



A newsletter of the International Hearing Foundation Fund of the
University of Minnesota Foundation
Spring 2013

earTALK

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

**May is
Better Hearing Month**

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42nd Congress met in Brazil, Nov. 14-17

Dr. and Mrs. Michael Paparella were invited guests of the 42nd Congress of the Brazilian Association of Otorhinolaryngological and Cervico-Facial Surgery in Recife, Brazil. Marcelo Hueb, M.D. (former IHF Fellow) was president of this meeting and presented the plaque to Dr. Paparella (photo, fourth from the left). Marcelo Toledo Piza, M.D. (second from left), Sady daCosta, M.D. (fifth from left) and Luiz DeSouza, M.D. (sixth from left), all former students of Dr. Paparella and IHF Fellows, hold offices within this organization and in their respective universities.



Also attending the meeting were other former students of Dr. Paparella and IHF Fellows, including Dr. Marcos

Goycoolea of Chile (far left), Dr. Carlos Ruah of Portugal (far right), Dr. Jorge Spratley of Portugal, Dr. Carlos Oliveira of Brazil, Dr. Adriano Meira, Dr. Daniel Barros deRezende, Dr. Leticia Rosita, Dr. Laura Proto deSiquera, Dr. Inesangela Canali, Dr. Andre Sampaio, and Dr. Renato Correa. Dr. Paparella was honored by his students in the closing ceremonies.

Paparella Award Winner & Lecture



Dr. Joseph Nadol (top photo, left) professor and chairman of Harvard, was the 2012 recipient of the Paparella Award, shown with Treva and Michael Paparella. His talk was presented at the 2012 meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology, in Washington D.C. last September.



From left: Brad Birnberg, VP, IHF, Dr. Steven Juhn, Dr. Michael Paparella, Dr. Thomas Balkany, Dr. Sam Levine, Dr. Bevan Yueh, Chair of ENT Dept., David Lieberman, IHF President.

Dr. Thomas Balkany M.D., FACS, FAAP, professor and chairman emeritus, University of Miami, gave the Paparella Lecture sponsored by IHF at the University of Minnesota on May 6, 2013. His lecture was titled, "Three decades of conservation of residual hearing during cochlear implantation."

IHF Receives Starkey Foundation Grant



IHF is the recipient of a research grant from Starkey Foundation. This grant will be used to focus on diseases of the inner ear in children as well as in adults. IHF thanks Bill and Tani Austin (photo, left) of the Starkey Foundation for this wonderful, needed grant.

**IHF Fellows: Please send your
email address to
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

has a three-fold mission: otological service, education, 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: David A. Lieberman, CIMA, President; Bradley Birnberg, Vice-President; Michael M. Paparella, M.D., Secretary and Treasurer; Treva Paparella, Executive Director. **Board:** Tani and William F. Austin, Sebahattin Cureoglu, M.D., Trac Duong, M.D., Oleg Froymovich, M.D., Frank Grovenstein, James D. Hainlen, Ph.D., Jantze Haley, Steve Juhn, M.D., Richard Kleber, CFM, Robert Margolis, Ph.D., Matthew Patterson, M.D., Elizabeth Payne, M.D., Patricia Porter, Brandon Sawalich, Joseph P. White, CPA, Bevan Yueh, M.D., Sandy Zutz-Wiczek. **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.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

We are losing one of earth's greatest biological treasures, just as we are beginning to appreciate its true value. Rainforests once covered 14% of the earth's land surface. Now they cover a mere 6%, and experts estimate that the last rainforests could be gone in as few as 40 years. This is shocking to most of us.

Now let me bring to your attention another treasure that is at risk of being lost. The specialty of otolaryngology is on the verge of losing its ability to examine the pathology of the human ear. Fortunately, Dr. Paparella with the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) has initiated an Otopathology Task Force. It includes some of its key members in the United States: the Professor and Chairman of the Harvard department, a professor from Stanford University, Washington University, and several others. Dr. Paparella chose one of his past residents, Dr. Rich Chole, Chairman at Washington University, St. Louis, as Chairman of the Task Force, and Dr. Michael Kenna, Professor at Harvard, as co-chairman.

