

# Echoes

THE CHILDREN'S HEARING INSTITUTE

[www.childrens hearing.org](http://www.childrens hearing.org)



SUMMER 2006

## **Dr. Simon Parisier Renews Gift of Hearing for Cochlear Implant Recipient**

**Surgery is among more than 100 plus now performed annually at The Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center**



Corinne wants you to see how happy she was immediately after her surgery!

Corinne McGeorge first met Dr. Simon Parisier 14 years ago. He removed a tumor in her left ear, and performed her first cochlear implant, just in time for her to hear the sounds of her grandson, who was born the same week. She recently sent this letter to Dr. Parisier and audiologist Sabrina Alterman, MS, CCC-A after having her earlier implant replaced. Ms. McGeorge's implant surgery is among the 100 plus of its type now performed annually at The Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center by Dr. Parisier and his colleagues Ronald A. Hoffman, MD; Christopher Linstrom, MD; George Alexiades, MD; Neil Sperling, MD; Darius Kohan, MD; and Paul Hammerschlag, MD. It is also among the many hundreds Dr. Parisier has performed since pioneering this restorative technique in the late 1970's.

*"Dear Dr. Parisier and Sabrina,*

*I had the most wonderful experience the other evening. Channel 13 presented "South Pacific at Carnegie Hall" ... Reba McIntyre played Nellie Forbush.... I not only heard her every note, but I also heard the twang in her voice. All singers and performers came through beautifully....this was Music once again, and I watched the performance with tears in my eyes.... I can hear music....can tell when the sound is music as opposed to speech, but I cannot yet identify the music being played, or the instrument. That is still a work in progress! Speech is wonderful. I can understand everyone in close proximity... I'm not too sure*

*how well I will do with the speaker on the other side of the room, we shall see. I can hear the speaker who is walking behind me, and understand what is being said. I recognize the speech, and discrimination is good. I can follow conversation around the lunch table. I hear the phone ringing, the hammering on the roof on the next street (!!!!), the parrot in the cage at the pharmacy, the birds.....and I am no longer bothered by the phantom noises in my head now that the sounds of everyday life have replaced them. I am deeply grateful to both of you for the skillful way you each played a part in this recovery."*

### **Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center Physicians Cited**

In June, New York magazine published its annual "Best Doctors" issue. It listed 1,358 of New York's top physicians, including The Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center staff surgeons Simon C. Parisier, MD and Christopher Linstrom, MD. The listing also included Steven D. Schaefer, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Otolaryngology, The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary.

### **Long Island College Hospital Performs First Bilateral Cochlear Implant in Brooklyn**

Long Island College Hospital (LICH) surgeon Neil Sperling, MD, and his team, recently performed the first bilateral cochlear implant to take place in Brooklyn, continuing a proud tradition that started in 1997 when LICH was the first institution in that borough to perform a cochlear implant. LICH is related to The Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Infirmary Cochlear Implant Center as a fellow member of Continuum Health Partners, Inc. "The patient was an 18 month-old boy born with jaundice and significant neurological problems, which resulted in a profound bilateral hearing loss, says Dr. Sperling. "Now there is hope he can understand and develop language, which will enormously impact his quality of life."



The Children's Hearing Institute  
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New York, NY 10003

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### **The Beth Israel/New York Eye & 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](mailto:cbohdan@nyee.edu)

Visit our educational website: [www.childrenshearing.org](http://www.childrenshearing.org)



## **Have You Visited CHI'S Award-Winning Website Yet?**

The Children's Hearing Institute website – [www.childrenshearing.org](http://www.childrenshearing.org) – is the recent winner of The 2006 APEX Award for Publication Excellence. This award has been sponsored for the past 18 years by "Writing That Works: The Business Communications Report." The site has also been praised by The University of Maryland Medical Center for our "high quality information." Our *Patient & Family Resource Guide*, expanding constantly, is one of the internet's most comprehensive self-help tools available. It is offered in both English and Spanish, and contains numerous links to other helpful websites and organizations. Our new section on "Habilitation and Rehabilitation" for the child who is hearing-impaired provides information for both parents and professionals. Our site also contains a variety of first-hand personal stories told by children, teens and adults, along with news updates and information about our calendar of events.

