



A newsletter of the International Hearing Foundation Fund of the
University of Minnesota Foundation Spring 2015

ear TALK

May is
Better Hearing Month

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200 Oak Street SE, #300, McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota Gateway, Minneapolis MN 55455-2030

All Ears Cambodia Term Report



A grant from the International Hearing Foundation helped the All Ears Cambodia project establish a community hearing aid service, ear health education programs, self-help groups and a domiciliary service for hundreds of elderly people in Cambodia last year.

All Ears Cambodia focuses on disabling deafness and the effects of hypoacusis in elderly Khmers. Because elderly people may not know anyone else with hearing loss, they can feel alone and may retreat from social interactions due to their embarrassment about having difficulty communicating. With treatment and education, elderly are better able to cope and regain control of their lives.

The principal aim was to restore hearing in elderly people and to strengthen family and social integration and psychological well-being with the goal of providing hearing-impaired elderly people greater parity and quality of life.

"The project was innovative in that a typical partner is an NGOs (non-governmental organization) but AEC's aim was to liaise with local wats (Buddhist temples), which ostensibly act as community centers in Cambodia," said Robert Margolis, Ph.D., IHF Past-President, IHF board member and key leader in the project.

The project identified, developed and strengthened partnerships with local wats (Buddhist temples) facilitated through AEC's

program coordinator and local religious groups. The goal was to allow for the sharing of health information between community groups attending the wats.

The project also built local capacity on educational issues concerned with hearing/deafness through raising awareness and enhancing the knowledge of elderly people and local communities in which they live.

The target clients included elderly people of minimal income, those from internally displaced communities, the elderly who are physically disabled, those living with AIDS or leprosy, people who have been victims of landmines and elderly women who have been victims of domestic violence. The populations represented some of the most disadvantaged and marginalized people in the world. Occasional younger persons with ear problems were also served under the care of these local wats.

Clinical activities commenced in October 2013. The service caseload was more than 800 people, plus those who received ear health education totaled almost 1,500. Patients were derived from five provinces across Cambodia as well as Phnom Penh Municipality. Clinics continue to operate, as do

AEC's on-going hearing aid services and associated support.

AEC provided a comprehensive rehabilitation service, offering hearing tests and hearing aids for older people suffering from presbycusis loss. Hearing aid types ranged from analogue through to digitally programmable types and fully digital instruments.

Follow-up appointments were given where people were encouraged to provide candid feedback, from which individual management strategies were instigated. These took the form of re-prescription of hearing aids, binaural hearing aids, and further instruction regarding the management of the hearing instrument, ear mould modifications, and/or further counseling.

The local domiciliary service was launched to provide services for elderly people having difficulty attending the clinics. Healthcare professionals provided care in the person's home or place of residence. They were also providing support and assistance to elderly people with a range of disabilities, helping them to maximize their own potential and independence. Those served may have had physical disabilities, dual sensory impairment, mental health problems or were hospitalized.

Five self-help groups for elderly people with hearing problems were established to learn coping skills and share feelings with others.

AEC is grateful for the help of Dr. Jean Johnson, acting director of the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii and the International Hearing Foundation for its financial support in the development of audiology and primary ear health care services, clinical and educational programs and specialist services.

AEC is a local nonprofit medical non-governmental organization registered with the Cambodian Ministry of Interior and federated with All Ears International, a UK-registered charity (No.1142782).

IHF Fellows: Please send your email address to
trp-mmp@prodigy.net

Hear Ye, Hear Ye



Brad Birnberg

I want to thank everyone for your continued commitment and dedication to this amazing organization. I am truly honored to serve as its president.

Millions of Americans suffer from ear diseases, including symptoms of vertigo, dizziness (90 million) and deafness and tinnitus (40 million), and many more millions of people worldwide suffer from ear diseases. IHF has the opportunity, over time, to positively change millions of lives.

We need to continue communicating the message of IHF. This organization does incredible, impactful work that benefits people everywhere. It is our job as members to continue to inspire others and explain the impact and importance of IHF.

In the past year, we have been working to refine our message. Board member Brandon Sawalich has led efforts to better develop our “why, how and what.” The more we develop our “why,” the better we will connect to IHF’s stakeholders. While it is still being refined, for our “why” we prefer: “Fighting Ear Diseases One Person at a Time.”

We also discussed other ways to better identify what IHF does. Brandon suggested we change the logo wording, which now appears, “Service, Research and Education,” to “Research, Education and Service.” Putting research first in the logo better communicates to donors what our “why” is and why we do what we do.