There is great enthusiasm on the part of all members of the Task Force

who met. The purpose was to create an endowment through the AAO-HNS, initiated by Dr. Paparella, to identify and promote the study of otopathology nationwide.

This is critically important because there are only three such laboratories in the world. We have one of the two largest, here at the University of Minnesota, but there should be a hundred, if not thousands. Pathology is studied in every hospital in the world for every field of medicine except for ear diseases. Otopathology is the best method for understanding the diagnosis and treatment of hundreds of ear diseases that can incapacitate patients.

My point is that we risk losing this treasure as well. Without grants from NIH and the Starkey Foundation and friends of IHF, our Minnesota lab will disappear as well. We hope you'll consider helping IHF keep this treasure. Thank you for listening, so that others may hear.

—David Lieberman, IHF President



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The International Hearing Foundation, IHF, has benefitted from the generous giving of thousands of supporters like you. Thank you for that commitment and for the financial support that has been so critical to both the progress of research and our ability to advance our missions. Right now, more than ever, we need to continue our progress. In 2012 we funded more research than we ever have before in one year, and we appealed to the government to allocate unprecedented amounts to research on temporal bones, through grants from the NIH (National Institutes of Health).

The leaps forward that are propelling us toward cures must be continued. We must not lose our hard-won momentum now. Our research is critical to the many who suffer from Meniere's, tinnitus, otitis media, and other ear diseases. I am turning to you to ask for your help in our fundraising efforts. We remain committed to our missions and goals of funding innovative research and advocating to the NIH to do the same on behalf of our patients. We must ensure that the promised research to find cures will not end. From all of us at IHF, thank you for your continued support

—Trevia Paparella, Executive Director



Board Member Patty Porter

Patty has served as Vice President of Development, Medicine and Health, for the University of Minnesota Foundation (formerly the Minnesota Medical Foundation) for five years, overseeing six teams of development officers as well as prospect-management, research, campaign operations, and staff who write grant-proposals. Patty leads the planning and management of the Medicine and Health Visions 2017 Initiative to raise \$1B for the medical school, the School of Public Health, and the Masonic Cancer Center.

Prior to coming to UMF, she worked for six years at the University of Wisconsin Foundation in Madison, which recently completed Create the Future, a \$1.8B fundraising campaign. As senior director of the UW Foundation's health and life sciences development team, she was involved in fundraising for the UW hospital and

children's hospital, medical school, cancer center, and cardiovascular research center as well as UW's nursing and veterinary medicine programs. Previously, Patty spent ten years at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, where she was Assistant Vice President for Development with responsibility for annual giving, corporate and foundation relations, major and campaign gifts, planned giving, the president's council, and development services.

Patty holds a B.A. in communication from Purdue University, where she graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta kappa. She obtained her Master's Degree in management



from Purdue's Krannert Graduate School of Management. She has a deep passion for health and medical advancement. "I am inspired every day by the physicians I work with, like Dr. Michael Paparella, who are caregivers, researchers, and teachers. It is a privilege to know Michael and Trevia as professional colleagues and personal friends. I have been honored to be on the IHF Board since I came to Minnesota. I believe that hearing is a precious gift that enriches our lives. I admire all that Dr. Paparella has done to protect and enhance hearing and the legacy of research and new knowledge he has built and shared across the world."

Paparella, Hoff Awards



Noel Jabbour, M.D., and Heather Weinreich, M.D.

PAPARELLA AWARD

This year for the first time we have Co-winners of the Paparella Clinical Otolological Award.

The authors are Noel Jabbour, M.D., and Heather Weinreich, M.D. Their research was titled “Do Noisy Toys Get Louder After You Bring Them Home from the Store? Their faculty advisors were Dr. Sam Levine and Dr. Bevan Yueh. Congratulations Noel and Heather on your hard work and on this award.

HOFF AWARD

Medical student Alex Marstan won the 2012 Eivind Hoff Award. His research was on “Airway Management for Intubation in Newborns with Pierre Robin Sequence.”

