



# IFHOH JOURNAL

*February 2020*  
V3

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*The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) is an international non-governmental organisation representing the interests of more than 466 million hard of hearing people worldwide.*

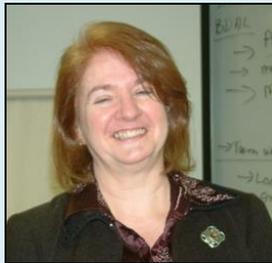
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*IFHOH Journal includes information about IFHOH activities, world news related to hearing loss, articles written by IFHOH members, and much more. It is published four times a year and posted on IFHOH's website, [www.ifhoh.org](http://www.ifhoh.org).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

# From the Editor's Desk

## From the Editor's Desk



**Carole Willans, Editor**

Dear IFHOH friends,

I would like to share with you a few thoughts around the benefit of work, including volunteer work, in our lives. Work can and should be a source of happiness. It can be an excellent way to achieve our potential as a human being. It can contribute not only to our quality of life, but it also a great source of self-esteem. And when you think about it... all forms of work involve rendering a service unto others.

We should consider whether we are surrounding ourselves every day with the 'right' persons, the ones who have a positive impact on us. For example, after you spend time with a certain friend, do you find that you like yourself better or are you harder on yourself? Do you feel more energized or more depressed? If certain persons encourage us towards a greater appreciation of ourselves, towards surpassing ourselves, towards being more authentic, others can have the opposite effect. It is important to recognize these differences and to make choices accordingly.

Another part of this equation is fully knowing in our heart what are our values, priorities, and objectives. Understanding these will help in deciding which work you should say 'yes' to, and which you should say 'no' to. I believe that achieving successful happiness is not so much about learning to say 'no' - - it is more about knowing what we truly want and saying 'YES' to it.

All of us who do volunteer work for IFHOH know in our heart of hearts that we are saying 'YES' to a work that serves others and that helps us to surpass ourselves in a very authentic way. I invite you all to attend IFHOH Congress 2020 to learn about all the initiatives and projects that you can say 'yes' to and adapt to the needs of hard of hearing persons in your own country.

I will be at IFHOH Congress 2020 to hear about your own achievements and about your dreams for the future, so that I can share your stories with the IFHOH family. And please remember... be happy and say "YES" to what makes your heart sing!

- Carole

# IFHOH President's Message



**Dr. Ruth P. Warick, IFHOH President**

Welcome to a new year and a new decade! It is an exciting time to be an advocate for persons with hearing loss as there are several important developments. Recently, under the auspices of the World Health Organization, the World Hearing Forum held its first general assembly in Geneva. This global network brings together stakeholders promoting ear and hearing care worldwide; among stakeholders are consumers, professionals, manufacturers, businesses and other entities to promote hearing loss awareness, prevention and hearing health care services. IFHOH is one of the foundation members of the Forum; our approach has always been to collaborate and work together with partners, bringing the important consumer voice and representation to the table. By joining together we are stronger in our impact and influence.



A key activity of the Forum relates to the World Report on Hearing which will be released at the World Health Assembly in May of this year. The report is one of the outcomes expected in the WHO Resolution 70.13 on the "Prevention of deafness and hearing loss". The resolution was adopted by WHO's Assembly in 2017, over 20 years after an earlier resolution. The resolution calls on member states to improve hearing health care worldwide including prevention strategies and services for those with hearing loss. The World Report on Hearing, to be released in May 2020, is expected to be a powerful advocacy tool. We urge our members to use it as a means to seek hearing health care improvements in their country. The report is expected to provide evidence-based messages about the current status and the desired state for integrating strategies for ear and hearing care within the framework of their primary health care systems; to establish training programmes for health workers; to implement prevention and screening programmes for high-risk populations; and to improve access to affordable, cost-effective, high-quality, assistive hearing technologies and products.



