

Echoes

THE CHILDREN'S HEARING INSTITUTE
www.childrenshearing.org



JUNE, 2009

The Children's Hearing Institute Presents “Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Training Conference”

As part of its comprehensive educational outreach program, The Children's Hearing Institute will present a one day conference on educational law and advocacy at Mercy College on July 30th. The Wrightslaw Conference will offer participants a comprehensive approach to the educational rights and entitlements of children with disabilities.

“We are pleased to be sponsoring this conference, which is much in demand on a nationwide basis, and will provide very valuable information to parents and professionals,” said Melissa Willis, CHI Director of Educational Outreach.

Children with disabilities are entitled by law to receive special services and accommodations in their schools. Understanding these entitlements, and how to secure and advocate for them, is key in ensuring that disabled children thrive. The Wrightslaw Conference is designed to give parents, caregivers, student advocates, attorneys, educators and health care providers the tools and skills they need to ensure access to quality education.

Led by nationally renowned authority Pete Wright, Esq., these popular conferences are offered on a nationwide basis.

The conference will be held on the campus of Mercy College in Southern Westchester County. Located 14 miles from New York City, the College is easily accessible by car and offers free parking. The Metro North train Ardsley station, situated within the campus of Mercy College, is a 10 minute walk from the conference location.

The Children's Hearing Institute is grateful to Dr. Patricia Chute, Dean, School of Health and Natural Sciences at Mercy College, for helping to sponsor this conference at the College.

Though sponsored by CHI, this conference addresses the needs, rights and entitlements of all children with ANY type of disability, and is ideal for parents and the professionals who work with disabled children.

We encourage all friends of The Children's Hearing Institute to help publicize this valuable conference by bringing it to the attention of colleagues, friends and family members who are responsible for the care or education of children with disabilities.

For further information, or to register, contact Melissa Willis at (646) 438-7858, mwillis@nyee.edu, or visit the Institute's website at:
www.childrenshearing.org.



Airplane Travel and the Ear



Ronald A. Hoffman, M.D.

Ear problems are common during airplane flight. Complaints include ear fullness, ear pain, noises in the ear (tinnitus) and occasionally dizziness.

During plane descent, the pressure within the passenger cabin changes and the Eustachian tube must open in order to allow equalization within the middle ear. If the pressures are not equilibrated, damage may occur to the ear. A mild stretching of the ear drum will result in a sense of ear

fullness, pain or a temporary decrease in hearing.

Injury during air flight can be minimized or avoided. One should NEVER fly with a severe head cold. The swelling within the nose that accompanies a head cold extends into the lining of the Eustachian tube, and the tube cannot easily be opened on a voluntary basis. The likelihood of some degree of damage to the ear is great. If there is mild nasal stuffiness, or if air flight is often accompanied by discomfort upon descent, decongestants can be used to open the nasal and Eustachian tube passages and minimize the risk of injury. These drugs may be available "over the counter" without a prescription. These drugs should not be used by patients with heart ailments, asthma, prostate gland disease or those patients with high blood pressure or suspected drug allergy.

Several physical maneuvers are also helpful. Chew gum or suck on a piece of hard candy during descent. Yawning may also help. With young children, a bottle feeding will be helpful. As a last resort, one can attempt to forcibly "pop" the ears by swallowing or drinking with the nose pinched closed. A more extreme variation is pinching the nose and "blowing out the cheeks" to force air into the middle ear. This maneuver can be dangerous and should be done with caution. The most common symptom of Eustachian tube dysfunction, ear fullness, will usually clear within 48 hours of plane descent. If the symptom persists longer, or if there is associated dizziness or severe hearing loss, consult your physician promptly. It may be necessary to use antibiotics or stronger decongestants. Future flights should be delayed until all symptoms have resolved and you are able to voluntarily open the Eustachian tube and "pop" the ear.

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

Ear Institute Also Provides Services for Adults

In addition to the renowned services provided to children at The Ear Institute of The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary, which are supported by The Children's Hearing Institute, The Ear Institute provides an array of comprehensive services for adults who are encountering hearing loss issues.

Hearing loss is a very common problem among individuals as they age, and the physicians and audiologists at the Ear

Institute are experts at diagnosing and treating such symptoms. Proper diagnosis, testing and dispensing of the suitable hearing aids can provide much needed relief of patient's ailments.