Marstan presented his paper at the Triological Society meeting, and it has also been accepted by the Laryngoscope. We appreciate the hard work you put into your research paper, Alex.



Eivind Hoff Award recipient Alex Marstan and Dr. Michael Paparella.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Paparella,

It was a true honor to receive the Eivind Hoff Award and I am very appreciative of the monetary scholarship. Thank you for allowing me to visit the Paparella Ear, Head and Neck Institute. It was a pleasure meeting you, and I enjoyed hearing about the work of the International Hearing Foundation. Having done HIV research at L’Hopital Fann in Dakar, Senegal, I was especially interested to learn about Dr. Malick Diop. I hope to one day return to Senegal as an otolaryngologist, and I am excited to get involved in international medical outreach and education.

—Best wishes, Alex Marstan

Thank You Notes from Grateful Patients

Thank you for the hearing care you have given to myself and my daughter Rose Sommerfeld Dominguez over the years. It started with your 2005 surgery that restored much of my lost hearing following a car accident and has enabled me to continue working as a real estate agent. Following my surgery you encouraged Rose, then 16, to wear hearing aids and you have been caring for her ever since. Rose went from being completely socially isolated and depressed to much more happy and outgoing. At 23 she has completed high school, completed a two-year AA degree and a CNA certification. She is also happily married with two little boys. It is our gratitude to you that has motivated my husband Jim and I to continue contributing to the Hearing Foundation over the years as we are able.

M.S.

Dear IHF Board of Directors,

Words can not express our most sincere thank you for what you’ve done to help our son. Because of you...he can hear. As a parent, it was so hard to see him struggle in school, due to his hearing loss ... and then we heard about IHF. He now is doing well in and out of school because of the hearing aids that you provided him.

Thank you, S. Mitchell

Dear Mrs. Paparella,

Thank you to IHF and the board of directors for helping our daughter to hear. We are so grateful for your organization. Without your help, our daughter would have remained locked in her own non-hearing world. We so appreciate you and all you did to help us.

Sincerely, K. Smith

Because of you and your foundation...our son can hear. Unless you’ve been in this situation, you can not begin to understand the overwhelming feeling to see your child hear, whether it was hearing my voice, or the sounds around him ... an amazing moment.

Thank you! A. Hollister

Why Should I Support IHF?

- Because there is still a stigma attached to hearing loss in our society that prevents those with hearing loss from seeking help.
- Because 36 million Americans have hearing loss and they don’t know what is there to help them, where to go to have their hearing tested, and how to adjust to living with hearing loss.
- Because hearing loss is a leading concern of public health, third in line to heart disease and arthritis. Screening and prevention of hearing loss is key.



Otopathology Lab Staff and Treva Paparella, IHF.

- Because when someone has a hearing loss, it affects everyone with whom they interact—family, co-workers, friends, neighbors. We all need to understand the impact hearing loss has on self-esteem and lifestyle, and how to communicate with someone who has a hearing loss.

Letter from Senegal, West Africa

I arrived for the first time in Minneapolis in January 1989, directly from the Sahara desert. The weather was cold at the Twin Cities airport, but the welcome by Sherry Fulton, Chief Technician at the Otopathology Lab of the University of Minnesota, sent by Professor Michael Paparella for this purpose, was rather warm. Soon after, in the afternoon, I met the great man in his office at the Minnesota Ear Head and Neck Clinic (MEHNC) in Minneapolis. Needless to day I was impressed by his



Bill and Tani Austin of the Starkey Foundation with Dr. Malick Diop voice, his face, the kindness of his look, his charisma. A few months before he had sent a response letter allowing me to spend some time in complementary training under his supervision. Until then, I only knew two things of him: his yellow book, that we called in France “the Paparella,” and the ear tube called a Paparella tube, a wonderful tool for treatment of otitis media.

