

Echoes

THE CHILDREN'S HEARING INSTITUTE
www.childrenshearing.org



JUNE, 2007

Co-Founder of the Internet to Receive CHI's "Jule Styne Humanitarian Award" at Benefit Gala



Vinton Gray Cerf, PhD, will receive CHI's "Jule Styne Humanitarian Award" at our 24th annual Benefit Gala, which takes place Monday, November 5 at Frederick P. Rose Hall – Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center. *Dr. Cerf* triumphed over hearing loss to attain eminence as the "Founding Father" of the Internet and Library of Congress "Living Legend." This

distinguished American scientist co-created the Internet while directing the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency from 1976-1982. Following that, he led the engineering of the first commercial e-mail service to be connected to the Internet. *Dr. Cerf* is currently "Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist" for Google, and together with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, is working on the "Interplanetary Internet," to set a new standard for communicating planet to planet.

Dr. Cerf has a sensorineural hearing impairment and has been a user of bilateral hearing aids since age 13. He says: "In creating the Internet with my colleagues in part I want-

ed to help people with hearing loss as well as other communication difficulties." *Dr. Cerf* emphasizes that while it is possible to function in a world without sound, there is no reason to deny access to it through hearing aids, cochlear implants and other assistive devices. His wife *Sigrid* contracted spinal meningitis at age three, resulting in hearing loss. She was implanted with a cochlear device at age 53. Both Vinton and Sigrid Cerf say they are "hearing repaired," not "hearing impaired."

CBS-TV News Correspondent Kimberly Dozier To Receive "Hearing Hear-o Award"

CBS-TV news correspondent *Kimberly Dozier* will be the recipient of CHI's "Hearing Hear-o Award." Ms. Dozier was critically wounded on May 29, 2006, while reporting a story in Iraq. The blast killed her camera crew as well as a U.S. soldier and an Iraqi translator. Her extensive injuries included the smashing of an eardrum, which has been repaired at the University of Maryland Medical Center. She says it is now "Gaza ready."

The Bacon Brothers will appear in a benefit performance at the gala.

For information about tickets purchase, please call us at: 212-614-8380.



“Through Deaf Eyes”

“Through Deaf Eyes” debuted March 21 on PBS’s Channel Thirteen. This two-hour documentary explores 200 years of Deaf life in America, presenting the shared experiences of history - family life, education, work, and community connections - from the perspective of deaf citizens. The film includes interviews with former Gallaudet University president, *Dr. I. King Jordan*, and actors *Marlee Matlin* and *Bernard Bragg*, as well as historians and deaf Americans with diverse views on language use, technology and identity. It also traces the evolution of deaf education, from the founding of the first school for the deaf in 1817 to the 1864 chartering of Gallaudet University, in Washington, D.C., to the late-20th century “mainstreaming” movement. For further information visit www.pbs.org

Cochlear Implant Surgeon Comments on “Through Deaf Eyes”

Christopher Linstrom, MD, Surgeon Director of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, and a member of The Beth Israel/New York Eye and Ear Cochlear Implant Center staff, shares this personal story with us:

“I grew up in a small town about ten miles from Washington, D.C. with two hearing boys, Gary and Terry Smith (the names have been changed) whose deaf parents were both graduates of the (then) Gallaudet College in D.C. Gary and Terry were sent away as children to hearing relatives in order to learn to speak. They both heard and spoke normally. As a young child, I learned to finger spell in order to communicate with Mrs. Smith who was much more handicapped than her husband. Mr. Smith wore BTE hearing aids, had a little hearing and was a great lip reader. The Smiths were good friends of my parents. Mrs. Smith unfortunately did not have many hearing friends because her children had to finger spell or sign everything for her. We all went to the same parochial school in our town and they included my brother John and me in many Gallaudet alumni and family functions, often held on a farm in the Oxen Hill area of Southern Maryland. The kids were the only ones who heard—everyone else ‘talked’ a mile a minute with ASL. We would have baseball games, pony rides, hay rides, wonderful barbecues and the last event of the evening was always an outdoor film with captions on the bottom. I can recall going along for two or three of these special Gallaudet functions.