As you are aware, IHF funds one of only three temporal bone labs in the world, one of the two largest where the pathology of the human ear can be studied extensively. Otopathology research in the laboratory regularly results in the discovery of new diseases or learning more about existing diseases. This research has been critical in understanding ear diseases including ear infections, Meniere’s disease and others. This research has improved the lives of many Americans and beyond.

In closing, I’d like to thank you for listening, so that others may hear.

— Brad Birnberg

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESK



Treva Paparella

Greetings to our many friends and supporters of IHF. As we enter into our 30th year, we see how far we’ve come, and yet how much there is to do.

Over the years, IHF has consistently fulfilled its mission in research, service and education.

Through research grants from the Starkey Foundation as well as the National Institutes of Health, we are able to continue the much-needed research surrounding ear diseases. The University of Minnesota Otopathology Lab team recently returned from a national research meeting, where 10 research papers were presented. The Otopath Lab has been an invaluable resource for training many current and future leaders, as well as providing their research to be published in prestigious journals or attending presentations at national and international meetings.

The Marlys Soderberg Meniere’s and Tinnitus Support Group continues to help those that suffer with either of these debilitating diseases. We recognize the strong leadership of Rosie Hulse-Larson, who has helped make the group meetings so successful.

IHF’s valuable support of several international missions continues. We are still very involved with Senegal, Africa, and with the help of Dawn and Dr. Matthew Patterson, we continue to send supplies to Dr. Malick Diop’s hospital.

Dr. Robert Margolis has been instrumental in bringing Rotary and IHF together to help support “Hearing for Humanity,” which provides grants for audiologic services to places like Malawi, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Because of you, our donors, we are able to continue the mission of IHF — research, service and education. IHF was founded to address needs related to hearing disorders, and we are committed to carrying out this mission.

Thank you for the caring spirit that leads you to make life-changing contributions in support of the International Hearing Foundation.

—Treva Paparella



MISSION STATEMENT

The International Hearing Foundation—nonprofit, tax-exempt, and funded solely through donations and

fundraising events—has a three-fold mission: otological research, service, and research—all areas of great need. Beneficiaries of these charitable endeavors are first local but also international. The IHF, an affiliate of the University of Minnesota Foundation, is the only hearing-related association in the world that has an international focus.

Board of Directors: Brad Birnberg, President; Richard Kleber, CFM, Vice-President; Michael M. Paparella, M.D., Secretary and Treasurer; Treva Paparella, Executive Director. Board: Tani and William F. Austin, William Avery, D.O., Sebahattin Cureoglu, M.D., Oleg Froymovich, M.D., Frank Grovenstein, James D. Hainlen, Ph.D., Jantze Haley, Steve Juhn, M.D., David Lieberman, CIMA, Robert Margolis, Ph.D., Mark Paparella, Matthew Patterson, M.D., Elizabeth Payne, M.D., Patricia Porter, Brandon Sawalich, Joseph P. White, CPA, Bevan Yueh, M.D. IHF Event Coordinator: Tim Miller. Medical/Research Advisory Board: David J. Lim, M.D., House Ear Institute; Joseph M. Miller, Ph.D., Kresge Hearing Institute, Hamed Sajjadi, M.D., San Jose Ear and Sinus Center.

Dr. Malick Diop thanks IHF

Dear Michael, Treva & IHF,

You changed my life and the life of hundreds of African doctors and thousands of African patients. Having decided to go to the University of Minnesota in the deep winter in 1989 was surely a decision inspired by God. I cannot forget the warm welcome and the friendship that prevailed during my year of learning. I can never forget the true help brought to my country. I thank you, Michael,

Treva and all the members of the International Hearing Foundation, but also your family. Be sure that I consider you a role model for me.

—Malick Diop



Bill and Tani Austin of the Starkey Hearing Foundation with Dr. Diop at his clinic.

Marlys Soderberg Meniere's & Tinnitus Support Group



At a recent meeting held at the IHF office in Minneapolis, support group member heard from speakers Monika Schachern (above, left), and Tamika Kennedy (center), pictured above with Rosie Hulse-Larson (right), support group leader.

Remembering Ginny Hansen, IHF Editor



Virginia "Ginny" Eleanor Anderson Hansen, born on May 23, 1941 to Douglas A. Anderson and Eleanor M. Anderson in St. Paul, died in her home on Aug. 10. Friends and family celebrated her life Aug. 17 at the Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. She was a long-time editor for Dr. Michael Paparella and the International Hearing Foundation.

