

Echoes

THE CHILDREN'S HEARING INSTITUTE
www.childrens hearing.org



OCTOBER, 2007

Radio Disney AM 1560 Joins The Children's Hearing Institute On Kids' Hearing Education Campaign



Cochlear Implant and Hearing Aid Families Are Invited to Bridgewater's October 7

Cochlear implant and hearing aid families are cordially invited to join The Children's Hearing Institute at the taping of a special kids' concern show highlighting the challenges of hearing impairment and how to protect your hearing. The show, hosted by *Radio Disney AM 1560's DJ Jenn*, will be taped at *Bridgewater's* Sunday, October 7 at 11 AM. The show will feature professional experts from The Beth Israel/New York Eye and Ear Cochlear Implant Center, including co-directors *Drs. Ronald Hoffman, Jane Madell, and Simon Parisier; Drs. Ana Kim, Christopher Linstrom and George Alexiades*; and our outstanding team of audiologists, speech-language therapists and educators. During the show, the experts and DJ Jenn will take questions from the audience. Radio Disney AM 1560 will air the show during October's *National Children's Health Month*. The show will kick off a year-long awareness-raising campaign during which a CHI-sponsored "Hearing Tip of the Week" will air every Friday for 52 weeks.

Radio Disney AM 1560 New York is a 24/7 radio station devoted to kids, tweens and families. Radio Disney AM 1560 covers the entire tri-state region. Kids help pick the music that is played and are encouraged to interact via a toll-free line to the Radio Disney studio. The network's current playlist, driven by listener

requests and representing major record labels, includes recording artists *Miley Cyrus as Hannah Montana, Jonas Brothers, Vanessa Hudgens, Corbin Blue, Ashley Tisdale, Aly & AJ, Rihanna, B5* and *Jesse McCartney*.

Radio Disney is the No. 1 destination for kids, tweens and families on the radio. It is available to 97% of the U.S. on over 50 terrestrial radio stations and through most of South America. In the U.S. it is also available on [Radio Disney.com](http://RadioDisney.com), XM and Sirius satellite radio, iTunes Radio Tuner, XM/DIRECTV and mobile phones. Kids, tweens and families can also download Radio Disney programming via the iTunes Music Store. Radio Disney brand extensions include multiple Radio Disney Jams CDs from Walt Disney Records.

The taping at *Bridgewater's* will include a buffet breakfast. Please arrive at 10 AM for check-in and breakfast. Taping will begin at 11 AM. No one will be admitted without a prior RSVP. Please let us know if you plan to attend by calling CHI at 212-614-8380. We will need the names and ages of the children you plan to bring with you.

Bridgewater's is located at: *Eleven Fulton Street, atop the Fulton Market Building. Entrance at corner of Beekman and Front Streets, South Street Seaport, Manhattan. (212) 608-7400*

Parking: *Central Parking Systems outdoor parking, corner of Beekman and Pearl Streets. Entrance to lot is on Pearl Street. After parking, walk east on Beekman Street one block and turn right on Front Street. Fulton Market Building is on left.*

From East Side of Manhattan: *Take FDR Drive to Exit 2, "Brooklyn Bridge/Manhattan Civic Center". Bear right down ramp toward Civic Center. Make a left at end of ramp (at first stoplight) onto Pearl Street. Follow Water/Pearl Streets 3 blocks south to the Seaport (on left).*

From Brooklyn Bridge: *Follow signs for FDR Drive/Pearl Street. Go down ramp to light and turn right onto Pearl St. Follow Water/Pearl Street 3 blocks south to the Seaport (on left).*

From West Side, George Washington Bridge, Lincoln & Holland Tunnels: *Take Westside Highway (West Street) south around tip of Manhattan and follow signs for FDR Drive. Go through underpass. Take Exit 1, "South Street" (immediately on right as you exit underpass). Follow South Street north to the Seaport. Pier 17 is on right, Fulton Market Building is on left. Make left on Beekman Street.*

From Brooklyn Battery Tunnel: *Follow signs for FDR Drive. Take Exit 1, "South Street." Follow South Street north to the Seaport. Pier 17 is on right; Fulton Market Building is on left. Make a left on Beekman Street.*