The Ear Institute offers several types of services to adult patients. The Hearing Aid Center is dedicated to restoring "normal" hearing to people with all levels of hearing loss. The Center offers all hearing aid styles, including the latest digital technology, to assure that each individual's needs are properly met.

The surgery center is equipped to treat and manage more severe disorders stemming from the ear and the base of the skull.

Loss of balance and vertigo are common among older adults. When medical or surgical treatments have not been fully effective in relieving the symptoms of a balance disorder, the vestibular rehabilitation team at the Ear Institute can help a patient improve his or her balance. For further information or a referral, contact Joseph F. Brown, Executive Director of The Children's Hearing Institute, at (646) 438-7818 or jbrown@nyee.edu.



2009 Educational Outreach Events

For further information or to register, contact Melissa Willis at 646-438-7858 or visit the web site at: www.childrenshearing.org.

Professional Workshops – 2009

July 30

Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Training Seminar (CEU Course)
Mercy College – Dobbs Ferry, NY

October 3, November 6, December 4

Optimizing Auditory Skill Development Through Partnership (CEU Course)
Ear Institute, New York Eye & Ear Infirmary

September 26

*Sounds in Motion:
Working to Close the Literacy Gap (Pre-K thru 1st Grade)*
Horace Mann School, Riverdale, NY

November 4

The Three L's: Learning-Language-Literacy
Beth Israel Medical Center - PACC

March 4-5, 2010

Controversial Issues in Pediatric Audiology (CEU COURSE)
The Graduate Center - CUNY

Parent Workshops

July 30

Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Training Seminar (CEU Course)
Mercy College – Dobbs Ferry, NY

Fall Parent/Child Workshops

TBA-- See website for details.

The Children's Hearing Institute Holds Record Number of Conferences

The Children's Hearing Institute's educational outreach program is coming to the end of its extremely successful series of educational events this spring. Over the past several months, The Institute has sponsored conferences, workshops and meetings for parents and children, and for professionals who work in the field of hearing rehabilitation.

Controversial Issues in Pediatric Audiology

The year opened with the enormously popular "Controversial Issues in Pediatric Audiology" conference, which was held over two days in the auditorium of the CUNY graduate center. The first day was devoted to matters concerning auditory verbal therapy, and presentations on the second day dealt with audiology.



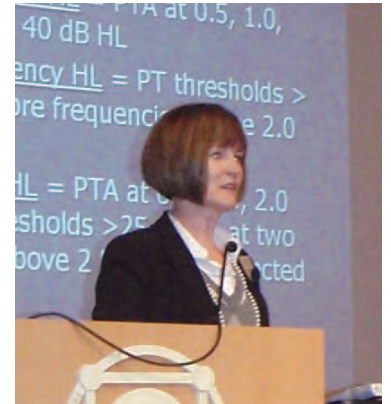
Simon C Parisier, MD President and Founder of The Children's Hearing Institute, welcomes participants to the conference, part of the 25th Anniversary celebrations of CHI. Dr Parisier is also co-director of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary's Cochlear Implant Center.

On the first day, Diane Brackett, PhD, kicked off the conference with her presentation on managing children with hearing loss in regular classroom settings. She was followed by Sara Shippman, C.O., of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary's Clinical Ophthalmology Department, who presented on vision, perception, and learning. Next, Dr. John Niparko of the John Hopkins University School of Medicine spoke on childhood development after cochlear implantation. Lastly, Perri Hecht, MS, of Perri Hecht Speech and Auditory Services, presented on how children with hearing loss can successfully adapt to a bilingual classroom.



Full house of conference participants at CUNY Graduate Center listen to presentations. Over 200 professionals attended the 2 day conference.

Day two speakers included renowned experts in the field of audiology, as well as members of the Ear Institute's own distinguished staff. Yvonne Sininger, Ph.D., of the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, spoke first on identification and management of auditory neuropathy in infants and young children. Next, Carol Flexer, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of the University of Akron, addressed the critical issue of literacy and hearing loss. Following her, Anne Marie Tharpe, Ph.D., of Vanderbilt University, presented on the identifying children with mild and unilateral hearing loss. And finally, Jane Madell, Ph.D., and Reva Batheja, MS CCC-A of the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary, Ear Institute, spoke about choosing technology and



Anne Marie Tharpe, Ph.D., Professor, Speech and Hearing Sciences, Bill Wilkerson Center at Vanderbilt University.

developing proper auditory goals for children with hearing loss.

