Echoes
THE CHILDREN'S HEARING INSTITUTE FEBRUARY, 2010
www.childrenshearing.org

CHI Sponsors Annual Controversial Issues In Pediatric Audiology Conference March 3rd and 4th

The Children's Hearing Institute is planning an exciting and informative *"Controversial Issues in Pediatric Audiology"* conference on Thursday and Friday, March 4 -5, 2010 at the City University of New York Graduate Center Auditoriums.

As in past years, speakers will include national recognized figures in their respective fields as well as members of the staff of the renowned Ear Institute Hearing and Learning Center at The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Thursday, March 4th is *Auditory Verbal Therapy Day*. Faculty for the day includes Ann Geers, Phd, Adjunct Professor of Communication Disorders, Callier Advanced Hearing Research Center of the University of Texas at Dallas, who will share the results of her research covering factors that affect performance in children with cochlear implants.

In addition, members of the staff of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary's Ear Institute will discuss cochlear implant mapping, auditory therapy techniques, and educational issues. A special presentation on music therapy with hearing impaired children will feature Jenny Hoi Yan Fu of the Auditory Oral School of New York/Striveright.

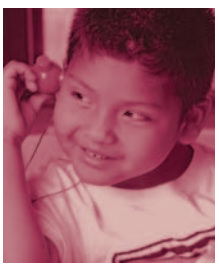
Audiology Day, Friday, March 5th, will feature presentations by Anu Sharma, PhD of the University of Colorado at Boulder, whose topic is entitled "Cortical Development in Children with Auditory Neuropathy: Clinical Implications". The day will also include a Presentation on Technology by Jace Wolfe, PhD of the University of Oklahoma. William Kimberling, PhD, will discuss *Screening and Early Diagnosis of Usher's Syndrome*.

Ronald Hoffman, MD, Director of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary's Hearing and Learning/Cochlear Implant Center will discuss medical management of children with hearing loss.

A professional Exhibit Hall will be a feature of Friday's conference, too. Over a dozen hearing aid and cochlear implant manufacturers will be available for conference participants.

This two day conference promises to be enlightening and rewarding for all participants. To register or for further information, please visit the Institute's website at www.childrenshearing.org or contact Melissa Willis, Director of Educational Programming at (646) 438-7858.





Dizziness and Balance

One of the inner ear's major functions, besides hearing, is the maintenance of balance. The organs of balance located in the ear are called the semicircular canals. When we spin around, it is the S.S.C.'s that tell us that we are turning. When we trip or stumble, it is an inner ear reflex that causes us to put out an arm to break the fall. Disorders of the organ of balance cause dizziness, a common complaint that defies exact definition.

Patients describe a wide variety of different sensations: lightheadedness, wooziness, imbalance, leaning to the side, spinning ("I am spinning" or "The world is spinning"). This last symptom, the sense of motion, is called vertigo. There is no correlation between the type of symptoms and any particular disease. A persistence of dizziness is abnormal and merits medical evaluation.

Vertigo may be defined as "the false sensation of motion." This can be the room spinning, the person spinning or the floor rocking. Vertigo, per se, is not diagnostic of any particular disease. It means that the balance system is not working right and needs to be evaluated.

Testing of Organ Balance

Electronystagmography, often referred to as ENG, is an electrical method of recording nystagmus, defined as a to-and-from movement of the eyes. Balance disorders are often characterized by abnormal movement of the eyes.

The eye gives off a minute electrical current which the ENG machine is able to sense and thereby monitor the position and the movement of the eye. During ENG testing the balance system is stimulated by different positions of the body and by irrigation of warm and cold water in the ear. This test is one of the most accurate methods of determining the cause of dizziness.

Posturography

Normal balance depends not just upon the inner ear but the eyes and feedback from the muscles of the torso and legs.

Electronystagmography tests primarily the inner ear and brain. Dynamic platform posturography allows for evaluation of the function of the eyes and the leg muscles as well as the inner ear and brain.

Vision often affects balance. Recall the individual who looks down from the top of a tall building and suddenly feels as though he/she is going to fall forward; or the person sitting in a train, looking out the window, who feels that he/she is going backward as the adjacent train begins to move slowly forward. In both of these examples it is information from the eyes, relayed to the balance areas of the brain, that gives misinformation and hence a sense of imbalance or false motion.

We are able to lean to one side and not fall over because we have the muscular strength to counterbalance our own weight. When this strength is diminished, balance becomes more difficult.