### **NIH Grants \$3.4 Million for Speech Production and Perception Study**

Haskins Laboratories, an independent research institute that collaborates with Yale University and other institutions around the world, has been awarded \$3.4 million by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study links between production and perception in speech. "We usually hear speech, so it is natural to think of it as sounds, but a long line of research suggests that we are actually hearing moving mouths," says Douglas Whalen, Vice President of Research at Haskins. "The mouth shapes the sound created by our vocal folds; and our brain unravels the shaping to figure out the linguistic message." The experiments in this five-year project will explore how this link is made, using such tools as speech synthesis, ultrasound, optical tracking and perceptual assessment – or, just plain listening. "Whether we perceive sounds or movements has consequences for how we rehabilitate stroke patients or help misarticulating children," he said.

### **Hearing-Impaired Student Enters Stonybrook University Honors College**

We received this letter last June from the grateful mother of two children who are thriving despite their hearing impairment:

*"My son, Andrew, wears a cochlear implant and is a patient of Dr. Parisier. Andrew's sister, Kathleen, who is graduating from Bayport-Blue Point High School in two weeks, is also severely hearing impaired, with 65 to 85 db bilateral loss; she wears analog aids. Ranked 10th out of 180 students, she has been the recipient of several honors and scholarships: the Hearing Loss Association of America Scholarship, the Norma March Scholarship for excellence in Humanities and Social Sciences, the Bayport-Blue Point Teachers' Association Scholarship, the NY Lottery Scholarship for Leadership, the Presidential Award for Excellence, excellence awards in science, sculpture, marine biology and varsity field hockey/athlete.....She will be attending Stonybrook University Honors College (which admits only 50 freshman applicants) in September. This is really a tremendous undertaking for a student who did not take any honors-level classes in middle school until the second half of seventh grade, when she was admitted to the honors-level science, for a student who struggled to fit in with her peers and who struggled*

*with auditory trainers that constantly malfunctioned. With the right combination of perseverance, parent/teacher advocacy, pride in one's accomplishments, support from good friends, a severely hearing impaired student can do as well and even far better than that of his or her peers.*

**Susanne M Schultz**

### **Duke University Study Finds Hearing Aids Are Underused**

The following story was posted on [www.medicalnewstoday.com](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com): Hearing loss can contribute to strained relationships with family and friends, depression, and even a deterioration of basic well-being, but only one in five Americans who could benefit from a hearing aid has one – and just one-third of those who have hearing aids use them. These are among the key findings of a literature review conducted by the Medical Technology Assessment Working Group at Duke University. Researchers found consistent evidence that hearing loss contributes to a decline in quality of life, particularly among the elderly. However, they also found no research in existence documenting how hearing devices can enhance everyday experiences. Approximately six million people in the U.S. use a hearing aid, most for treating moderate hearing loss, but 35 to 50 percent of hearing aid users are not satisfied, the study found.

Hearing aids are being underused, in part the Duke team reasoned, because of social attitudes that reflect misunderstandings about hearing loss (e.g., beliefs that hearing loss is inevitable later in life) and because of the cost and possible inconvenience of hearing aids. "One area of critical need is understanding the barriers that contribute to irregular use of hearing devices by those who have them," said Linda K. George, Ph.D., professor and project director of the study. "Until these areas are better understood, continued innovations in hearing aid devices will be hampered." .... Available information on device evaluation lags substantially behind advances in technologies. For example, most of the evidence available was based on hearing devices that have been superseded by newer versions. The report noted that it would not be surprising to find that the use of devices for hearing loss is associated with substantial increases in productivity and other social contributions, but as yet, the issue has not been validated by research.

### **MOMA Expands Programs and Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Visitors**

New York's Museum of Modern Art now offers Brown Bag Lunch Lectures and Gallery Talks with sign language interpretation, Cart (Computer Assisted Real Time) captioning, and FM headsets and neck loops for sound amplification. In addition, "Tours for Fours" is a new morning drop-in program designed for four-year-olds and their families to be introduced to painting, sculpture, photography and works on paper through interactive activities and discussions. Sign language interpretation, FM headsets and neck loops are available for this program as well, and they are also available for all public programs held in the Museum galleries and classrooms. An infrared sound amplification system is available for all films and lectures in the Titus Theaters 1 and 2. For further information, call 212-708-9864 (voice) or 212-247-1230 (TTY), or e-mail [accessprograms@moma.org](mailto:accessprograms@moma.org) at least two weeks in advance of your visit.

