



IFHOH JOURNAL

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v2

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In This Issue

From the Editor's Desk - by Carole Willans	3
President's Message - by Avi Blau	4
World Hearing Day	5
IFHOH Sponsor - Cochlear	8

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) is an international non-governmental organisation representing the interests of more than 300 million hard of people worldwide.

*IFHOH is registered as a charitable organisation at Vereinsregister Amtsgericht, Hamburg, Germany
- Nr. 69 VR 10 527.*

IFHOH Journal includes information about IFHOH activities, world news related to hearing loss, articles written by IFHOH members, and much more. It is published four times a year and posted on IFHOH's website, www.ifhoh.org. The Editor can be reached at journal@ifhoh.org.

All the views expressed in IFHOH Journal are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of IFHOH.

**March 3 is World
Hearing Day**



Check Your Hearing!



From the Editor's Desk

From the Editor's Desk



Carole Willans, Editor

Dear friends of IFHOH,

World Hearing Day is fast approaching - - On 3 March 2023 we once again celebrate our enduring community of hard of hearing people all over the planet! The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that currently more than 1.5 billion people (nearly 20% of the global population) live with hearing loss. 430 million of them have disabling hearing loss. It is expected that by 2050, there could be over 700 million people with disabling hearing loss. Of course, a number of these persons identify as Deaf, having sign language as their principal language, but the largest group by far are hard of hearing people...

That is a lot of people that IFHOH is working at bringing together as a community! It is a community made up of so many nationalities, cultures, ethnicities, orientations, and so on. And yet, whenever we share our stories about hearing loss, it always feels as if we are all speaking a common language. We instinctively understand that our stories are built around a shared experience. Embracing our hearing disability together is an ennobling marker of kinship. The connection runs deep... the more I know about the hard of hearing people I meet, the better I feel about being a member of this wonderfully diverse yet fascinatingly unified community! Being a hard of hearing person is part of my identity, something I feel deep in my bones. Connecting with others in the community makes me proud of who I am, and it also tells me that I am not alone.

As a result of elections last fall, we have a new IFHOH Board, including a new President, Avi Blau. You will find a message from Avi on the next page. As you know, he has already served as Vice-President of IFHOH for many years.

A special THANK YOU to the former President of IFHOH, Dr. Ruth Warick, for all her years of devoted service. Ruth continues to actively support IFHOH, including acting as its representative within the International Disability Alliance.

I personally thank the membership for electing me as *General Secretary*! I do make the promise to continue to serve as Editor of *IFHOH Journal*. This issue is shorter than usual - it is a focused reminder to members about the importance of World Hearing Day. I promise a return to our usual longer format very soon.

- Carole

President's Message

President's Message



Avi Blau, President of IFHOH

At the IFHOH World Congress 2022 in Budapest, Hungary, the IFHOH membership elected new Board members, including me as President. I promise you I will do my very best to advocate for the rights of hard of hearing people around the world. I have been listening to the needs expressed by the membership in both developed and developing countries, as well as learning from the information shared by the many stakeholders in the hard of hearing community. Thank you to the membership for the confidence you have expressed, and I will be looking to you all for your ideas and guidance. A big thank you to the new members of the Board, all of whom have agreed to join and support me in this new journey. My **BIGGEST** thanks go to Dr. Ruth Warick, the past President of IFHOH, for her mentorship and personal support and friendship over the past years. Most of all, I thank Ruth for the years of efforts she has devoted to building the IFHOH organization, so that today it is a strong advocate for hard of hearing people around the world.

I also express my heartfelt thanks to the organizers of the IFHOH World Congress in Budapest, particularly SINOSZ, as well as the lecturers, the exhibitors, and the many participants.

At the IFHOH World Congress 2022, the membership adopted the *Budapest Declaration*. As you may know, there is a new and promising Bluetooth technology called **Auracast**. The next generation of hearing aids and cochlear implants will likely include Auracast built into them. We, as the users of these hearing devices, are excited to test the new possibilities of Auracast technology, but we also want the proven **Telecoil** to stay in hearing devices and work in parallel with Auracast. Here is a link to Budapest Declaration:

https://www.ifhoh.org/files/ugd/4e728a_4915ab17e0984caa91110f0910ec7165.pdf

I wish you a great World Hearing Day!