When medical or surgical therapy has not been effective in relieving the symptoms of a balance disorder, vestibular rehabilitation may help. Vestibular rehabilitation is a proven, exercise-based treatment designed to improve function of the three critical systems that contribute to balance well being: the inner ear, the eyes and muscles in the legs. In addition, the therapy promotes the integration of signals from each system in the brain.

The therapists at the Vestibular Rehabilitation Center at the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary are experts at treating dizziness disorders. For more information, please call Brian Hujsak, Program Director at 646 438 7871.

Dr. Hoffman is Director of the Ear Institute of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, and a member of the Board of Directors of The Children's Hearing Institute.

The Children's Hearing Institute Announces the Launch of "E-Echoes"

In early March, The Institute will launch an electronic version of our newsletter entitled *E-Echoes*. *E-Echoes* will be e-mailed on a monthly basis to keep parents, professionals and donors up to date regarding current programs and upcoming events of our organization. *E-Echoes* will feature segments about: The Ear Institute, What's New In Technology, Ask the Doctor-Q&A, Upcoming CEU Courses for Professionals and free workshops for parents.

If you wish to receive *E-Echoes*, please visit our website and click on Join Our Mailing List or contact Melissa Willis, Director of Educational Programming of The Children's Hearing Institute at: mwillis@nyee.edu

Members of the Mallah Family join Yvette and Joel Mallah (3rd and 4th from left) at Benefit February 2nd.

CHI Supporters Gather at CORE Club to Honor Joel and Yvette Mallah and Lee and Bob Woodruff

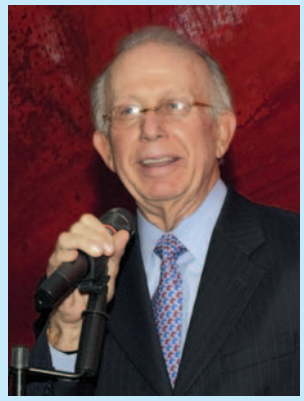
The event concluded with a performance by Lindsay Lieberman and Kate Pazakis accompanied by composer Lance Horne.

Lee and Bob Woodruff, Hearing "Hear O" Award recipients, join Benefit Chairman Bob Klein.

(left to right) Leonard Boxer, Esq. and Dr. Simon Parisier join in presenting the award to Yvette and Joel Mallah, with Dr. Ronald Hoffman.

CHI Founder Elaine Parisier (center) with Ellen McCahill and CHI Treasurer and Board Member Bill McCahill.

(Left to right) Dr. Michael Pittman, Board member of "Sing for Hope" and NYEEI Otolaryngologist, Kassie de Paiva, Lance Horne, and Elaine and Simon Parisier, MD.



Leonard Boxer, Chairman of the Board, delivers opening remarks.

CHI Board member Dennis Basso joins fellow Board member and Benefit host Frank Ginsberg and his wife, Joan.

On Tuesday, February 2nd, a large crowd of friends and supporters of The Children's Hearing Institute gathered for cocktails and hors d'ouvres at the CORE Club to honor Yvette and Joel Mallah, and Lee and Bob Woodruff.

Mr. and Mrs. Mallah were the recipients of the Institute's highest honor, the Jule Styne Humanitarian Award. In presenting the award, Dr. Ronald Hoffman, CHI Board member and Director of The Ear Institute of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, gratefully acknowledged their personal generosity and enthusiastic support for CHI"s mission.

Children's Institute founder Dr. Simon Parisier joined Dr. Hoffman in the award presentation. For many years, the Mallahs have been among The Children's Hearing Institute's most generous supporters. They were joined by a large contingent of their family for the evening.

The evening was capped of by a performance that was the result of collaboration between Sing for Hope, an organization devoted to mobilizing world class artists in volunteer service, and The Children's Hearing Institute. Emmy-award winning composer Lance Horne was joined by Lindsay Lieberman, a beneficiary of CHI-funded services and soprano Kate Pazakis in a moving musical performance.

Lee and Bob Woodruff received the Hearing "Hear O" Award in recognition of their devoted advocacy to the cause of children with hearing loss. The Woodruffs are themselves the parents of a daughter who is hearing impaired. The award was presented by Kassie DePaiva, of the daytime drama "One Life to Live" who is the mother of a son who is a cochlear implant recipient. Bob Woodruff is the Peabody-award winning NBC anchorman who was injured in Iraq. Lee is the author of "In an Instant".

Board member Robert E Klein of Assured Environments served as Benefit Chairman. He was joined by Dr. Ronald Hoffman, Journal Chair. Frank Ginsberg was the benefit host for the evening at the CORE Club. The event raised over $430,000 to benefit The Institute's important work.