## Children's Hearing Institute Board of Directors Welcomes Two New Members

Scott Fishman and Adam L. Miller have joined our Board of Directors. Mr. Fishman heads Design Nash, a private apparel manufacturer that includes the brands Williwear Ltd, Kenar and Carol Little. He is also an officer of The Needlers Foundation, a philanthropic organization founded 43 years ago by garment center executives to benefit children in need. Today, its membership includes those in allied industries as well as lawyers, CPAs, bankers, doctors and health care professionals who have raised millions of dollars for children's charities. Mr. Miller is President of The Abernathy MacGregor Group, Inc., specializing in corporate transaction and crisis communications, investor relations and corporate and financial public relations. As head of the firm's media, communications and entertainment practice, he counsels international clients on reputation management, corporate communications and investor and public relations. Adam has been active in CHI's Young Professionals. He resides in Manhattan with his wife and their new baby girl.

## New CHI-Sponsored Summer Conference Brings Parents and Professionals Together

"Advanced Auditory Therapy Workshop," a new conference sponsored by The Children's Hearing Institute, was a sold-out event that took place July 17-20 at the Macy Center in Briarcliff Manor, New York. This intensive three-day conference for speech-language therapists, auditory therapists, teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing, and audiologists, also included an opportunity for parents to experience a learning outcomes workshop. The conference was led by Lois Kam Heymann, MA and David Luterman, D. ED. and attended by 70 participants. Following are a few of the many appreciative comments we've received:

"...As a parent of a four year old deaf child, I am always looking for ways to help my daughter even the playing field with her hearing counterparts. It is an ongoing struggle that can only be gained through gathering information and making sure that I have the best people working with me. Clearly, Ms. Heymann and Dr. Luterman are among the best in the business. Their candor, support and experience was so appreciated at the workshop and am confident that I gained valuable knowledge that will help me be a better parent, coach and advocate for my child.... Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share our experiences and work together with some of the best in the industry."

Ana Maria Robben, Mohegan Lake, NY

"Please let everyone at The Children's Hearing Institute know how valuable and important, and appreciated, last week's seminar was to all of the parents who were lucky or smart enough to attend. The combination of Heymann and Luterman is brilliant and life altering. Kudos to the Institute for making it possible. You are making a crucial difference in our families' lives."

Pamela Perrell

Director of Artistic Development, Cherry Lane Theatre

## In The News...

### • *The New York Times* Reports "Deaf Theater Troupes Reel from Federal Cuts"

In April, The New York Times reported that federal cuts to cultural programs for the deaf that were ordered by Congress in December 2004 had started to impact deaf theater groups who did not realize they would be affected. The program was originally part of landmark legislation that promised people with disabilities equal educational opportunities. Without the grants, many organizations fear they will be unable to remain solvent. The Children's Hearing Institute is proud of our grants to support *No Limits Theatre Group*. In June, we sponsored four stage performances of "Mission Impossible," a play performed by deaf and hard of hearing children at The Long Island Children's Museum.

### • *Money Magazine* Cites Speech-Language Therapist as One of "Best Jobs in America"

In its annual "Best Jobs in America:" report Money Magazine ranked Speech-Language Therapist as number 38 of the top 50 jobs, with a projected 10-year job growth of 14.57% from 95,742 in 2004 to 109,690 forecast for 2014.

## CHI Events Calendar

For further information about these events,  
please call The Children's Hearing Institute: 212-614-8380.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>September 13</b> | CHI Benefit Event: <i>Evening at Kleinfeld, Fashion Show &amp; Cocktail Reception</i>   |
| <b>October 29</b>   | CHI 23rd Annual Benefit Gala:<br>"We listen so kids can hear"<br>Jazz at Lincoln Center |

\*For information on our autumn series of Parents Workshops,

please see our website: [www.childrenshearing.org](http://www.childrenshearing.org)  
<http://www.childrenshearing.org>

## Want to Receive Our E-Mail Updates?

If you are interested in receiving updates by e-mail pertaining to our conferences for professionals, family workshops, and other events and news, please let us know. E-mail Melissa Willis: [mwillis@nyee.edu](mailto:mwillis@nyee.edu).

## Recent Courses, Presentations and Publications

Simon Parisier, MD; Ronald Hoffman, MD; Meagan Kuhlmeier, MS, CCC-A. 9th International Cochlear Implant Conference, Vienna, Austria. June 14-17.

Jane Madell, PhD; Ronald H. Hoffman, MD; Susan Cheffo, MS, Lois Heymann, MA, CCC-SLP. "The Team Approach to Managing Children with Hearing Loss." The 2006 Convention of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Pittsburgh, PA., June 27.