Ginny worked as a freelance editor since 1985. She previously worked at the University of Minnesota for various departments including Oral Pathology/Genetics and Otolaryngology. While working as foreign operations manager at the American Abroad Travel Agency, she traveled extensively. She earned a B.A. from at Macalester College in 1962 and pursued graduate studies at the University of Minnesota. She was a member

of Macalester's Heritage Society and Scottish St. Andrews Society.

Throughout her career, Ginny edited many authors' work, especially writers of medical references who practice all over the world. Locally, her editing clients included from Regions Hospital, 3M, the International Hearing Foundation and the Minnesota Ear Head & Neck Clinic, plus faculty and resident/graduate student work as well as manuscripts, poetry and other publications. She was a member of the Minnesota Independent Scholar's Forum, Agassiz Chapter, the City of Lakes Charter Chapter and the American Business Women's Association (ABWA), where she was voted ABWA woman of the year in 1980 and 1995 and ABWA's Top 10 Business Women in 1995 and 1999.

She authored "Notes of an Elder Caregiver" and other books, essays, poems and lyrics. She also wrote articles for the Minnesota Independent Scholars' Forum, American Medical Writers Journal, St. Andrews Society and others. She also served as the past-president of the North Central Chapter of the American Medical Writer's Association. She enjoyed membership in the Twin Cities Jazz Society and Minneapolis Institute of Arts. She was listed in the World Who's Who of Women in 1992 and in Strathmore's Who's Who in 2013. Lastly, she served as an elder at Central Presbyterian Church.

Ginny enjoyed entertaining in her 1902 home and yard and worked to conserve the home true to its period. She traced her ancestry and family tree and wrote a history of her family's origins. She had a fond affection for cats, music, antiques and books.

Her parents, her brother, Dean Anderson, and her friend, Gene Sullivan, preceded her in death. She is survived by her sister, Margaret Anderson, R.N., of Lebanon, Tenn., four nephews and their families, a niece, cousins and many well-loved friends. IHF appreciated her excellent work all these years and will miss her dearly.

We Get Letters

Dear IHF,

After reading your newsletter and holiday letter, I wanted to make a donation to IHF and say thank you for helping people to hear all over the world. I've been a patient through IHF for a couple of years, and thought it was time that I gave back for all you've done for me.

G.E.

Dear Mrs. Paparella,

I can't thank you and the IHF board enough for the new hearing aids that I received and how much better I'm able to hear now. Your generosity is so appreciated.

A.L.

To IHF:

My son, age four, is doing very well with his new hearing aids. Without your help, I'm not sure what we would have done. They have made a huge change in his personality.

J.A.

To IHF:

Thank you for the amazing gift of hearing for our daughter. She was struggling in school as well as with social settings. They have brought out a new person in her. We're so happy that we found out about IHF. Thank you for the gift of hearing.

Tim and Sharon





Dr. Michael Paparella, Dr. Richard Chole, and Treva Paparella at the 2014 AAO-HNSF meeting.

Paparella Award presented to Richard Chole at AAO-HNSF

Richard Chole, M.D., Ph.D., received the Paparella Award for Distinguished Research in Clinical Otolaryngology-Neurotology at the 2014 American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNSF Annual Meeting and OTO Expo in Orlando.

Chole is the Lindberg Professor and head of the Department of Otolaryngology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He holds joint appointments as Professor in the Department of Molecular Biology and Pharmacology and in Audiology and Communication Sciences. He is chief of Otolaryngology at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

He was the honorary guest lecturer at the conference, held Sept. 21-24, 2014. As the author of more than 200 scientific works, Chole is a highly sought after speaker on both national and international stages. He has been a principal investigator for the NIH since 1979. He earned his M.D. degree from the University of Southern California and completed a residency and fellowship at the University of Minnesota, where he earned his Ph.D. in Otolaryngology.



2014 AAO-HNSF Meeting

Kyoko Shirai (M.D., Japan) and Graciela Pepe (M.D., Argentina) enjoy the University of Minnesota reception at the 2014 AAO-HNSF Meeting in Orlando. Bevan Yueh, M.D. and chairman, Department of Ear, Nose & Throat at the University of Minnesota, hosted the reception.