Personal Perspectives: Joe Gigante

Editor's Note: Joseph Gigante, now 17 and planning to attend college in the fall, shares some personal insights on his own hearing loss, the cochlear implant and the role of his parents in his own growth and development. Thanks to the support of generous donors, The Children's Hearing Institute is able to support the research, clinical and education services that have made such a difference in Joe's life, and the lives of thousands of children like him.

I was diagnosed as hard of hearing when I was 18 months old in 1993. This devastated my parents, but they decided to take charge of my hearing impairment. Most of the books, meetings, and doctors they consulted all said the same thing: that I would probably not get an easy chance at a normal life.

My parents didn't agree with this sentiment at all. They got me to go to weekly speech therapy lessons and to extra schooling so that I could catch up to the level of a regular child. Also, rather than send me to a special school for deaf children, I went to Clark Mills Elementary school when I was 4. I was a special education student, but I was always able to perform at a higher level than was expected. Most of it was due to the fact that my parents always supported me and expected the best out of me. Their attitude made me learn to expect the best out of myself.

Being hearing impaired wasn't always that big of a deal to me when I was younger, but my feelings about my hearing changed when I was about 10 years old. Suddenly, I became very much aware of those things on my ears. I didn't like them at all. I didn't like asking people to repeat themselves 50 million times a day. I didn't like how I couldn't keep my hearing aids on whenever I went into the pool during the summer. I didn't like that I couldn't hear the words to music when it played on the radio. I didn't like changing the batteries every day. I didn't like the monthly audiologist visits, the weekly speech lessons, or the daily special education part of my day. I just plain didn't like them.

I became extremely self conscious of my hearing aids. I always felt that people were staring and that they were judging me. I hated the questions most of all. Many young kids would unabashedly ask me what those things were on my ear. Older people would also ask me what they were sometimes. I started growing my hair out to cover my ears. This, of course, didn't work out, as my hair is very curly and grew up instead of straight. I looked ridiculous. I didn't care though; my self-confidence became so bad that I felt that I'd rather have bad hair than reveal my insecurities to people.

As I passed throughout my childhood, my hearing impairment became worse and worse. I became extremely shy. I didn't even want to initiate conversations with people because I was afraid that I would look weird when I said "What?" It scared me to talk to people because I would start thinking too much about what to say and stumble over my words. I seemed to lose my ability for easy conversation with people. I found myself staying home on the weekends instead of going out with friends.

I knew that I needed stronger hearing aids called cochlear implants, but I adamantly refused to get the surgery. My parents sided with me because they felt I should get it only when I was ready. Finally, when I was fourteen and in the eighth grade, something inside me snapped. I realized how ridiculous I was being. I didn't want to improve my hearing because I was afraid people would look at the bigger processor? I made the decision and got the surgery three months later.

The cochlear implant definitely helped me hear much better and with it, boosted my confidence and self esteem. I made lots more friends and I wasn't so afraid to talk to people. From there it just kept getting better and better. I can now honestly say that I am glad I am deaf. I am the person that being deaf made me be. I don't ever want to change now because I like who that person is.

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Expanding the Boundaries for Cochlear Implantation

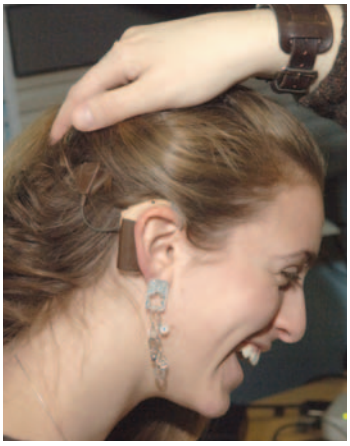
About 20% of children with hearing loss have inner ear malformations present at birth. This inner ear malformation, along with the hearing loss, presents an added challenge in treatment.

It is often difficult for doctors and audiologists to determine if cochlear implants will be successful in these cases. While audiological testing, otological examinations, x-rays, and MRI's provide some information, it is often difficult to determine if the implant surgery itself would be successful, and if the surgery is successful, whether the implanted cochlear nerve would be able to respond adequately once the implant is turned on.

Increasingly, it is being reported that in some cases, cochlear implant surgery is proving successful in individuals with these malformations. However, doctors are understandably cautious about implanting children if the successful outcome of this surgery would be in doubt.

An EABR test (electrical auditory brainstem response) can help determine whether the implanted nerve would respond to electrical stimulation, and can also provide some information about how a child will perceive speech once implanted. This test involves placing a needle on the cochlea itself, electrically stimulating the cochlea, and measuring the reaction of the cochlea to this stimulation. By measuring this reaction, physicians can determine whether cochlear implantation would be viable. Due to the delicacy of this procedure, it is most often performed under general anesthesia.