L. to R.: At the World Hearing Forum: Julie Ligeti, Global Manager, Public Advocacy, Cochlear Limited; Alarcos Cieza, Coordinator, Blindness and Deafness Prevention, Disability and Rehabilitation; and Ruth Warick

Dr. Shelly Chadha, Technical Officer, Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss, WHO, will be a keynote speaker at the IFHOH Congress in Budapest immediately after the release of the World Report. Her talk is entitled *Hearing across the lifecourse: a myth or a possibility?* Following her presentation, there will be talks throughout the Congress on four thematic topics under the overall theme of World Without Barriers:

- Identity and interactions - Personal and social dimensions of a hearing
- Technological innovations for hearing accessibility
- Medical developments for better hearing
- Legislative, policy and human rights

We are pleased that Juergen Schaeding is a patron of the event. He is a leader in the community, having served locally and internationally. He was the first-vice chair of the international youth federation, then chair and attended the founding meeting of IFHOH in its early days. He has continued to serve IFHOH and EFHOH in an advisory capacity. We are honoured to have him serve as Congress Patron.

The Congress will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH) and the IFHOH Biennial General Meeting on Wednesday, May 27. Plenary sessions and presenters will be held during the Congress on May 28 and 29. The location is lovely Budapest, Hungary at the Helia Danubius, a 4-star wellness and convention hotel close to the Danube river. Please register by February 29 to take advantage of the early bird registration rate for the Congress. SINOSZ has been hard at work organizing the Congress which we very much appreciate and thank Phonak for being a Gold Sponsor. For more details, please go to [www.ifhoh2020budapest.com](http://www.ifhoh2020budapest.com) Early bird tickets are available until February 15 at [www.ticket-m.hu/jegy/ifhoh2020](http://www.ticket-m.hu/jegy/ifhoh2020).

IFHOH Member organizations will be sent a registration form for both the EFHOH AGM and IFHOH BGM; please be sure to register by April 15. If you require further information or details, please email me at [president@ifhoh.org](mailto:president@ifhoh.org).

I close with a note encouraging you to celebrate World Hearing Day on March 3. Since 2015, WHO has developed promotional materials which it provides to government officials and civil society members as well as WHO regional and country offices for use on this day. The theme for this year's day is *Hearing for life - Don't let hearing loss limit you*. To access materials from WHO, please go to <https://www.who.int/deafness/world-hearing-day/whd-2020/en/>

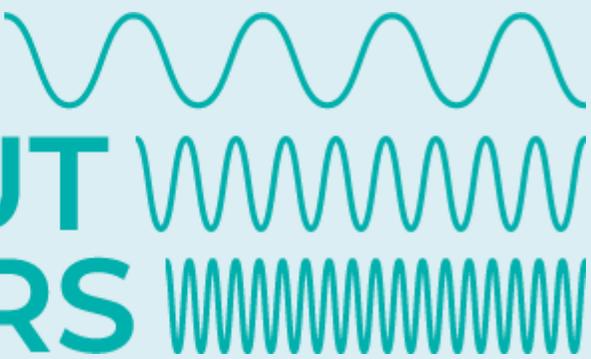
See you in Budapest, May 27-29, 2020!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Ruth Warick  
President, IFHOH  
[president@ifhoh.org](mailto:president@ifhoh.org)



Champions Committee at the World Hearing Forum:  
Including Avi Blau. IFHOH Vice-President (far left) and Ruth Warick (fourth person from the left)

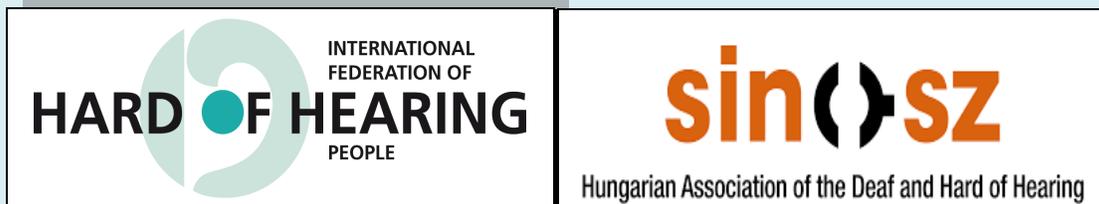
# WORLD WITHOUT BARRIERS



*Ready for a congress without barriers?*

***IFHOH Congress in Budapest, Hungary***

***May 27-28-29, 2020***



**Abstract Submission for Poster Presentation is still possible!**

IFHOH and the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ) invite you to attend the **11th IFHOH World Congress in Budapest, from May 27-29, 2020, in Hungary**. The Congress will take place at the **Hotel Helia Danubius**, a wellness hotel with ample conference facilities:

<https://www.danubiushotels.com/hu/szallodak-budapest/danubius-hotel-helia>.