I was a competitive swimmer as an older child and several of our swim meets were held at Gallaudet College. Other than the starting gun and some cheering, there was very little sound and surely almost no verbal communication. Almost everything was done with ASL or gestures. These were the most well-organized swim meets I can recall. As a college student, I used to attend dances at Gallaudet and several of my friends have worked or still work there. I went to the University of Maryland with Stanley and Robert Cornett, whose father Orin Cornett, Ph.D. developed ‘cued speech,’ a form of sign language used at Gallaudet and also in many programs in

Australia. Dr. Cornett worked at Gallaudet for many years.

Having grown up in this culture, I am sensitive to both sides of the question and understand, although I obviously do not agree with, the sentiments of the ‘Deaf Community.’ Just this past Christmas, I went to a movie with several deaf-educator friends, one of whom criticized me for performing cochlear implants. And this in 2006. Anyone who works with deaf individuals should see the film ‘Through Deaf Eyes’ and read about the tremendous struggles the deaf community has had to deal with in America and the world. I can think of clear examples of how hard it was for my neighbors, the Smiths. They had to develop their own culture and it is a credit to the Deaf World that they did. Hearing folks can only imagine what their lives were like then and still. I find it very painful that the Deaf Culture views our medical world as intruders rather than as the dedicated, helping people we are. Certainly, we do not want to ‘cure’ any deaf patient, but to habilitate the patient and allow this person to live more easily in a hearing world.”

Third Grader Expresses Gratitude for Cochlear Implant



Shabena Husein is eight years old and in third grade at Floral Park-Bellerose School. She was implanted with a cochlear device at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary when she was one year old. When she was in first grade, she was given an assignment to create a book from scratch that tells something personal about herself. She very much wanted to let everyone know how grateful she is for her hearing. This is how her book came about. Her mother **Zaleena** says she is very proud of Shabena and her achievements.

Eleven Year-Old Raises Awareness for Loop Systems in New York Taxis

“ My name is Anna Krauss. On June 2, 2004, I suddenly became the only Deaf student mainstreamed in my school district in Eastport New York. You know, I never really thought it could happen to me....I don't want to sound like I'm complaining, but it's very difficult, if not impossible, when you're deaf to understand what hearing people are saying when they have a verbal conversation. It's a disability that I share with almost 32 million people in the United States. Discriminating the gibberish that I hear is just not easy.... Now imagine me or any other deaf person in a taxicab with a wall separating the passenger and the driver. The necessity of any conversation is eliminated completely. And depending on the type hearing loss, a sound enhancement system can be too loud or heard as louder noise! Ouch! One day, I would like to take a tour of the city without a guide or anything. I'd love to explore the famous 'Big Apple' on my own....I realize that I would have to take a cab somewhere along the way. What am I, just going to sit & repeatedly say 'what?' the whole way???, or 'please face me so I can read your lips' ??? Doesn't the driver need to keep his/ her eyes on the road?? This is a very dangerous situation. It is completely preventable with a loop system installed in the cab. You know, deaf people can coexist with the hearing world. With the use of hearing devices, barriers between communication are eliminated. Since you're changing the sound system in the taxis anyway, don't exclude the Deaf community. Install the 'loop'. Most think that deaf people can't hear. And that's completely true. The bigger issue is that deaf people need to be heard. I hope you heard me today. Thank you.”

Lisa Murello, a deaf education teacher who services students in the mainstream, tells us that on **March 4**, 11-year old **Anna Krauss** of Eastport, New York delivered a speech at City Hall. The Taxi & Limousine Commission is installing new sound systems in taxis and **Anna** made the presentation below advocating for loops to assist passengers who are hearing-impaired. One day in 2004, **Anna** became dizzy, heard a loud ringing in her ears, and suddenly started to lose the ability to hear her mother's voice. Since that day, she has had a profound hearing loss with only one ear that benefits from amplification. **Lisa** nominates **Anna's** parents **Robert** and **Seena** for CHI's "Hearing Hear-o Award" in recognition of the loving support they are providing to their sixth grader, encouraging **Anna** to advocate for herself and others.

