Introduction

This is the second Newsletter. It is the aim of the ISA by this newsletter to enhance communication on new developments within the Society and its affiliated members and to realize an international voice of Audiology.

We are very happy that Siemens is supporting this initiative by sponsoring the distribution of the newsletter for this year. We will show our appreciation by showing this add in the newsletter:

**SIEMENS**

*This newsletter courtesy of Siemens Hearing Instruments.*

In the first newsletter we reported on the changes in the laws and bylaws of the Society. The newest developments in this respect will be presented.

In the time between the two newsletters affiliation was discussed with two regional Societies, the PanAmerican Society of Audiology (PASA) and the European Federation of Audiology Societies (EFAS). Both Societies decided to join the ISA. The cover of the journal Audiology will reflect this change in due time by showing the logos of PASA and EFAS next to the ISA logo. Members of PASA will be informed in Spanish about the contents of Audiology.

Next to this, negotiations were started with national Societies. The first contacts were established with the American Auditory Association (AAA) and the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA). We hope to finish these negotiations shortly.

At the meeting of the General Assembly of the ISA at Bari new Statutes of the ISA were adopted under the restriction that they had to be approved by a lawyer to check for compliance with Swiss law. This consultation has taken place and its consequences have been realized in a new set of Statutes and Rules.

Statutes and Rules of The International Society of Audiology

*Hans Verschuure, secretary-general ISA*

Our Swiss lawyer suggested to split up the Statutes as they were adopted at the General Assembly meeting in Bari into new Statutes that were not very specific on many procedural matters and into Rules that were more detailed in procedural matters. The reason to do so is that a change in Statutes requires a lot of effort, first of all according to our own rules in order to announce the change at an early stage and to get enough support from the General Assembly; furthermore new statutes have to reported to the authorities and are checked for legality. This requirement is far less strict for a change in the Rules.

Next to this quite important change he suggested changes in the Statutes in order to be eligible for tax exemption status. Once this is accepted in Switzerland it will also be applicable in other countries. This opens up the possibility to leave money to the Society by will. Next it will also open the pos-
sibility to cooperate with other organizations that have a comparable goal and are recognized as such by local authorities.

Some further minor changes were suggested that had to do with the split up between Statutes and Rules and in the wording of certain articles.

The changes have now been made and the new Statutes and Rules will be mailed to you. In the mean time we will apply for tax exemption status in Switzerland.

The new Statutes and Rules will have consequences that will be visible at the next General Assembly meeting in Buenos Aires. First of all different membership status will be introduced and new affiliated members will be represented in Buenos Aires. Another change will be the acceptance of people working in the field of Audiology without a University degree as associate members. If you know of somebody eligible to this status and with interest to become a member, please, take the necessary steps to get her or him enrolled as associate members. As a consequence of these changes the members of the council will be elected in Buenos Aires according to a new procedure in which elections are based on different membership status and for the full members according to region. Next a number of (standing) committees will be set up dealing with management of the Society, its publications and with the organization of the congresses.

All members are asked to read the new Statutes and Rules attentively and suggest names for members who can serve on these committees.

The financial position of the International Society of Audiology could be affected by the change of publishers. Uncertainties of the future were at hand.

Report on Audiology

Hans Verschuure, Rotterdam, the Netherlands and Jean-Marie Aran, Bordeaux, France

A change of publishers always holds a risk of losing subscriptions, authors submitting papers and advertisers. Our change from Karger to Decker held all those risks. In this report we want to inform you on what has happened in the transition.

We felt the transition was necessary because of the high costs involved in using the, in quality terms, excellent services of Karger and the rather formal and not market-oriented approach to subscribers.

In the change we encountered the problem that Karger decided to launch a new journal for the same reader group. This journal could officially not be launched as a continuation of Audiology because Audiology was owned by the ISA. Nevertheless, they used the address database to launch the journal. Their invoice for the new Journal, sent to the librarians who had been subscribers to Audiology, indicated the new journal as “formerly Audiology”. As a result many libraries “continued” their subscription but not to the correct journal. We lost about 500 subscribers this way.