I was far from thinking that I was to spend a memorable year of enriching knowledge. I learned from Prof. Paparella that, following the Chinese proverb, “it is better to teach someone how to fish than to give him a fish every day.” He has trained hundreds of doctors from so many countries throughout the world. Treva, his charming wife, was very supportive to every Fellow. I personally think that during and after my Minnesota stay I am one of the most spoiled among the Fellows. Through the generous actions of the Paparellas and jointly with Rotary International, many Fellows came to Senegal (West Africa). They showed talent, taste, competence, and commitment.

Drs. Oleg Froymovich and Matthew Patterson came many times to Senegal. I am still wondering what sent me to Minnesota, to its University Otopathology Laboratory, its MEHNC, its International Hearing Foundation, its St. Mary’s

Hospital. Only God can answer those questions. One thing I am sure of is that I am deeply grateful to the IHF and to the Paparellas.

In December 1989, ending my first and unforgettable stay in Minnesota, I went to the suburbs of Minneapolis to visit the headquarters of Starkey Company. As in January, the weather was just cold. I visited the headquarters during a whole morning, but did not see Mr. Bill Austin, the man “who created Starkey and who does well by doing good” (USA Today). I left the headquarters with a T-shirt showing these magnificent words: “Your hearing is our concern.” Many years later, I live the reality of these words. I had to wait until September 2003 before seeing the great Bill Austin. It was in a nightclub in Orlando FL, on the occasion of a celebration for Dr. Paparella. Treva was introducing participants with a great sense of organization, and Michael was playing trumpet. Bill was, as he is today, a fascinating man. He did not say a word, just smiled and enjoyed the company. In 2008, at another celebration party for Dr. Paparella in a hotel in Minneapolis, I did hear Bill Austin’s voice. But he was astonishingly present.

So came the year 2011. During one week, hundreds of patients came to our Department, full of hope, for registration as candidates for access to free hearing aids. Many of the patients do live with less than \$2 a day. After months of waiting, we started Starkey Hearing Foundation’s Phase 2 in November 2012. The precious tools arrived, along with the great Bill, his fabulous team, and his plane. He came for the first time to a French-speaking



Bill Austin, Tani Austin (foreground, right) and a team with the Starkey Foundation delivered more than 2,250 hearing aids to Dr. Malick Diop (far left) for his Senegal, West Africa clinic.

country in Africa. His charming wife Tani was a member of the group. They brought and gave us more than 2250 hearing aids, but they showed talent and taste, competence, enthusiasm, and solidarity. Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, and his wife Mareme welcomed the Austins. They expressed to the Austins and to Starkey Hearing Foundation the gratitude of the whole country of Senegal. I personally add my admiration of the whole group. Bill Austin made me understand that he was eager to help, assist and serve. We both agree that “the measure of a life is not its duration but its donation” (Peter Marshall). Mr. Derek Johnson offered me a new T-shirt with the following meaningful sentence: “So the world may hear.” I have decided to keep it jealously.

Last February, with Derek and local aides, we experimented with Starkey Hearing Foundation’s Phase 3, aimed at consolidating results. More than 600 showed up, full of gratitude. Encouraged by those results, I have just sent to Rene Perez-Bode of the Foundation a big box containing the impression molds.

A Senegalese proverb says that, literally, “only a dime can go with a dime.” This means that “birds of a feather flock together.” Michael Paparella and Bill Austin share a common approach to human comprehension and of the world. They go together, along with their wives Treva and Tani, along with the International Hearing Foundation and the Starkey Hearing Foundation. Senegal can be proud to be a part of their concern.

– Dr. Malick Diop

Meet Dr. Vianna, IHF Fellow

Hi! My name is Melissa Vianna. I am from Brazil and work at Santa Casa of São Paulo School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor. Besides seeing patients, especially with otologic diseases, and performing surgeries, I also teach at the medical school and assist in training residents in the Otorhinolaryngology Department. I first came to Minnesota in the summer of 2010, spent only one week, and met Dr. and Mrs. Paparella and staff at the Otopathology Lab. Despite the short time, it was enough of make me want to come back for a little longer. So I started my Ph.D. and came to do part of my research here.