## **The Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center To Unify at a Single New Site in 2007**

**Help us champion this inspirational cause**

The Children's Hearing Institute is ambitiously striving to eliminate the disability caused by hearing losses. To that end, we are partnering with The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary on a fundraising campaign for a visionary new Ear Institute. Opening in January at 380 Second Avenue (21-22 Streets), the Ear Institute's collaborative staff of physicians, audiologists, educators of the deaf, vestibular therapists, research scientists, and other related professionals, will offer comprehensive care for individuals with hearing loss, balance disorders, chronic ear disease, acoustic neuromas, skull base tumors, and facial paralysis. It will embrace a Deafness Research Center, Hearing Aid Center, and Vestibular Rehabilitation Center. **The Ear Institute will also unify The Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center and Hearing & Learning Centers, a program now located at two separate sites.** *The reputation of these Centers has been earned by their success in treating and mainstreaming children who are hearing-impaired, and has made them the fastest growing of their type in the country.*

We have received several important Commemorative Naming Gifts for the new Ear Institute, including \$350,000 from The Joel & Yvette Mallah Family Foundation to name **The Joel and Yvette Mallah Waiting Room**, \$150,000 from Rita and Burt Tansky to name **The Rita & Burt Tansky Conference Room**, and \$50,000 from Jan and Charles Bruno to name **The Daniel A. Bruno Audiology Examination Room** in honor of Mr. Bruno's loving father. Your support – *in any amount* – is important to us. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact: Carol Bohdan, Executive Director, [212-614-8261](tel:212-614-8261)/[cbohdan@nyee.edu](mailto:cbohdan@nyee.edu).

### **Study on Hearing Loss among Military Veterans**

The National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine recently surveyed the problem of hearing loss, now the *number one* disability among military veterans. The cost of Veterans Affairs claims for hearing-related disability jumped 100 percent from 2000 to 2004; the VA spends \$81 million on hearing aids a year. A cost of the war in Iraq is hearing loss caused by bomb blasts and automatic weapons. A growth sector in diagnosis is among Vietnam veterans, because damage from high-decibel airplanes and artillery is showing up now in middle age. Navy life can be just as costly to ears, with widespread loss from jet engines and other loud noises on carrier flight decks. The Army, Navy and Air Force have started hearing-conservation programs. However, compliance is not always easy in the military's "culture of bravado," and it is often not practical to block out sounds when in survival mode. For the full report: "Noise and Military Service: Implications for Hearing Loss and Tinnitus," visit [www.nationalacademies.org](http://www.nationalacademies.org).



Vionetta Flowers and her twin sons Jaden and Jordan

### **CHI's 23rd Annual Benefit Gala to Raise Funds for New Ear Institute...**

CHI's 23rd Annual Benefit Gala takes place October 29 at Jazz at Lincoln Center as a fundraiser for The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary Cochlear Implant Center. The event will honor Cochlear Implant Center co-directors *Simon C. Parisier, MD; Ronald A. Hoffman, MD; and Jane R. Madell, PhD*, with our 2006 *Jule Styne Humanitarian Award*. *Vionetta Flowers* will be presented with the Institute's "Hearing Hero Award." The first black athlete to win Olympic Winter Gold, and the first American woman to win USA Gold for Bobsled at the 2002 Olympics, one of her twin boys was born profoundly deaf. Named by *Essence* as one of the "50 Most Inspiring African Americans," Ms. Flowers will discuss how her inspirational rise to athletic stardom as a bobsledder, sprinter, hurdler and long jumper (she was a seven-time All-American at the University of Alabama-Birmingham) prepared her to face the challenges of her son's deafness. The evening will also feature a Guest Concert by 14 year-old *Jourdan Urbach*, a violin virtuoso who started playing at age three. If you would like to join us, please call: [212-614-8380](tel:212-614-8380).

### **CHI Young Professionals Raise Funds for Audiology Research Test Booth**



Co-chair Lisa Weinberg (right) with her family

On June 14, The Children's Hearing Institute **Young Professionals** sponsored **An International Wine Tasting Under the Stars, 2006**, on the 51st Floor Roof Terrace of the Time Warner Center. Led by co-

chairs *Lisa Weinberg* and *Scott Etes*, this fundraiser was attended by more than 225 young adults representing the fields of business, finance, fashion, food and wine, the arts and philanthropy. The event raised \$50,000 to fund the purchase of an Audiology Research Testing Booth, an important aspect of research technology for the new cochlear



Jason Boxer and friends

implant center at The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary.