By Subway: *Take 2, 3, 4, 5, J, Z or M trains to Fulton Street; A and C trains to Broadway/ Nassau. Walk east on Fulton to Cobblestone area of Seaport. Make left on Front Street.*

By Bus: *Take the M15 (South Ferry Sign) down 2nd Avenue to Fulton Street.*

The Bacon Brothers to Perform At CHI Benefit Gala

CHI is pleased to announce that *The Bacon Brothers* – Kevin and Michael – are donating a special musical performance at our upcoming Benefit Gala Monday, November 5. *Michael's* son *Neil* has had chronic ear problems throughout his childhood resulting in tubes in both ears in at least six operations. *Michael* says that “with all *Neil's* struggles, he has managed to maintain adequate hearing through the excellent care of *Dr. Ronald Hoffmar*”

Kevin and Michael Bacon have been writing songs and playing music together since about the same time they may have been fighting over Lincoln Logs or little green Army guys. In fact, the cover of their first album, *Forosoco*, shows as much; the picture, taken in 1972, shows *Kevin* and *Michael* onstage playing congas and guitar, respectively. The look of communication between the two is telling: although the *The Bacon Brothers* have only been a working band since 1995, they too, run decades deep. “[In that picture], we’re singing and playing songs we wrote together,” says *Michael*, “and now we’re doing the exact same thing. Nothing has really changed. We haven’t gone astray from what our original intention was with music, which is communication.”

“When we first started, the people who attended our shows came strictly to see *Kevin Bacon*, the movie star,” says *Michael*. “Now people come to see and hear *The Bacon Brothers*.” They are backed by *Paul Guzzone* on bass/vocals, *Marshal Rosenberg* on percussion, *Frank Vilardi* on drums, and *Ira Siegel* on electric guitar.



Artist Organizes Benefit Auction for CHI

The Children’s Hearing Institute is pleased to announce that artist *Tom Kranjac* has graciously organized an exhibition of his abstract impressionist paintings and work on paper to

Tom Kranjac
Sounds of Summer; The Rush of Autumn
September 28th - November 30th, 2007

Please join us for the opening featuring Tom Kranjac's abstract impressionist paintings and works on paper
Friday evening, September 28th, 6-8 PM

The Gallery at The Southampton Inn
91 Hill Street, Southampton, New York

For more information please phone 212.517.9550 x22
or visit tomkranjacart.com

Proceeds from each sale of artwork will benefit The Children's Hearing Institute.
www.childrenshearing.org

untitled blue, 72 x 60 in, acrylic on canvas

benefit our organization. *Tom* is an abstract expressionist artist who has shown in the East Village in the 80's and is represented in various corporate, institutional, and private collections. He studied Art History at NYU and besides being a practicing psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, he is on the faculty of the Columbia University Psychoanalytic Center. He says: “*Art is a passion that has been part of me since my youth. Abstraction is one of my deep and abiding concerns. Recent paintings and drawings explore a nuanced imagery that for me represents a synthesis of longstanding interests in exploring color and gesture and shape and structure - elements that can be seen as abstract and those that can be taken as being suggestive of nature.*” **Learn more about the artist's work by visiting www.tomkranjacart.com; www.terraingallery.org and www.danspapers.com**

Genetic Hearing Loss and Protein Therapy

A large proportion of genetically caused deafness in humans may be reversible by compensating for a missing protein. In a study funded by the National Institute on

Deafness, the Woodruff Foundation, the Deafness Research Foundation and the National Organization for Hearing Research, researchers have found that in mice, increasing the amount of the protein connexin26 in the ear's cochlea compensates for an absence of another protein, connexin30. The findings come 10 years after scientists first discovered that connexin26 mutations cause much of the

deafness diagnosed at birth. *Xi (Erick) Lin, PhD*, associate professor of otolaryngology and cell biology at Emory University School of Medicine, lead author of the study, says “There are millions of deaf people affected by mutations in this one gene, connexin26. In people without congenital hearing loss, connexin26 and connexin30 work together to form the cochlea's hybrid junction gaps, which facilitate intercellular communication. But when one of the proteins is missing, the hybrid junction gaps fail to work, and the cochlea's hair cells die off, leaving the body incapable of translating sounds into nerve impulses.” *Dr. Lin* and his colleagues are now working to see if connexin-related deafness can be reversed in a mouse model, or if increasing connexin30 may help when connexin26 is absent. Results may mean big changes for how congenital deafness is approached.