The policy of Karger should be condemned. Unfortunately litigation would be lengthy, costly and perhaps counterproductive. We rather prefer straight competition. For this we ask the support of the members. Please, tell your librarian that a change has taken place and that the continuation of Audiology is still available, only from a different publisher.

The citation in Current Contents, by which authors can earn publication points, lies with Audiology. Publications in the other journal can not earn you points at present. Next to that, Audiology as published by its present publisher is much cheaper, also to institutions.

The financial results of Audiology show a drop in income. If compared to the budget, this is mainly due to the loss of institutional subscribers. We therefore need your personal support to counteract Karger’s misinformation to librarians. Decker will also start a campaign to this effect.

The number of papers also seemed to drop in the beginning of 1996. This happened again at the beginning of this year. Fortunately the two dips in the number of submitted papers were only temporary and they have been followed by an increased number somewhat later. The total number of submitted papers over 1996 was even somewhat higher than in the latter years of publication by Karger. The quality of the papers seem to go up and the rejection rate seems to go down. Delay in publication is small at present because of the stress Decker puts on regular appearance of Audiology.

Please help us make Audiology the real voice of the Audiological world in scientific terms. It is your journal; it has a high standard and can earn you good publication points. Use it and promote it.
Send your manuscript for Audiology to the Editor in chief, Dr. J.-M. Aran, Audiologie Expérimentale, Hôpital Pellegrin, F-33076 Bordeaux, France, e-mail: jean-marie.aran@bordeaux.inserm.fr or for the Americas to Dr. R.S. Tyler, Associate Editor, The University of Iowa Department of Otolaryngology--Head & Neck Surgery, 200 Hawkins Drive C21-3GH, Iowa City IA 52242-1078 USA, e-mail rich-tyler@uiowa.edu

The ISA has a strong link with Hearing International as a founding organization together with IFOS in order to promote ear- and hear care throughout the world. In this respect we distribute the HI newsletter to all of you, but we also want to report on developments in this respect. This report announces the establishment of a WHO center for the prevention of deafness in Copenhagen, Denmark

WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR THE PREVENTION OF DEAFNESS AND HEARING IMPAIRMENT IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Agnete Parving, director Copenhagen Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

Late January 1997 the Audiological Department in Copenhagen was designated as WHO Collaborating Centre for the Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Impairment. The department is incorporated in the Bispebjerg Hospital designated as a model for preventative measures within the Copenhagen Hospital Corporation H:S.

1 The terms of reference are:
• To participate actively in the development of activities for the prevention of hearing impairment, with special emphasis on:
• the assessment of hearing disorders of public health importance, particularly in children
2 the promotion of the integration of ear care services into primary health care programs
3 To provide facilities for the training of personnel at different professional levels, especially from developing countries. Emphasis will be put on the training in prevention of hearing impairment for specialist and public health personnel.
4 To conduct applied field research on the epidemiology, management and operational aspects of avoidable hearing impairment. Specific activities to be carried out within this context will be worked out on a biennial basis.
5 To foster a multidisciplinary approach to the promotion of ear care and its delivery to all.

6 To participate in the collection, elaboration and distribution of pertinent information.
7 To provide, on request, the advisory services and expertise which might be required.

A recently founded experimental laboratory equipped to perform electrophysiologic tests and to record oto-acoustic emissions is intended to reduce the gap between basic and clinical research. Experienced experimental researchers on e.g. sabbatical leave with available funds are welcome to work in the laboratory and use its facilities in collaboration with researchers in the department. Those with interest, please, contact Professor Agnete Parving, Department of Audiology, Bispebjerg Hospital H:S, DK 2400 Copenhagen NV.

The high prevalence of hearing impairment and its devastating consequences for the quality of life emphasizes the need for priorities within prevention of deafness and hearing impairment.

The hospital and the department are looking forward to the collaboration with other designated WHO Centers for the Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Impairment, and also to extend the extensive international contacts already established in the department.

One of the HI-recognized centers that is very active is located in Costa Rica. The major part of the first stage of an inventory study of the prevalence of hearing impairment is in its final phase. A report by one of its directors.