Kudos to “Hearing Hear-o” Alan B. Gould

The following “Hearing Hear-o Award” nomination comes to us from **Priscilla Bollard, Ed.D, CCC-A, FAAA** of Stonington, Connecticut. The Children's Hearing Institute is a proud sponsor of close-captioning at Wilton Playshop where **Alan** has produced a number of plays.



Alan Gould and Priscilla Bollard

“**Alan B. Gould** is a Speech Pathologist who has worked in the school system, and although his private practice has not involved the deaf or hearing impaired, in his extra-curricular activities he has dedicated himself to making theater, music, education and social activities more accessible to children and adults with hearing loss long before ADA was in existence and when assistive listening

devices were restricted to classroom FM Amplification in schools for the deaf. Alan produced twenty-one consecutive performances for deaf/hearing impaired theater attendees at Wilton Playshop in Wilton, Connecticut. He used sign and oral interpreters, conducted accessible workshops before the plays, supplied advance scripts to those who requested them, used infra-red ALD's before they were installed in movie houses or theaters and provided real-time captioning as soon as it was available. He maintained contact with all the attendees and sought appropriate help for them when needed. He pursued his professional friends (I was one) for further information and ideas. Alan now dedicates himself to the Hearing Loss Association and talks to Rotary Clubs, Senior Citizen Groups.

Alan has received many awards for his outreach activities because as a private citizen he was a pioneer in recognizing the extensive deprivation that was encountered by the Deaf/hearing impaired in terms of language acquisition, education, vocational choices and social opportunities. **Alan Gould** is truly deserving of CHI's 'Hearing Hear-o Award'.”

CHI Supports Genetic Research Study with \$50,000 Grant

The Children's Hearing Institute has made a grant of \$50,000 to support "A Drosophila Model for Hereditary Hearing Loss," a genetic research study headed by *Frances Hannan, PhD*, Assistant Professor at New York Medical College in association with The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. Congenital hearing disorders affect one in every 1,000 children, and many of these cases are hereditary. Despite recent advances, the genes underlying many hearing disorders have not yet been identified. The auditory apparatus in the fruit fly *Drosophila* is remarkably similar to mammalian auditory organs, and may have as many as 30 genes involved in hearing loss. The specific aims of this basic science study are: (1) To assay hearing in *Drosophila* mutants that disrupt the counterparts of known mammalian deafness genes. (2) To identify novel hearing genes by a genome wide screen for hearing defects in *Drosophila* deletion mutants and (3) To characterize structural and functional defects in flies with mutations in candidate hearing genes. Gene discovery is critical for elucidating the fundamental mechanisms of hearing and for understanding the deficits associated with hearing disorders. These efforts may eventually lead to the development of novel diagnostic and therapeutic approaches.

Parents Magazine Quotes Dr. Simon Parisier

The May issue of *Parents* magazine features the story "Sound Off," raising awareness about hearing loss, the country's leading birth defect. It sends a very positive message about the benefits of early intervention with cochlear implants, quoting CHI Founder *Dr. Simon Parisier* on testing for newborns. The story highlights the experience of three-year old *Luca Trama*, who was implanted by *Dr. Ronald Hoffman* at Beth Israel Medical Center a few months before his first birthday. *Parents* also cites CHI's award-winning website – www.childrenshearing.org

Soldiers Exposed To Gunshot Noise Need Better Hearing Protection

Following up on our Summer 2006 story on hearing loss as the *number one* disability among military veterans, a study published in the medical journal *Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery* strongly recommends the military adopt noise-reducing earmuffs to muffle the most harmful frequencies of gunshot noise while still enabling soldiers to communicate with each other. The study measured the impact of "impulse noise" (short bursts of acoustic energy) on subjects with no history of hearing disorders. In the study, soldiers using hearing protection did not have their hearing affected. Soldiers without hearing protection experienced expected levels of

hearing loss. Common estimates are that 10 to 15 percent of soldiers returning from active military service without the use of hearing protection develop acoustic trauma. Study authors note that most military personnel are young and at the beginning stages of their careers, and would be negatively impacted by a loss of hearing as they enter the civilian work force.