That is how I ended up spending a year in Minnesota as a research Fellow at the Otopathology Lab. I can only describe it as an amazing year! I arrived in the middle of winter. It was not easy...and yes, it was freezing cold, but other than that everything was incredible. The research I did here for my Ph.D. thesis was an original study about 3D reconstruction of the facial nerve in patients with a history of facial paralysis compared to normal. The work at the lab was hard but very pleasing, especially when we look at the accomplishments. And most important I think was the life experience. Living

one year abroad somewhere where you know no one, different language, different culture, can be scary. But it wasn't. I met the most wonderful people and had a great time! I cannot say enough thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Paparella for welcoming me here and making me really feel a part of this big family.



—Dr. Melissa Vianna

Meniere's Support Group Moves to Amplatz Hospital

For the next year or more, the Marlys Soderberg Support Group for Meniere's and Tinnitus meets first Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. - noon, at Amplatz Hospital. Ask the information desk to direct you to Dining Room A.

Speakers have included physicians, audiologists, lawyers, chiropractors, physical therapists, hypnotherapists.

The group is for patients and their families. Online support is through durnilw@yahoo.com, who requests that inquirers also please see the group's Facebook page.



Above, Monique Hammond and IHF support group speaker Dr. Steve Juhn.

Meet Monika Schachern, IHF Lab

Monika has called the Twin Cities home for the past four years, yet her true home will always be where she was born and raised, State College PA, best known as being the home of Penn State University. It is no wonder she has a passion for football. Throughout high school she was involved in many activities from marching band to thespians, her favorite being the Kiwanis-sponsored community service Key Club. While attending Penn State, Monika continued in the Kiwanis family by joining the collegiate-level club named Circle K. She found volunteering and community service to be so rewarding that she went on to various leadership roles within the organization including District Secretary and

finally District Governor, the highest office in the PA District of Circle K.

Deciding she needed a change, at age 24 Monika and her cat Tabitha moved to Las Vegas. Monika worked at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, which was an exciting dream come true, considering her love of music. However after nearly five years, Monika determined that she had had enough of the hot desert sun, and the pull of family brought her (and of course Tabitha) to the Midwest. After her move, Monika began interning and eventually training under Carolyn



Dear Dr. Paparella,

I thank you so much for your kind words. They mean more than I can express. It has been a long road and, as you know, the journey into the world of hearing loss never ends. Often held hostage by tinnitus, I have gotten a lot of comfort from our support group meetings, and I thank the IHF for sponsoring us.

Throughout my professional career, I have always been a big believer in prevention, and that has not changed. Alarmed by the explosion of noise-induced cases of hearing loss, I have taken to doing community presentations.

Where will this new adventure take me? I do not know, but it is time to give back to a country that has been good to me. Again, thank you so much, and God Bless you and Treva.

Sincerely,
Monique Hammond

Sutherland in the Human Temporal Bone Laboratory. Since Carolyn's retirement, Monika has taken over all duties as the technician and lab manager. Her responsibilities in the lab vary and are numerous, from tissue-processing and preparation of slides to administration and inventory to microphotography and manuscript editing, all of which she finds to be a balance of interesting, challenging, and fulfilling. Her utmost respect for the legacy of the lab motivates her to maintain the amazing worldwide reputation that the otopathology lab holds.

GOLF CLASSIC is Aug. 12; Matt Blair Retires After 22 Years as IHF Fundraiser

Don't miss the 21st ANNUAL IHF GOLF CLASSIC and Silent Auction, Aug. 12, 2013, 12:30 p.m., at Crystal Lake Golf Club in Lakeville Minnesota. Please call 612-339-2120 for a brochure and registration materials. Fees are \$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.



Top: Matt Blair retires after 22 years as IHF Fundraiser, seen here at the 2012 Golf Classic with IHF's Treva Paparella and Dennis Haley, DDS, (far right) whose team won the 2012 Classic. Right: Volunteers include IHF fellows, Otopathology lab staff and friends, who coordinate the annual Golf Classic, IHF's major fundraising event.



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Here is my contribution in support of better hearing.

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