Over 200 professionals in the field attended this conference. The opportunity to learn from internationally recognized experts was lauded by all participants.



Jane Madell Ph.D., CHI Board member and Conference Chair welcomes conference participants, and describes the work of the Ear Institute of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, of which she is Director of the Hearing and Learning Center, and Co-Director of the Cochlear Implant Center.

The Children's Hearing Institute is gratified to know that the knowledge gained at these conferences by the professionals in attendance will add to the clinical excellence of services delivered to deaf and hard of hearing children.



Doctors Flexer, Tharpe, and Sininger listen to fellow conference presenters.

Counseling Workshop



A panel of parents of deaf and hard of hearing children shared their experiences with conference participants.

On March 16th, in the auditorium at Beth Israel Medical Center, The Children's Hearing Institute presented a counseling workshop for professionals who work with hearing impaired people. These professionals, who were not counselors, learned how to address patient issues such as dealing with the grief of a new diagnosis, and how to assist and encourage parents coping with their child's hearing loss.

In the morning, speech language pathologists, audiologists, teachers of the deaf, and administrators were welcomed by Jane Madell, Ph.D., and Dr. Ronald Hoffman of the Ear Institute. Then psychologist and regularly featured Today Show correspondent Dale V. Atkins, author of the book *Sanity Savers: Tips for Women to Live a Balanced Life*, presented on counseling issues for non-counselors. In the afternoon, Kris English, Ph.D. gave a presentation on the usefulness of an audiogram entitled "The Map is Not the Territory." At the end of the conference, attendees participated in a panel discussion with parents who have children with hearing loss. The parents discussed their experiences with clinicians, and gave the professionals insight as to how it feels to find out about and deal with a child's hearing loss.

Parent Workshops

In addition to conferences for professionals, The Children's Hearing Institute has hosted a series of workshops for parents and their hearing-impaired children in Westchester and Nassau Counties throughout the winter and spring. Separate workshops were offered for teenage and elementary school children.

Each workshop began by welcoming the participants with a pizza party. After eating, the parents and children divided into separate groups. Led by Susan Cheffo, MS, an experienced educator specializing in the schooling of hearing impaired children, parents explored issues relating to their children's special needs. During the sessions, parents were able to share common experiences, acquire useful knowledge about their child's development, and develop a support network of other parents who were experiencing similar challenges of raising a hearing impaired child.

While parents were meeting, the kids participated in music workshops led by Casey Cheffo, especially designed for hearing impaired children. During the sessions, the kids listened to popular music, learning to distinguish different sounds instruments can make, understand rhythm, and identify instruments. Cheffo also helped the kids recognize the lyrics to their favorite songs. The kids bonded over singing and playing instruments together, and in the process, made valuable friendships with their hearing-impaired peers.

Susan Cheffo reported that the workshops were enthusiastically welcomed by all participants: "While the knowledge and skills gained in these workshops was valuable, even more valuable was the opportunity for all participants to find support and friendship among their peers. Parents bond over shared concerns, and the children, who are often the only hearing impaired child in their school, are able to make lasting friendships."

The Children's Hearing Institute is grateful to its donors and supporters, who enable it to present these valuable and wide-ranging conferences, seminars and workshops.

MD's Benefit from CHI Conferences



Conference Participants join instructors (center, seated, left to right) Christopher Lindstrom, MD (white jacket), Ronald Hoffman, MD and George Alexiades, MD, members of the Medical staff of the Ear Institute of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary.

The Children's Hearing Institute sponsored a three day course on Microsurgery and the Temporal Bone from March 26 to 28.

Under the direction of Dr. Christopher Lindstrom of The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary, physicians from around the country and interns from local hospitals attended a lively and interactive conference which included lectures and hands on instruction in the Infirmary's Microsurgery Lab.

In addition to Dr. Lindstrom, faculty from the Infirmary included Dr. Simon Parisier, CHI President and Founder, Dr. Ronald Hoffman, CHI Board member and Drs. George Alexiades and Ana Kim.