Awareness Raising Is Still Needed

The mother of an eighth grader who was implanted with a cochlear device 11 years ago, sent us this e-mail about her son's recent experience in applying to high school. He is an engaging child, and an exceptional achiever in every way. We have changed his name and the name of the school where more extensive awareness-raising is needed:

"John made Townsend Harris!!! He's so excited and we are very proud. What an ordeal this kid's been put through. We had accepted an offer at XYZ, a local high school. It was a nice school, so I thought. I went to register him there a few weeks ago and order a uniform, etc. Everyone seemed nice until I mentioned that he was exempt from language. We only had him exempt to free up his time to focus on the academics. Anyway, they seemed to get edgy and said no one told them he was deaf. I assured them he was a straight 'A' student, etc. He took the placement test and made their honors program, so what were they worried about.

To make a long story short, I asked if I could meet with the teachers before school. They said 'no,' that they had hearing impaired children before and that he could sit in the front. I left feeling uneasy. The next day I got a call - they couldn't find his registration and did I want the seat. I called them and straightened them out. They apologized. Last week, the secretary from John's school called them about something unrelated to John and they said, 'Are you calling about the deaf boy?' Needless to say, we're happy we declined their offer. We just had him approved for CART and Townsend Harris seems very accepting. It's unfortunate XZY School can't see him for who he is and only focuses on the deafness. John wasn't phased by their comments. He's happy he won't have to wear a uniform!"

CHI to Create New Electronic Newsletter

The Beth Israel/New York Eye and Ear Cochlear Implant and Hearing & Learning Centers will soon relocate at the new Ear Institute of the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary at 380 Second Avenue between 21st and 22 Streets. Coinciding with the opening, CHI will create a new electronic newsletter featuring monthly updates on staff activities, technological advances and events. We are currently assembling a database of e-mail addresses. Please let us know if you are interested in joining the distribution list by sending an e-mail to Melissa Willis: mwillis@nyee.edu.

Courses, Presentations and Publications

- Cheffo, Susan M.A. "A Model for Providing Educational Support Through the Cochlear Implant Center" XI International Conference on Cochlear Implants in Children, Charlotte, NC, April 11-13, 2007.
- Parisier, Simon C., Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker. "Elimination of Profound Deafness – Challenges Faced by Cochlear Implant Technology." Hoffman, Ronald; Christopher Linstrom, Jane Madell, XI International Conference on Cochlear Implants in Children, Charlotte, NC, April 11-13, 2007.
- Linstrom CJ, Silverman CA. "Short-term and long-term efficacy of the BAHA for single sided deafness." Poster presentation, Combined Otolaryngologic Spring Meeting (COSM), San Diego, CA April 26-29, 2007.
- Linstrom CJ, Cosetti M, "Treatment of Glomus Tumors in the Elderly." Oral presentation, Combined Otolaryngologic Spring Meeting (COSM), San Diego, CA April 26-29, 2007.

Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center Students Are AG Bell Awardees

Carly Skibinski and Shalini Chalikonda, both of whom are served by programs of The Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center, are among the 2007 Alexander Graham Bell Arts & Science Scholarship Award winners from New Jersey. AG Bell has awarded \$22,355 to enable 33 students ages 6 to 19 years old, who are deaf or hard of hearing, and use spoken language to communicate, to participate in arts and sciences exploration. This year's award winners, who represent the United States, Canada and India, reflect a diverse range of artistic and scientific interests. "The arts and sciences provide children with hearing loss a wonderful opportunity for self-discovery and a chance to demonstrate their individual talents alongside their peers with typical hearing," said Judy Harrison, Senior Director of Programs. "By providing financial aid to families of children with hearing loss, AG Bell hopes to raise awareness of the world of opportunities open to children with hearing loss." CHI applauds these deserving scholarship winners!