Courses, Presentations, Papers

■ **Madell, Jane, PhD:** *Learning and Literacy*, AGBell Conference, July 27, 2007.

■ **Madell, Jane, PhD, Richard Schwartz:** August 2-3, participation in a working group for Cochlear Corporation developing a new speech test protocol for cochlear implant patients. This meeting was the result of a paper Dr Madell presented at CI2007 meeting in Charlotte, NC, April 2007, suggesting a new protocol.

■ **Parisier, Simon, MD:** Instruction Courses: 1) *Surgical Decision Making in Cholesteatoma*, September 17, 2007. 2) *Cochlear Implant Surgery and Management of Complications*, September 18, 2007. American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery.

■ **Parisier, Simon MD:** Congres National, Societe Francaise d'Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, Guest Speaker, *Complications of Cochlear Implants*, October 14, 2007, Paris France.

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opment, hair cells and surrounding supporting cells have a common origin. Cells that express certain proteins like the *Math1* gene are fated to become hair cells, while inhibition of *Math1* leads to supporting cell formation. After embryonic development, hair cell production ceases in mammals. Unlike the cells in the skin and gut, cells in the inner ear contain no stem cells, so there is no source for renewal. That's the main reason why hair cell loss is permanent. However, recent discovery where over-expression of *Math1* in the supporting cells leads to a change in their personality to become hair cells, have sparked enthusiasm to regrow lost hair cells and thereby improve hearing. There are other genes like *Math1* that may prove to trigger new hair cell growth, and my research involves identifying these possible novel genes and drugs to restore hearing loss and balance problems.

As a Clinician-Scientist, I am in the unique position of being able to take a clinical problem I see first hand from my patients, and taking this problem to the lab in search of solutions we can ultimately translate back to people. I feel fortunate to be able to play this dual role, and privileged to be contributing towards advancing our current understanding and treatment of hearing and balance problems."

JOB OPPORTUNITY THE BETH ISRAEL/ NEW YORK EYE & EAR COCHLEAR IMPLANT CENTER

Certified Teacher of the Deaf/Educational Coordinator Supports the auditory/oral methodology; Understands hearing amplification, hearing aids and cochlear implants; Knowledgeable about FM equipment and other assistive technology; Sensitive to the needs of parents; can observe children in schools and determine their needs; Understands the IEP process; Good PR skills; Willing to learn and be a Team player.

Contact: Susan Cheffo, MS: scheffo@chpnet.org



CHI 2007-2008 Events Calendar

For further information about these events, please call
Melissa Willis at: 212-979-4523

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

October 23

Audiology 101 - Featuring Dr. Jane Madell

October 29

Sounds in Motion - Featuring Frances Santore of the
Horace Mann School

November 29 - December 1

International Temporal Bone Course:

The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary

December 12

*Auditory Neuropathy/Dys-synchrony:
What School Providers Need to Know*

Controversial Issues in Pediatric Audiology

The Graduate Center, New York City

February 28

Auditory Verbal Day

February 29

Audiology Day

Family Workshops

October 18

Parent/Teen Workshop, Part I, Four Points Sheraton, Plainview,
6:30-9:00 PM

Parents will meet with psychologist Dale Van Dyke, and teens will meet to discuss *"Teens & Music."* All teens in attendance will receive a \$25 iTunes music card.

November 11

Parent Workshop: Early Intervention

Beth Israel Medical Center, 3:00-5:30 PM

November 29

Parent/Teen Workshop, Part II, Four Points Sheraton, Plainview,
6:30-9:00 PM

Newcomers are Welcome!!! New Topics will be discussed.
Parents will meet with psychologist Dale Van Dyke, and
teens will meet to discuss *"Teens & Music."*

Sponsorship Events

October 8

2nd Annual No Limits Walkathon

October 28

*Why walk, when you can skate, a fundraising event to
benefit oral deaf children*

Trump's Wollman's Ice Skating Rink, Central Park.

For information call: 800-948-7712

The Children's Hearing Institute Supports Important Research Studies

Ana Kim, MD is Director of Otologic Research in the department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, and Assistant Professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy at New York Medical College.