Prevalence of hearing impairment in Costa Rican schoolchildren
Juan J. Madriz, MD, San Jose, Costa Rica

The first ever Costa Rican study on prevalence of hearing impairment in a school-age population is being conducted in this Central American country since February 1996. The initiative was supported by the Ministry of Health (where our Costa Rica HI/IFOS/ISA Center operates), the Ministry of Education and the University of Costa Rica. It was done in cooperation with the Hearing Research Institute of the University of Nottingham (UK), the National Institute for Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD-NIH) (USA) and the Nova Scotia Hearing & Speech Clinic (Canada). Other domestic and international agencies, companies and individuals also contributed to this study. The data collecting phase of this study has been successfully completed now. A statistical sample of 12.660 chil-
dren from 250 elementary schools all over the country were screened for the first time. A full audiological assessment was done of all the "fails" to obtain a diagnosis and define the true hearing status. A questionnaire was designed and 500 known deaf children, enrolled in government schools and classes for the deaf, were asked to complete these questionnaires. Currently the study is in its final phase, during which any other deaf child who is not receiving educational help from the establishment is identified. A preliminary report on this study was presented at the AAA meeting in Fort Lauderdale last April and during the meeting of PASA held at the same time.

The analysis of the large database has just begun and we hope to be able to present the results in the following months. We are not aware of any other fully and truly "national" prevalence study of this kind in Latin America. Prof. George T. Mencher, Ph.D. from Halifax (Canada) and Dr. Juan J. Madriz, MD. from San Jose (Costa Rica) are the directors of this project.

The third European Conference on Audiology has taken place in Prague, Czech Republic between 18 and 21 June 1997. It has established a line of meetings after the first conference in Cambridge, UK in 1992 and the second one in Nooordwijkerhout, the Netherlands in 1995. The acting President of EFAS during the meeting sent his report.

Report from EFAS and European activities

Stig Arlinger, past chairman of EFAS

The Third European Conference on Audiology has just ended. It was organized in Prague, Czech Republic, during the period 18 - 21 June and attracted a record attendance of close to 550 participants. The local organization represented five national professional societies and the Academy of Sciences. The chairman was Prof. Josef Syka and the vice chair-person was Dr Jarka Prihodova. Through their outstanding efforts they made the event into a positive and valuable experience.

Some 170 presentations were given by invited speakers and by a large number of participants in three parallel sessions as contributed papers. An additional 50 posters were presented. The conference hosted an exhibition where European as well as non-European manufacturers showed their products. The social program included a chamber music concert in one of Prague's old churches and a banquet at the old Brevnov Monastery grounds.

In connection with the conference three major joint European concerted action programs in the field of audiology met and presented an updated review of their work concerning hearing tests in new-born babies, noise-induced hearing loss and genetic hearing impairment.

EFAS held its General Assembly. The chair's term of office expired and Stig Arlinger was succeeded by René Dauman from Bordeaux, France. Einar Laukli from Tromsö, Norway, was elected as the new vice-chair and Kunigunde Welz-Müller from Innsbruck, Austria, was elected Member-at-large. Jonathan Hazell was reelected honorary secretary of EFAS. The next General Assembly will be organized in Milan, Italy on May 17, 1998 in connection with the European Consensus Development Conference on Neonatal Hearing Screening to be held there 15 - 16 May.

Further decisions were made with regard to amongst others, a logo. A Czech designer had designed a logo for the conference which EFAS after some modifications intends to acquire as the EFAS logo. It was also decided that EFAS would join ISA as an affiliated member. The logo will be presented on the cover of Audiology. Further information on the meeting of the General Assembly can be found on EFAS's webpage, www.efas.org.

Both during the meeting of the General Assembly and the conference, much attention was given to the training of personnel involved in Audiology. The history and the face of audiology differs so much from country to country. The importance of knowing how a training program in one country compares to that in another country was found to be essential. This point is the more important because of the change the medical services go through in many central and eastern European countries. Differences in view and differences in customs can hinder new developments. In order to do another step forward a Committee was set up on the proposal of Prof. Moe Bergman from Israel, to establish standards, requirements and guidelines for educational programs for audiology, and to develop plans for the establishment of a European commission on standards for education in audiology. The main tasks of this committee would be:

1. Developing a set of required competencies for (university trained) AUDIOLOGISTS and AUDIOLOGICAL ASSISTANTS (no university degree).
2. Proposing a minimum study/training curriculum to develop the competencies in students.
3. Developing guidelines and procedures for accrediting educational programs/institutions.
4. Recommending procedures for the establishment of a European commission on standards of education in audiology.