- Avi



Avi Blau and Ruth Warick holding the Budapest Declaration



This year's theme:

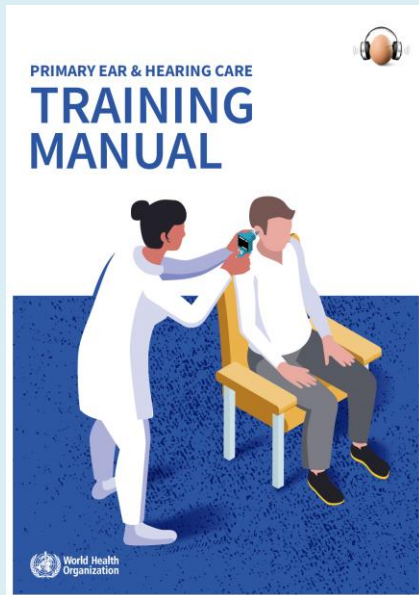
Ear and hearing care for all!

Let's make it a reality.

#worldhearingday #hearingcare

The World Health Organization has designed **World Hearing Day 2023** to highlight the importance of integrating **ear and hearing care** within primary care, as an essential component of universal health coverage. The key messages of this initiative are as follows:

- ✦ Ear and hearing problems are among the most common problems encountered in the community.
- ✦ Over 60% of these can be identified and addressed at the primary level of care.
- ✦ Integration of ear and hearing care into primary care services is possible through training and capacity building at this level.
- ✦ Such integration will benefit people and help countries move towards the goal of universal health coverage.



On 3 March 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) will launch a new training manual under the title, *Primary Ear & Hearing Care Training Manual*. This publication will be supported by a trainer's handbook, and other community-focused resources. To find out more, click on this link: [Primary ear and hearing care training manual \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/primary-ear-and-hearing-care-training-manual).

The communication objectives are:

- ✚ to draw attention of decision makers in governments and civil society groups towards the WHO's recommendations regarding integration of ear and hearing care into primary health care (PHC),
- ✚ Encourage governments to integrate primary ear and hearing care into training programs for health care providers at primary level,
- ✚ Call attention of primary level health care providers (health workers and physicians) towards the needs of people with hearing loss and ear disease, and
- ✚ Inform people about the importance of ear and hearing care and encourage them to seek services.

IFHOH, its partners and stakeholders, are encouraged to:

- ✚ raise awareness and to advocate about the importance of ear and hearing care,
 - ✚ encourage communities and individuals to seek appropriate services, and
 - ✚ encourage policymakers to integrate ear and hearing care within primary health care.
- ✚ PLEASE SEND EMAIL TO INFO@IFHOH.ORG about your activities for World Hearing Day - your experiences will be shared in *IFHOH Journal*!**

Check the WHO's World Hearing Day webpage for a communication toolkit, and campaign materials that can be used for 3 March 2023. These materials are a good source of ideas at any time you are doing advocacy work! For more information, click on this link: <https://www.who.int/multi-media/details/world-hearing-day-2023>.

Click on this link to watch a captioned WHO video on *Making Ear and Hearing Care Accessible in Zambia*: <https://www.who.int/multi-media/details/making-ear-and-hearing-care-accessible-in-zambia>.

A STEPWISE APPROACH TO CHECK EARS AND HEARING

WHO SHOULD BE CHECKED: Babies | Children | Adults | Older Adults



1

STEP 1: ASK
Ask for ear pain, ear discharge, ringing in the ears and document it



2

STEP 2: EXAMINE
Examine the ears*

Normal ears	Wax in ear canal	Discharge (pus or fluid) in ear canal	Abnormal ear drum	Any other
	Remove* and re-examine or Refer		Treat or Refer	
Move to step 3				



3

STEP 3: CHECK
Check hearing*

< 6 months old	6 months - 3 years old	3 - 7 years old	7 - 18 years old	All adults (>18 years old)
Observe response to sounds	Do a Distraction test of hearing*	Do a Voice test*	Do a Whispered voice test*	Check with hearWHOpro app*
Response ++: check again during next visit Response -: counsel and refer			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score > or equal to 3/6: check again next year Score < 3/6: counsel and refer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score < 50: Counsel and refer Score > 50: Check again in one year

* Refer WHO Primary ear and hearing care training manual for details

REMEMBER!

Over 60% of ear and hearing problems can be addressed at the primary level





Help us thank our sponsors by supporting them

This issue features Cochlear!



Cochlear believes deaf and hard of hearing people should have access to hearing health care and the hearing technology they need to enable them to live full and connected lives.

Cochlear's implantable hearing technology has helped over 450,000 people of all ages in over 100 countries to live full and active lives by reconnecting them with family, friends, community, and work.

FOLLOW IFHOH!

Website: www.ifhoh.org | Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/IFHOH | Twitter: www.twitter.com/ifhoh

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