Ana Kim, MD

Dr. Kim provides comprehensive care in all areas of otology and neuro-otology, including cochlear implantation, facial nerve disorders, and acoustic neuroma surgery. She also directs the Infirmary's extensive clinical research program involving disorders of the ear, nose and throat. As we have noted in past editions of Echoes, The Children's Hearing Institute is proud to be currently underwriting advanced clinical research studies conducted by the Infirmary with New York Medical College. We have provided grant support for A Drosophila Model for Hereditary Hearing Loss, a genetic research study focusing on auditory apparatus in the fruit fly *Drosophila*, which is remarkably similar to mammalian auditory organs, and may have as many as 30 genes involved in hearing loss. CHI has also provided a grant in support of a clinical research pilot study entitled Cellular Biology of Cholesteatoma Research, intended to identify the cause of this genetic, progressive deterioration of the middle ear. Dr. Kim writes:

"Hearing loss and balance dysfunction pose a major problem in people. This can occur if a person's inner ear hair cells are destroyed by exposure to loud noise, certain medications, aging, and chronic ear disease. Hair cells are found within the two compartments housed in the inner ear called the cochlea and vestibular organ. The cochlea is responsible for hearing, and the vestibular organ for balance. In the normal ear, hair cells act like miniature microphones in the cochlea. Vibrations from sound waves strike the eardrum, then transfer this energy to the fluid found inside the snail-shaped bony organ called the cochlea. When cochlear fluid moves, it stimulates movement of thousands of hair cells lining the inside of the cochlea, initiating electrical signals picked up by the auditory nerve fibers that are carried to an area of the brain called the auditory cortex. If hair cells are damaged or missing, electrical signals are not generated, and hearing is impaired. These same hair cells are also present within our vestibular organ. Loss of these delicate hair cells cause dizziness and imbalance. While cochlear implants help people who lack hair cells by directly stimulating the auditory nerve, and thereby restore hearing, those with balance

problems due to hair cell loss within the vestibular organ do not have the equivalent of a cochlear implant to restore their balance. My research is aimed at understanding the mechanism of repair and regeneration of these hair cells in the auditory and vestibular system. If we can identify therapy aimed at regenerating the lost hair cells, we may be able to restore hearing and balance in the future.

Since the discovery in the late 1980s that birds can spontaneously regenerate damaged hair cells, scientists have been trying to find ways to induce the replacement of lost hair cells in mammals. During the embryonic stage of an animal's development

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CHI Sponsors Helpful Family Workshops

In June, The Children's Hearing Institute sponsored a sold-out two day workshop "Parents Connecting with Parents: Connection is the Key" at the Edith Macy Conference Center in Briarcliff Manor, NY. The event was organized by Lois K. Heymann, MA, CCC-SLP, Auditory Therapist and Clinical Instructor at SUNY New Paltz, who has more than 30 years of experience working with children and parents. Dr. David



Luterman, Professor Emeritus at Emerson College in Boston and the Director of the Thayer Lindsey Family Center for Hearing Impaired Children, also presented. Parents were able to enjoy the serene, relaxing atmosphere as they shared stories on dealing with the social and emotional impact of hearing loss on their families. This type of workshop is essential as parents of deaf and hearing-impaired children need the opportunity to meet as a group and discuss critical issues unique to their families and their situations. This is important for developing a sense of community, offering an opportunity to listen to others' experiences and to give and gain helpful information. Also covered in the workshop were guided parent discussions and *BOOKTALK*, a workshop of what and how to read to children who are hearing-impaired at different ages and stages of their development. The focus of this *BOOKTALK* was "Building Vocabulary Through Literacy". A variety of books were donated for the workshop by The Children's Hearing Institute. Parents were able to develop skills during the workshop and carry their skills home while they read to and with their child. CHI's Educational Outreach Program will be sponsoring more workshops in the future to address the needs of parents. **For a list of upcoming workshops, please visit our website www.childrenshearing.org or contact Melissa Willis at 212-979-4523.**



The Children's Hearing Institute
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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



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:

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/
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Coordinator: Susan Chetto, MS