The IVth European Conference on Audiology will be organized in Oulu, Finland with Martti Sorri chairing the local organizing committee. Further information can be obtained from the website cc.oulu.fi/~korvwww. The conference will be held 6 - 10 June 1999 during the period of Midnight Sun. Immediately preceding this conference the XVI IERASG Biennial Symposium on auditory evoked responses will be organized in Tromsø, Norway on 30 May - 3 June 1999).

The other affiliated regional society is the PanAmerican Society of Audiology. They also had a meeting and the President of PASA reports on the meeting

President address
Sandy Gerber, President PASA, Spokane, WA, USA

We have lots of PASA news to report to the membership this time, and all of it is good. First, we had a very successful PASA meeting on the day before the meeting of the American Academy of Audiology in April. The usual business was conducted (e.g., minutes of the last meeting; treasurer's report), and the current board of directors was reelected. We were especially happy to have our vice president for South America, Dr. Fausto Coello-Serrano of Ecuador, with us. The membership heartily endorsed Dr. Coello's plan to hold a pre-congress symposium in Quito just before the International Congress of Audiology (ICA) in Buenos Aires. Plans for the Quito symposium are still materializing, but do plan on being in Quito on your way to Buenos Aires. This will be the last week in August of 1998 as the ICA begins on August 30th. Quito, like Buenos Aires, is a wonderful and beautiful city that we want all PASA members to enjoy. Also, Dr. Coello is working with a local Quito travel agency for side trips that any of us may want to make, for example, to the Galapagos Islands (for those of us who wish to follow Darwin's footsteps). As this is an even-numbered year, the symposium will be considered to be an extraordinary meeting of PASA.

The high point of the biennial meeting, as always, is the PASA Distinguished Lecture. We were greatly honored by the lecture of Dr. Ross Roeser of the Callier Center and the University of Texas, Dallas. An abbreviated version of Dr. Roeser's talk appears in this issue of ¿QUE PASA?. I wish all PASA members could have heard it. Dr. Roeser dealt with treatment issues for profoundly hearing-impaired children, and we were very impressed with what is being accomplished at Callier.

¿QUE PASA? is flourishing under our new editor. Remember, though, that ¿QUE PASA? is your newsletter. There is news in it only because you provide it. So, be sure to get calendar items, research items, news of regional and national societies to the editor. For example, I just learned of a meeting in Brazil in October of 1997. It will appear in ¿QUE PASA?.

The President of the upcoming ISA congress in Buenos Aires has also send in a report on his activities. Please, note the date, prepare your papers and book your trip to magnificent Argentina.

Report on the XXIV International Congress of Audiology
Jorge Schwartzman, President Congress

We would like to invite everyone interested in Audiology to participate in this congress, the last of this millennium. We as organizers, will do everything possible to make it a very special occasion.

In a planet where everything is being “globalized”, events like these are an excellent opportunity to meet, to exchange ideas, and to teach and learn from colleagues from all over the world.

The scientific program includes round tables and symposiums on the most relevant topics:

- Oto-acoustic emissions, moderated by D. Kemp
- Cochlear implants, moderated by M. Manrique
- Audiology and Basic Science for the third millennium, moderated by J. Miller
- Pharmacological treatment of sensorineural hearing loss, moderated by J.-M. Aran
- Epidemiological aspects of hearing in developing countries, moderated by G. Mencher
- Tinnitus, moderated by J. Hazell
- Newest Developments in hearing aids, moderated by J. Verschuure
Next there will be an extensive program of free papers and posters.