Dr. Paul Kileny, Professor and Director of Electrophysiology at the University of Michigan, a pioneer in EABR testing, is internationally renowned in his field, and has published articles on the usefulness of EABR testing in determining cochlear implant candidacy.



Sponsored by The Children's Hearing Institute's Educational Outreach Program, Dr. Kileny lectured and demonstrated the EABR on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 in New York. Dr. Kileny's evening lecture was exceptionally well attended by a cross section of hearing health care professionals including physicians, audiologists and speech language pathologists.

During morning testing in the operating rooms of The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, three candidates with inner ear malfunctions received EABR testing. Two individuals were determined to be good candidates for cochlear implantation. It is important to note that without this testing; doctors would have probably not chosen to implant these patients. Of the two patients, one has already undergone surgery and her device has been activated. Both the patient's audiologist and the patient herself report impressive results, in fact, the patient says she can now hear the highs and lows in music, and looks forward to karaoke in the months to come!

Dr. Parisier Receives Horace Mann School Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Simon Parisier, co- founder with his wife Elaine Parisier of The Children's Hearing Institute, is the 2009 recipient of the Horace Mann School Distinguished Alumni Award.

The award was presented in October at a dinner at The Waldorf Astoria. In presenting this award, Horace Mann acknowledged Dr. Parisier's many contributions to the field of otolaryngology, including his work on cholesteatoma, a destructive inner ear disorder, chronic middle ear infections and ear diseases, and his numerous contributions to professional development in his field. Horace Mann School also acknowledged Dr. Parisier's pioneering work in the development of cochlear implants and related operative techniques, and his work with The Children's Hearing Institute, founded to support research, educational and clinical efforts to help hearing impaired children and their families.

Previous recipients of the distinguished alumni award include Robert S Ledley, DDS, inventor of the CAT scan, Pulitzer Prize winning poet Anthony Hecht, New Yorker cartoonist Edward B. Koren, Robert B. Schapiro, former CEO of Monsanto, violinist Gil Shaham, and realtor and philanthropist Daniel Rose.

THE CHILDREN'S HEARING INSTITUTE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Controversial Issues in Pediatric Audiology (CEU Course)
Auditory Verbal Therapy Day – Thursday, March 4, 2010
Audiology Day – Friday, March 5, 2010
The Graduate Center – CUNY

Audiology 101 – A Hands on Workshop**
Basic Audiology Course for Speech Language Pathologists, Auditory Verbal Therapists, Teachers of the Deaf & Administrators. ***Registration limited to 10 Participants. Same Course will be held 4X a year.*

Friday, March 12, 2010
Friday, June 11, 2010
Friday, Sept. 17, 2010
Friday, Dec. 10, 2010
All course presentations: 9:00am-3:00pm Course Location: The Ear Institute 380 Second Ave – 9th Fl., 22nd Street, New York City

Family Workshop Series – *No Registration Fee*
Four Points Sheraton, Plainview, NY (Long Island)
This popular "music" workshop is for teens and elementary school kids. Teens and Elementary kids (ages 5-11) join Casey Cheffo to discuss music interpretation using instruments, their own ipods, singing and the most recent pop music.
6:30-7:00 – Meet & Greet – Pizza Party
7:00-9:00pm - Workshop
April 15th & May 13th (Thursdays) – Elementary Kids
April 22nd & May 20th (Thursdays) – Teen Group
June 10th – Combined workshop with both groups for networking

The Comprehensive IFSP for a Hearing Impaired Child
Program for NYC Early Intervention Service Coordinators and Providers
Tuesday, May 4, 2010
Beth Israel Medical Center - PACC

BAHA Course - Bone Anchored Hearing Aids: A Technique for every ENT
New York Eye & Ear Infirmary – Dept. of Otolaryngology
Saturday, May 15, 2010
Basic information during this course will include morning lecture/didactics, afternoon didactics and instruction on soft tissues work, drilling and insertion of the BAHA in the Jorge N. Buxton, MD Microsurgical Education Center at NYEE.

The Educational Outreach Program has been established to increase the learning opportunities for professionals who work with children with hearing loss while providing them with the credit needed to maintain their certification. The Children's Hearing Institute has been approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Assoc. (ASHA), the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) and the AG BELL Academy – Listening Spoken Language Specialists (LSLS) to offer continuing education activities for speech/language pathologists, audiologists, educators, and administrators.

For more information or to register for one of these courses please contact:
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Email: Mwillis@nyee.edu; Direct Tel: (646) 438-7858
You can also register online by visiting our website at
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