On Saturday, May 16th, The Institute offered a course for doctors on bone anchored hearing aids. The course was held at the Infirmary's surgery lab, and was attended by 20 ear, nose and throat (ENT) doctors. The course was directed by Dr. Christopher Lindstrom and taught by Drs. George Alexiades, Sujana Chandrasekhar, and Ana Hae-ok Kim, all of Infirmary. In the morning, participants listened to lectures about the surgery, and in the afternoon they practiced the surgery technique in the laboratory.



Conference participants receive instruction in the microsurgery lab.

Counseling Workshop



A panel of parents of deaf and hard of hearing children shared their experiences with conference participants.

On March 16th, in the auditorium at Beth Israel Medical Center, The Children's Hearing Institute presented a counseling workshop for professionals who work with hearing impaired people. These professionals, who were not counselors, learned how to address patient issues such as dealing with the grief of a new diagnosis, and how to assist and encourage parents coping with their child's hearing loss.

In the morning, speech language pathologists, audiologists, teachers of the deaf, and administrators were welcomed by Jane Madell, Ph.D., and Dr. Ronald Hoffman of the Ear Institute. Then psychologist and regularly featured Today Show correspondent Dale V. Atkins, author of the book *Sanity Savers: Tips for Women to Live a Balanced Life*, presented on counseling issues for non-counselors. In the afternoon, Kris English, Ph.D. gave a presentation on the usefulness of an audiogram entitled "The Map is Not the Territory." At the end of the conference, attendees participated in a panel discussion with parents who have children with hearing loss. The parents discussed their experiences with clinicians, and gave the professionals insight as to how it feels to find out about and deal with a child's hearing loss.

Parent Workshops

In addition to conferences for professionals, The Children's Hearing Institute has hosted a series of workshops for parents and their hearing-impaired children in Westchester and Nassau Counties throughout the winter and spring. Separate workshops were offered for teenage and elementary school children.

Each workshop began by welcoming the participants with a pizza party. After eating, the parents and children divided into separate groups. Led by Susan Cheffo, MS, an experienced educator specializing in the schooling of hearing impaired children, parents explored issues relating to their children's special needs. During the sessions, parents were able to share common experiences, acquire useful knowledge about their child's development, and develop a support network of other parents who were experiencing similar challenges of raising a hearing impaired child.

While parents were meeting, the kids participated in music workshops led by Casey Cheffo, especially designed for hearing impaired children. During the sessions, the kids listened to popular music, learning to distinguish different sounds instruments can make, understand rhythm, and identify instruments. Cheffo also helped the kids recognize the lyrics to their favorite songs. The kids bonded over singing and playing instruments together, and in the process, made valuable friendships with their hearing-impaired peers.

Susan Cheffo reported that the workshops were enthusiastically welcomed by all participants: "While the knowledge and skills gained in these workshops was valuable, even more valuable was the opportunity for all participants to find support and friendship among their peers. Parents bond over shared concerns, and the children, who are often the only hearing impaired child in their school, are able to make lasting friendships."

The Children's Hearing Institute is grateful to its donors and supporters, who enable it to present these valuable and wide-ranging conferences, seminars and workshops.

MD's Benefit from CHI Conferences



Conference participants join instructors (center, seated, left to right) Christopher Lindstrom, MD (white jacket), Ronald Hoffman, MD and George Alexiades, MD, members of the Medical staff of the Ear Institute of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary.

The Children's Hearing Institute sponsored a three day course on Microsurgery and the Temporal Bone from March 26 to 28.

Under the direction of Dr. Christopher Linstrom of The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary, physicians from around the country and interns from local hospitals attended a lively and interactive conference which included lectures and hands on instruction in the Infirmary's Microsurgery Lab.

In addition to Dr. Linstrom, faculty from the Infirmary included Dr. Simon Parisier, CHI President and Founder, Dr. Ronald Hoffman, CHI Board member and Drs. George Alexiades and Ana Kim.

On Saturday, May 16th, The Institute offered a course for doctors on bone anchored hearing aids. The course was held at the Infirmary's surgery lab, and was attended by 20 ear, nose and throat (ENT) doctors. The course was directed by Dr. Christopher Linstrom and taught by Drs. George Alexiades, Sujana Chandrasekhar, and Ana Hae-ok Kim, all of Infirmary. In the morning, participants listened to lectures about the surgery, and in the afternoon they practiced the surgery technique in the laboratory.



Conference participants receive instruction in the microsurgery lab.