212-844-6351

Meredith Berger, MS

Lois Heymann, MA, CCC-SLP

Rebecca Kooper, Aud

Stacy Purro, MSW

Social Work

Audiology

Director: Jane R. Madell, PhD, CCC-A/SLP, Cert. AVT,

212-844-8792

Supervisor: Sandra Delapenha, MA, CCC-A

Supervisor Cochlear Implants: Nicole Sillian, MA, CCC-A

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

Sabrina Vitolano, MS, CCC-A

Ariela Bindel, MA, CCC/A

Miriam De La Asuncion, Aud

Nancy Gilston, MA, CCC-A

Megan Kuhlmei, 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

Maranna Davila, MS, CCC-SLP

Karen Slotnick, MA, CCC-SLP

Elizabeth Ying, MA, CCC-SLP

Research

Richard Schwartz, PhD

Enterprising Teen Creates Coloring Books for Cochlear Implant Center



Issey (Isabel) Blatt

The Children's Hearing Institute is pleased to share this message from *Elise Blatt*:

"My daughter *Issey (Isabel)* turned 13 at the end of May. She does not have a cochlear implant, instead has an Auditory Processing Disorder. *Issey* is a very creative academic student who was having difficulties. As her parents, we couldn't figure out why she was having such a hard time entering a new school in 7th grade and why as a top student she had been struggling with language and reading over the years. Our 'eureka' moment came when we were recommended to see *Dr. Jane Madell*. It was at that time *Issey* was diagnosed with a significant Auditory Processing Disorder. This information has now empowered *Issey* to understand where her difficulties are rooted. Subsequent AIT training and noise filtering ear plugs have proven to be of great help. *Issey* will be entering her new school with a FM Transmitter. It has been an amazing discovery for all of us and we know *Issey* will navigate her school and the world with more confidence now that she is aware of her hearing processing issues.

When *Issey* first met with *Dr. Madell* she was in the process of preparing for her Bat Mitzvah which occurred this past May. *Issey* had decided some months earlier to use her artistic talents to create a coloring book as part of the community service project for her Bat Mitzvah. She had always anticipated donating the books to a hospital. In April, as she went through the two week AIT program at Beth Israel's Cochlear Implant Center...she was thrilled to share her coloring book and dozens of crayons with kids like her with hearing issues. It was also

great for us to see how excited she was to sit down with kids and help them color. And it was a nice thank you gift back to the staff, as we were happy to see them share some coloring books with their own children.

This has been a challenging year for *Issey*. With *Dr. Madell's* discoveries and help, she is now on her way to a happier more successful time. Sharing the coloring books has been a great opportunity for her to grow."

Media Cites Success of Cochlear Implants

Kassie Depaiva, an actress on "All My Children," and her son *JQ*, who has bilateral cochlear implants, appeared on ABC-TV's "The View" September 19. They discussed *JQ's* upcoming appearances on "All My Children" and the issue of cochlear implants and the hearing impaired community. *JQ* is age ten now, but was born with a profound hearing loss and now hears with cochlear implants. Many families e-mail *Kassie* asking for advice on this issue, so she wanted to share some important facts with her fans, and show how her precious *JQ* is doing beautifully with his cochlear implants. She says: "He has worked so hard to be where he is and I am so proud of him." *JQ* guest-starred on "All My Children" in episodes featuring *Erica Kane's (Susan Lucci)* talk show, "New Beginnings," which was dedicated to the theme of deaf children. The episodes aired on September 20th, 21st and 24th.



JQ Depavia

On September 4, *The New York Times* featured the story "Early Action Proving Crucial to Hearing Success." The story cites studies confirming "that the earlier the intervention, the

better the chance that the child will develop listening and language skills." The story cited reasons for delays in fitting children with hearing aids and/or implanting them with cochlear devices, including imperfect screening and testing, a "wait and see" attitude on the part of some pediatricians and the denial of some parents.

CHI Provides Grant to Educate Diabetes Patients with Hearing Loss

Diabetes is a lifelong illness that can damage blood vessels and eventually lead to blindness, cardiovascular disease, stroke and amputation. With the goal of encouraging compliance with treatment protocols and to improve outcomes for diabetes patients who have hearing loss, The Children's Hearing Institute is providing a \$10,000 seed money grant to Beth Israel Medical Center's new Gerald J. Friedman Diabetes Institute. The funds will be used to develop materials, including a workbook and DVD, and also to support an ongoing series of workshops with diabetes educators and sign-language interpreters. The project was presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Diabetes Educators August 1-4.