Past IHF Fellow is President of Brazilian Otolaryngology Society

On Jan. 16, Sady Selaimen da Costa, M.D., Ph.D., became the new President of the Brazilian Otolaryngology Society. Dr. da Costa, an IHF Fellow, was a brilliant student under Dr. Michael Paparella while at the University of Minnesota.

Other IHF fellows have also held office in the BOS, including Marcelo Hueb also as president, Marcelo Piza as director of communication and Luiz de Sousa, as president of Otolaryngology. The ceremony was held at the Brazilian Society House.



Otopathology Lab Research Team Reunion

The Otopathology Lab at the University of Minnesota held a research team reunion in 2014. Team members, staff and their guests celebrated with dinner followed by a presentation of research papers published with the help of the Starkey Hearing Foundation.

Paparella Grand Rounds Lecture Held in May

On Monday, May 4, Leonard P. Ryback, M.D., Ph.D., was the guest lecturer at the Grand Rounds Lecture series at the University of Minnesota honoring Michael Paparella, M.D., of the International



Hearing Foundation. Ryback's lecture was titled "Novel Approaches to Prevent Cisplatin Ototoxicity." Bevan Yueh, M.D. and chair of the ENT department at the U of M, directed the Grand Rounds series and introduced Dr. Ryback.



Victoria Jordan receives the Hoff Award from IHF President Brad Birnberg (right), who was introduced by Robert Maisel, M.D.

Eivind Hoff Award

This year's winner of the Eivind Hoff Award for research is medical student Victoria Jordan. Her research, "Hearing Outcomes in Children with Cleft Palate and Referred Newborn Hearing Screening," was published in the April 18, 2014 Laryngoscope.

The International Hearing Foundation established this fund through the Minnesota Medical Foundation to recognize medical students for their superior research and writing in the areas of clinical or basic otology.

The award honors the memory of Eivind O. Hoff, the first executive director of the Minnesota Medical Foundation. Hoff joined the foundation in 1959 and served that position for 27 years. Following his retirement, he continued to work for nonprofit organizations, and at the time of his death, he was associated with the IHF.

The first award was presented in 1995. All undergraduate medical students at the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis are eligible to receive this award. The IHF congratulates Victoria Jordan.



UC-Irvine Meeting Brings IHF Fellows Together

IHF Fellows (L to R) Timothy Jung, M.D., Hamed Sajjadi, M.D., Hamid Djalilian, M.D., and Vanessa Rothholtz, M.D. with one of the guests of honor, Dr. Michael Paparella (center), at the University of California-Irvine meeting held in Palm Desert, Calif., in February 2014. Dr. Djalilian was program director for the meeting and invited other former IHF Fellows to participate in the meeting.

Meet Otopath Lab Staff Member Nicole Kwon



I enjoy research and teaching, which motivate and integrate my passion for medicine. In 1989, I came to Minnesota from South Korea to pursue a degree in medicine and science. I took the opportunity to study at the University of Minnesota for its excellent educational opportunity, and was excited about the challenge Mother Nature brings during the cold and snowy winters. During my undergraduate studies, I had an opportunity to learn what it takes to be a good conscientious scientific investigator.

Through my training as an undergraduate researcher in Dr. Robert Brambl's lab, I learned the need for persistence and patience in executing scientific research. Although frustrating at times, it was very stimulating and motivating and gave me a sense of pride as I contributed to the scientific progress that was taking place. I was lucky, and it was truly inspiring to see the whole process of a project being carried out. After completing my B.S. in genetics and cell biology, I had a 6-month practical training opportunity in Dr. Phillip Peterson's lab at the Minneapolis Medical Research Foundation. My research experience covered cell culture techniques, apoptosis and MTT assay, RNA extraction, and Northern hybridization.

My professional career began in South Korea as a teaching assistant at the department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine Keimyung University. I acquired numerous techniques including neuronal cell culture, electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA), RT-PCR, in situ RT-PCR, preparation of paraffin and frozen sections, immunohistochemistry, immunocytochemistry, confocal microscopy, etc.

I hold Master of Medicine in Pharmacology from Keimyung University, and I received Ph.D. in molecular medicine from Kosin University, South Korea. I have a broad background in pharmacology and molecular medicine, and have a genuine interest in finding therapeutic modalities to prevent and cure diseases. Throughout my career of 16 years in South Korea, I was involved in finding neuroprotective compounds against excitotoxicity of the brain utilizing my expertise in neuropharmacology and molecular medicine. I expanded my research to include bioanalytical method validation and pharmacokinetic studies using human plasma and urine samples. As PI or co-investigator, I carried out numerous bioequivalence studies and acquired expertise in analyzing pharmacokinetic parameters using HPLC and mass spectrometry. In addition, I taught medical pharmacology for more than 10 years and have earned trust and respect from medical and nursing students. I was nominated for "The Marquis Who's Who in the World" in 2009.

