have one.”

A British magazine, *The Economist*, reports that the use of cochlear implants in children has reduced the number of people using sign language. It says that “In America the share of deaf children taught by sign language has fallen from 55% to 40% in the past decade. Other countries show similar patterns.” This is in spite of the fact that “Deaf children with implants who use only spoken language perform worse at school than their peers who learn sign language.” Moreover, “hearing children who learn some sign language are ahead of their peers by 12 IQ points at the age of eight.”

Clinical News

A recent article in Pediatrics reports that >95% of infants born in the United States are now screened for hearing impairment. Consequently, two to three hearing-impaired infants are identified per 1,000 births. The authors conclude that OAE screening “may be” an effective method to identify such children.

On June 21st, CNN reported that a 3-year-old boy was the first child in the United States to receive an auditory brainstem implant. It is stated that he was born without a cochlear nerve; hence, a cochlear implant was not appropriate.

Your editor has just read an article called “New Help for Children Who Are Hard of Hearing” by Maxine Davis. The paper explains why early identification is important, how to detect deafness, the causes of deafness, and how to measure residual hearing. So, what is so interesting? The paper appeared in Good Housekeeping magazine in November of 1952. (Yes, 1952; that’s not a typo.)

The press reports that makers of household appliances – blenders, vacuum cleaners, hair dryers, etc. – are acknowledging complaints and making quieter devices. The British Noise Abatement Society has designated 35 products with a “Quiet Mark.” Hooray!

The American Academy of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery has come out with new guidelines for the placement of tympanostomy tubes. The

new guideline recommends *against* placement of tubes in ears with no fluid build-up. Tubes should be placed *only* in those ears with middle ear fluid.

The New York Times was asked if subway riders risk hearing loss. Indeed, they do, but this is probably not limited to New York's subway. Sixty per cent of noise measurements made on the platform exceed 85 dB; furthermore, 2/3 of the measurements made inside the cars exceed 90 dB and about 20% exceed 100 dB.

Colleagues at the Oregon Health and Sciences University have applied a substance called pigment epithelium-derived factor to a group of mice *prior* to noise exposure. It appears that this factor minimized the amount of noise-induced hearing loss as compared to similarly exposed mice without this factor.

Research News

A recent paper from NYU medical school, published in Otolaryngology-Hear and Neck Surgery, links hearing loss to tobacco exposure in utero. It appears that certain compounds present in tobacco smoke cross the placental barrier and harm the auditory system.

For English speakers, a sneeze is accompanied by "ACHOO!" Others have similar sounds: the French say "ACHOUM!" and Japanese say "HAKASHUN!" What do deaf people say? A study reported by the BBC claims that deaf people also ACHOO, in the UK anyway.

Dolphins and bats have rather little in common, except that both evolved echolocation. According to an article in *Science*, it is the same genetic mutation that permitted this.

Affiliates' News

Our Spanish colleagues report the release of the second edition of the Tratado de Audiología (Compendium of Audiology). The editors are E. Salesa, E. Perelló, A. Bonavida. It is published by Elsevier Masson.

The IERASG had its 23rd Symposium. The Hallowell Davis Lecture was presented by Prof. James Jerger on listening to words. He noted that auditory event-related potentials reveal cognitive complexity, which has implications for speech audiometry. He commented that "You cannot ignore attention" and "You can measure listening effort."

Meetings

September 4-6, 2013. British Society of Audiology. Keele. UK. Contact: 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

November 14-16, 2013. American Speech-Language-Hearing Assn., Chicago. Contact: www.asha.org/Events/convention.

November 9-10, 2013. BIAP minimeeting, Brussels, Belgium. Contact: leboechat@terra.com.br.

November 18-19, 2013. British Academy of Audiology conference "Building Skills for the Future, Manchester. Contact: www.baaudiology.org.

November 29-30, 2013. Hong Kong Society of Audiology, Hong Kong. Contact: sechksa@audiology.org.hk.

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.

April 13-16, 2014. Brazilian Academy of Audiology international meeting, Florianópolis, Santa Caterina. 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.

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

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