Making Sense of the World Through a Cochlear Implant

Scientists at London's University College and Imperial College have shown how the brain makes sense of speech in a noisy environment, such as a restaurant or in a crowd. The idea behind the study was to simulate the experience of having a cochlear implant, where speech can sound like a very distorted, harsh whisper. The findings - published in the *Journal of Neuroscience* - suggest that various regions of the brain work together to make sense of what it hears, but that when the speech is completely incomprehensible, the brain appears to give up trying. Using MRI scans of the brain, the researchers found that in an ordinary setting, where background noise is minimal and a person's speech is clear, it is mainly the left and right temporal lobes that are involved in

interpreting speech. When hearing is impaired by background noise, however, other regions of the brain are engaged, such as the angular gyrus, the area of the brain also responsible for verbal working memory - but only when the sentence is predictable. "In a noisy environment, when we hear speech that appears to be predictable, it seems that more regions of the brain are engaged," explains Dr Jonas Obleser. "We believe this is because the brain stores the sentence in short-term memory. Here it juggles the different interpretations of what it has heard until the result fits in with the context of the conversation." The researchers hope that by understanding how the brain interprets distorted speech, they will be able to improve the experience of people with cochlear implants.



CHI Events Calendar

For further information about these events, please call
CHI at: 212-614-8380

June 21

CHI Young Professionals Martini Night Under the Stars
Time Warner Center (rain date June 28)

November 5

CHI 24th Annual Benefit Gala: "We Can Hear You Now"
Frederick P. Rose Hall – Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center

Educational Conferences for Professionals at Beth Israel Medical Center

May 2

*Beyond Preferential Seating:
Creating Real Access in Schools*

July 30-August 1

Functionalizing "Listening to Learn"

October 23

Audiology 101 - Featuring Dr. Jane Madell

October 29

*Sounds & Motion - Featuring Frances Santore of the
Horace Mann School*

Workshops for Parents and Families

June 3

Transitioning to College and Career Choices
Beth Israel Medical Center

June 29-30

Parents Connecting with Parents, Connection is the Key!
Edith Macy Conference Center, Briarcliff Manor

Sponsorships

June 12

*The Needlers Foundation Tribute to
Dr. Alejandro Berenstein*

October 8

2nd Annual No Limits Walkathon

The Beth Israel/New York Eye and Ear Cochlear Implant Center and Hearing & Learning Center

- Beth Israel Center Coordinator:
- New York Eye & Ear Center Coordinator:

Lorie Singer, MBA, 212-844-8448

Yvette Sarante, 212-614-8370

Surgeons

Director: *Ronald A. Hoffman, MD*
212-844-8778

Director: *Simon C. Parisier, MD*
212-979-4542

George Alexiades, MD

Paul Hammerschlag, MD

Darius Kohan, MD

Christopher Linstrom, MD

Neil Sperling, MD

Educators/

Educational Audiology

212-844-6351

Coordinator: *Susan Cheffo, MS*

Meredith Berger, MS

Lois Heymann, MA, CCC-SLP

Rebecca Kooper, AuD

Social Work

Stacy Purro, MSW

Audiology

Director: *Jane R. Madell, PhD, CCC-A/SLP, Cert. AVT*,
212-844-8792

Supervisor: *Sandra Delapenha, MA, CCC-A*

Supervisor Cochlear Implants: *Nicole Sislian, MA, CCC-A*

Supervisor Hearing Aid Center: *Michele DiStefano, MS, CCC-A*

Sabrina Alterman, MS, CCC-A

Ariela Bindel, MA, CCC/A

Miriam De La Asuncion, AuD

Nancy Gilston, MA, CCC-A

Megan Kuhlmeier, MS, CCC-A

Lori Markoff, MS, CCC-A

Shelly Ozdamar, MS, CCC-A

Lisa Rosenberg, MS, CCC-A

212-844-6351

Speech-Language-Auditory Therapy

Michele Bogaty-Blend, MA, CCC-SLP

Marianna Davila, MS, CCC-SLP

Karen Slotnick, MA, CCC-SLP

Elizabeth Ying, MA, CCC-SLP

Research

Richard Schwartz, PhD

Contact Us

If you have questions or would like to share a personal story with us, contact:

Carol L. Bohdan, Executive Director, The Children's Hearing Institute

212-614-8261, cbohdan@nyee.edu

Visit our educational website: www.childrenshearing.org



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

The Children's Hearing Institute
310 East 14th Street
New York, NY 10003