## If you have an inspirational "Hearing Hear-o," we want to hear from you:



The Feldman Family

"I am a seventh grader at Yeshiva of South Shore and was implanted in my left ear on May 25, 2003 at Beth Israel Medical Center by Dr. Darius Kohan. I have two hearing heroes who have helped me to succeed in my hearing and academics. My first hearing hear-o is **Shelly Ozdamar**, my mapping audiologist at The Beth Israel Cochlear Implant Center. She is a patient and kind woman who is an amazing audiologist. Shelly has worked very hard in creating the best maps to help me hear. This year, my processor was malfunctioning, which made me very frustrated and sad, because I love to hear. My family and I can't thank Shelly enough for her concern and fast work in getting me a new processor. Shelly, you are my hearing hear-o! **Kathy Grimm**, my Nassau B.O.C.E.S teacher of the deaf, is my other hearing hear-o and she has been working with me for five years. Kathy is a very patient and smart teacher, with a wonderful sense of humor. She has made teaching my academics a lot of fun and had helped me so much with my school work as well my hearing. Kathy, if it weren't for you, I might be failing! I really appreciate your hard work."

Thank you,  
**Chaim Feldman.**



Joan Fagnoli with Jesse Dombrowski

"My 'Hearing Hear-o' is **Joan Fagnoli**, a teacher of the deaf in Rome, New York. Ms. Fagnoli started working with my son Jesse when he was seven months of age. She has gone above and beyond. She has taken us to visit several families, meeting kids and parents in our community to help with our decisions. She has always been willing to try something new.... Her skills are remarkable. Her attitude is always positive and her willingness to go out and get what is needed is paying off. She attended conferences to find a way to start an oral program for our youngsters who are aging out of infant programs to a pre-school program for readiness to be mainstreamed. Jesse is now age three and a half and is one of the first of six kids to attend...We thank Joan for being a pioneer."

**Kristin Dombrowski**, Deansboro, New York

"I would like to nominate... **Catherine Lee**, Preschool Teacher, and **Joan Fagnoli**, Deaf Infant Instructor from the New York State School for the Deaf in Rome, New York. [They] have worked together as co-chairpersons of a team to develop a very strong aural/oral program for preschool and young children in upstate New York, bringing together a team of professionals, including our speech therapist, audiologist, program supervisor and program assistant, and support staff to create an outstanding program for young children."

They brought in program consultant **Lois Heymann** from The Beth Israel/New York Eye & Ear Cochlear Implant Center to work with both parents and staff...to develop programming directions and to extend the understanding of a consistent aural/oral approach for young cochlear implanted children, as well as children who respond through their hearing aids. This is a classroom within the school for the deaf. They have both worked to bring hearing peers as role models into the program, extend the programming through Creative and Performing Arts and other support services, coordinate programming with the speech therapist, work with our audiologist on daily equipment check ups and support of the sound field system in [all] classrooms and communicate with parents on an oral stimulation program and what they can reinforce at home on a daily basis.

Both... have worked extensively...to make the parents "partners" in the education of their children. They have established parent trainings throughout the year, made home visits and communicate on a daily basis. They have attended trainings and visited other programs that service young children with cochlear implants. The gains these children have made are remarkable. Ms. Lee and Ms. Fagnoli are what I call "natural teachers." .... Our program continues to grow due to their outstanding dedication to young children who are deaf."

**Suzanne W. DeLaire**

Elementary/Middle School Supervisor, New York State School for the Deaf



Jeremy Cardinale with Pat Neuhaus

"We waited patiently for the day Jeremy would be activated and begin learning to listen and speak. Three weeks after activation [at age 19 months], Jeremy said "up," his first word. It was a miracle and I felt we were truly on our way "up"! However, there have been many trials and tribulations ranging from incompetent coordinators, insensitive therapists, two year old temper tantrums, Jeremy's refusal to attend sessions, commuting problems...and the sheer exhaustion of speaking 24/7. At times, I felt I was drowning. How and would I continue this space and be 100% certain of Jeremy's succeed? **Patricia Rothschild Neuhaus**, the speech and hearing services supervisor at St. Francis de Sales School for the Deaf threw me a life jacket. She has spent numerous hours advising us, advocating for Jeremy's services, conferencing with his therapist, taking the time to understand his learning style, implementing an individual plan and ALWAYS speaking in a kind, patient, and professional manner....She is truly gifted...I thank her constantly....She says, "It's my pleasure. It's my job"....She deserves to be honored as a "Hearing Hear-o." She is the angel leading us on our journey. God has sent her to us."

**Meredith Cardinale**, Staten Island, New York