Buenos Aires, founded at the end of the XVI century, is today one of the most important cultural centers in South America. The beautiful city is always a surprise for first-time visitors due to its buzzing activity and cosmopolitan charm. Also unexpected are the wide boulevards, exclusive shops, European ambiance, green squares and streets full of charm that invite you for a stroll. A great variety of theaters, an Opera House that is famous worldwide, art galleries, book shops and entertainment are easily accessible including several places where the oldest Argentine dish, “asado” (barbecue gaucho style) may be tasted, as well as many restaurants offering a wide variety of regional dishes.

As multi-faceted as Buenos Aires is the huge hinterland with the huge and famous Iguazu waterfalls, forests, the Andes Mountains with eternal snows, the green Pampas and the still wild Patagonia, where you can watch on the coast hundreds of whales that come here to mate every year. Seals, penguins and the only continental colony of sea elephants in the world, make Valdes Peninsula the animal lover’s paradise. This is just a preview of what can be discovers in our country.

A first announcement and call for Papers may be obtained from:
General Secretariat XXIV International Congress of Audiology, Congressos Internacionales S.A.
Moreno 584 - Piso 9, 1091 Buenos Aires, Argentina.
phone: +54 1 342 3216; fax: +54 1 331 0223
e-mail: conginte@mbox.servicenet.com.ar

Audiology in down-under has always been very special and has influenced procedures world-wide. A political and a technical report.

News from Australia

Denis Byrne, Australian Hearing Services, Chatswood, NSW, Australia

The major current development in the field of audiology is a change in the Australian system for delivering hearing services. Up till the present, the majority of hearing-impaired adults, as well as all children, have been eligible to receive free hearing aids under the government funded Hearing Services Program.

The eligible adults are mainly war veterans and persons receiving an age pension. The hearing aids were provided by Australian Hearing Services (AHS) except that, since 1993, some of the eligible adults have been fitted, under contract, by AHS-approved private audiologists and audiometrists. Legislation has just been enacted to change this scheme so that adults who are eligible for government funded hearing aids will receive a voucher that will entitle them to obtain a hearing aid from any approved provider, including AHS. The voucher is expected to cover the cost of a range of hearing aids but the client may pay a "top-up" charge to cover the additional cost of more expensive aids or other devices. AHS will continue to be the sole provider for children and some other designated categories of clients, such as Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. The change in scheme does not affect the research and hearing loss prevention activities of the National Acoustic Laboratories, which is the research division of AHS. The change in scheme has been scheduled to take effect from 1 July 1997 but seems likely to be delayed slightly because of administrative difficulties. Some important details of how the scheme will operate have not yet been announced in June 1997.

Earmould and localization

Bill Noble, University of New England, Armidale, NSW 2351, Australia

The collaborative project between the University of New England (Bill Noble, Shaune Sinclair) and the National Acoustic Laboratories (Denis Byrne) continues. We have recently found that a very unobtrusive ('sleeve') earmould can be of benefit, in terms of sound localization, for people with poor low-frequency and good high-frequency hearing, and, for interestingly different reasons, those with good low- and poor high-frequency hearing. Reports about both sorts of cases are forthcoming in 'Ear & Hearing', and in the 'Journal of American Academy of Audiology'.
Every other year an International Hearing Aid Conference is organized by people from the University of Iowa City. They feature an individual who has contributed to our knowledge of hearing aids as a Guest of Honor. This year’s guest came from Australia. A short report follows.

Harvey Dillon Guest of Honor at International Hearing Aid Conference IV

Rich Tyler, University of Iowa City, Iowa City, IA, USA

Dr. Harvey Dillon, from the National Acoustics Laboratory in Sydney Australia, was the Guest of Honor at the Fourth International Hearing Aid Conference held in Iowa City, USA, in June 1997. Harvey presented lectures on Compression Hearing Aids and Measuring Benefit in Hearing Aids. One of his remarks was the observation that wide dynamic range compression can increase the comfort range when listening to speech without volume control adjustments compared to linear hearing aids. He was careful to acknowledge the need for research in understanding the compression parameters and interactions among parameters.