I joined the Otopathology Laboratory at the University of Minnesota in March 2014, and am currently working on development of a non-antibiotic therapeutic modality to combat residual/recurrent middle ear infections. The preliminary results on the photodynamic effect of 405 nm visible light against pneumococcal otitis media have been submitted for a provisional patent application with 3M Corporation. I am also preparing a R21 NIH grant to further investigate the selective efficacy of antimicrobial photodynamic effect of 405 nm visible light against otitis media. In addition, I am pursuing an interdisciplinary collaboration to eradicate biofilm formation in otitis media.

Meet New Board Member Dr. William Avery



I would like to thank the IHF board for allowing me to participate in this vitally important organization. As a practicing otolaryngologist for more than 25 years, I have seen with great regularity both the distress suffered by patients with hearing and balance disorders as well as the joy and relief expressed by those who have benefitted from successful treatment. Advances in otology have positively affected the full spectrum of human development, from infancy to advanced age, over the last several decades.

Few fields of medical endeavor have such a broad impact on the population as a whole. The research and translational applications supported by the IHF are increasingly important in a time of decreasing national investment in medical projects that may not have an immediate financial return. I hope to assist the board as it guides IHF into the future.

I currently practice with the Paparella Ear, Head and Neck Institute. Prior to moving to Minnesota I was a member of the Sanford ENT department in Sioux Falls, S.D. My wife, Catherine, is a pediatric neuropsychologist working with Fraser in Minneapolis. We have four children, now found in California, Texas and Minnesota. We are happily ensconced in an old farmhouse in Minnetonka.

Dr. Steven Juhn, IHF Board Member



Dr. Steven Juhn holds M.D and M.S. degrees from South Korea and a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Düsseldorf in Germany. Steven also spent a year

in Bologna, Italy as a research fellow of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. Steven was invited to join the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Minnesota when Dr. Michael Paparella became the chairman of the department in the late 1960s.

Steven explored new areas of research, namely the biochemical aspect of middle ear and inner ear disease, and became the leading expert in this area. He extensively studied the biochemical nature of the middle ear fluid in otitis media and assessed the effect of the antimicrobial treatment. He also studied and reported the existence and the biochemical nature of the blood-labyrinth barrier for the first time in the literature.

He also took the initiative of establishing the graduate program for otolaryngology residents at the University of Minnesota where students could acquire either Master's or Ph.D. degrees by being involved in research activities during and after the residency. He served as the director of the graduate program and contributed to training academic otolaryngologists with the support of chairman Dr. Paparella. The program attracted not only superb candidates from the United States, but also attracted excellent foreign candidates who were also accepted as residents in the program. Many of the graduates of the program are contributing as leaders and academic otolaryngologists throughout the country and abroad.

When Dr. Paparella initiated the International Hearing Foundation (IHF), Steven naturally became a member of the board. Dr. Juhn states, "It is indeed a privilege to serve the organization that plays an important role to promote the improvement of hearing loss in many ways throughout the world."

Dr. Juhn continues to maintain close relationship with Dr. Paparella, and they refer to each other as "fratello", meaning "brother" in Italian. Clearly, their relationship has been special both personally and professionally. IHF is grateful for Dr. Juhn's work.

**23rd ANNUAL
IHF GOLF CLASSIC
and Silent Auction**

August 10, 2015
11 a.m. Buffet and Program
Crystal Lake Golf Club, Lakeville MN

Please call 612-339-2120 for a brochure/registration materials; \$375 (individual) to \$10,000 (major sponsor). IHF's annual Golf Classic would not be possible without the dozens of volunteers who help coordinate this event.



Longtime supporters of the IHF Golf Classic, Mr. and Mrs. Walt Balek, pictured with IHF Past-President David Lieberman, attended the 2014 Golf Classic. Walt died in January 2015, and his memory and support of IHF will live on in our hearts.



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We need your help to implement International Hearing Foundation (IHF) programs. Please make your check payable to the International Hearing Foundation and mail to 701 25th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55454.

Here is my contribution in support of better hearing.

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