Over 200 audiologists, physicians, engineers, hearing aid dispensers and speech and hearing scientists attended the biannual meeting. Presenters originated from France, Canada, Australia, Mexico, Germany and the United States. The next International Hearing Aid Conference will be held 3-6 June 1999.

Calendar of upcoming meetings

4-6 September 1997     Bangkok, Thailand     Otological Center: Bangkok Unit
International Conference on Pediatric ORL and hearing loss; Children’s healthy ears and better hearing.
Congress on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of WHO.
President: Suchitra Prasansuk M.D.
Venue: Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand
Conference secretariat: Otological Center: Bangkok Unit, Office at 15th Floor of Sayamitra Building, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital Mahidol University, Bangkok 10700, Thailand
    phone: +66 2 411 3254/+66 2 419 8043/+66 2 465 4050
    e-mail: sispa@mahidol.ac.th

10-12 September 1997     Cardiff, Wales, UK     BSA
Annual Conference BSA
Program: The Thomas Simm Littler Lecture will be given by Denzil Brooks (Manchester): Recycling Audiology
Further sessions on outcome measures, genetic hearing impairment, threshold determination in neonates, digital hearing aids and impairment, disability and handicap in balance disorders; free papers
Information: The British Society of Audiology, 80 Brighton Road, reading RG6 1PS
Phone: +44 118 966 0622; fax: +44 118 935 1915; e-mail: bsa@cityscape.co.uk

19-20 September 1997     Iowa City, IA USA     University of Iowa
Fifth Annual Conference on Management of the Tinnitus Patient
Conference open to health care professionals and tinnitus patients.
Guest speakers, Robert W. Sweetow, PhD, Director of Audiology at the University of California, San Francisco; Michael Block, PhD, Director of Research and Technical Services at Starkey Laboratories in Minnesota; Soly Erlandsson, Clinical Psychologist, Goteborg University, Goteborg, Sweden; and Gloria Reich, PhD, Director of the American Tinnitus Association in Portland, Oregon.
Further information: Richard Tyler, PhD, Professor and Director of Audiology, The University of Iowa Department of Otolaryngology--Head & Neck Surgery, 200 Hawkins Drive C21-3GH, Iowa City IA 52242-1078 USA.
    Phone: +1 319 356 2471; fax: +1 319 353 7639; e-mail rich-tyler@uiowa.edu

29 September - 2 October 1997 Thessaloniki, Greece     AAATE
4th European Conference for the advancement of assistive technology
Venue: Porto Carras
Information: AAATE Conference 1997 c/o Biotrast, 111 Mitropoleos Str, GR-54622 Thessaloniki, Greece
Phone: + 30 3 127 7904; fax: +30 3 127 7960; e-mail: biotrast@biotrast.gr;
http://www.biotrast.gr/aaate97

16-17 October 1997          Tokyo, Japan          Japan Audiological Society
42nd Congress of Japan Audiological Society
Venue: Sasagawa Memorial Hall, Tokyo, Japan
Information: Dept. ORL, c/o Prof. Atsushi Komatsuzaki, Tokyo Medical-Dental University, 1-5-45, Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Phone: +81 3 3813 6111; fax: +81 3 3818 7189

2-5 April 1998 Los Angeles, CA, USA AAA
10th Annual AAA Conference, catch a rising star
Information: Dennis Van Vliet, chair of meeting
phone: +1 714 579 0717; fax:+1 714 579 7827; e-mail: MBFN77A@Prodigy.com

30 August-3 September 1998 Buenos Aires, Argentina ISA
XXIVth International Congress of Audiology
President: Prof. Dr. J. Schwartzman
Topics: Oto-acoustic emissions (moderated by D. Kemp), Cochlear implants (M. Manrique), Audiology and Basic Science for the third millennium (J. Miller), Pharmacological treatment of sensorineural hearing loss (J.-M. Aran), Epidemiological aspects of hearing in developing countries (G. Mencher), Tinnitus (J. Hazell), Newest Developments in hearing aids (J. Verschuure)
Venue: Sheraton Buenos Aires
Information: General Secretariat XXIV International Congress of Audiology, Congressos Internacionales S.A., Moreno 584 - Piso 9, 1091 Buenos Aires, Argentina.
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