The theme of the Congress is “**World Without Barriers.**”

The deadline for the Call for Papers is now expired. However, due to the high number of requests received, it is still possible to do an Abstract Submission for a Poster Presentation until February 28, 2020. You can find more information at:

<https://www.ifhoh2020budapest.com/#ifhoh-submission>.

Please put the Congress on your agenda and register now to get the **early bird rate**. Go to the main page <https://www.ifhoh2020budapest.com/> and to the tab for “registration”.



**The keynote speakers are:**

- **Shelly Chadha**, medical officer of WHO



- **Laszlo Lovaszy**, Ph.D., expert, advisor and commissioner for strategic research



The focus of the Congress is on the INDIVIDUAL. While concentrating on the individual, the following themes will be considered:

✓ **Identity and interactions: personal and social dimensions of a hearing loss**

This topic is devoted to discussing the impact of a hearing loss on individuals, including their social and economic status, and its impact on their family members and community.



✓ **Technological innovations for hearing accessibility**

New developments in hearing instrument technology, cochlear implants, assistive listening devices and systems will be discussed.



✓ **Medical developments for better hearing**

Developments regarding cochlear implants, middle ear implants, brain-stem implants, bone encored implants, hair cell regeneration, and new audiology fitting techniques are included.



✓ **Legislative, policy and human rights advances for hard of hearing people**

Under this topic, pertinent developments related to the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* will be examined.



*The Congress will be preceded by IFHOH's BGM and EFHOH's AGM.*

# Patron of IFHOH Congress 2020

IFHOH is pleased to announce that **JUERGEN SCHAEADING** is a Patron of Congress 2020

## *Biography of Juergen Schaeding*



Juergen was born on September 13, 1949 in Hamburg-Altona, Germany, as the eldest of three children to Karl-August and Lieselotte Schaeding. His hearing loss was recognized at the age of about 5-6 years after a near accident.

From 1956 to 1967, Juergen attended the middle and high school for the hard of hearing in Hamburg. After finishing school, he began training as a chemical laboratory assistant at Reichhold Chemie AG in Hamburg, which he successfully completed in September 1970. He then attended, starting in 1971, the evening school for chemical technicians at the University of Applied Sciences Berliner Tor in Hamburg and completed this training in February 1974 with the State Examination.

Juergen has enjoyed a long career as a chemical engineer in Germany and Hong Kong. He married Ritva-Liisa (born Turunen) in 1978.

For over 50 years, Juergen has been a member of the Bund der Schwerhörigen e.V. Hamburg. In the local youth group, he was active for a while as Secretary, and later in the youth group of the German Association of Hard of hearing people, he served as foreign correspondent.

In 1971, the ICHOHYP was founded and Juergen was elected Deputy Chairman for 3 years, then he served as Chairman from 1974 to 1978.

After the departure of Claus Harmsen from the IFHOH Board, Juergen and his wife took on the task of being IFHOH 's point of contact with the German organizations, as the correspondence is only accepted in German. (IFHOH was founded in Hamburg in 1977 and registered by the notary Henning Voscherau, who later became Hamburg's mayor [equivalent to a prime minister]).

From 2004 to 2008 he was one of two Vice Chairmen of BdS e.V. Hamburg. Since 2008, he has been actively serving for his election by the General Assembly of the BdS Hamburg auditors.

Juergen Schaeding He has been an invaluable source of advice and counsel for IFHOH over the last three decades.



### **Key messages for [World Hearing Day 2020](#)**

- At all life stages, communication and good hearing health connect us to each other, our communities, and the world.
- For those who have hearing loss, appropriate and timely interventions can facilitate access to education, employment and communication.
- Globally, there is lack of access to interventions to address hearing loss, such as hearing aids.
- Early intervention should be made available through the health systems.

### **Small Grants Available**

To promote and support World Hearing Day 2020 activities, WHO and the Coalition for Global Hearing Health (CGHH) have launched a small grants scheme. As part of this scheme, partners can apply for a grant of up to USD 800 to cover expenses related to activities they are doing on World Hearing Day 2020. A maximum of 20 grants will be provided. To learn more about the small grants scheme and to submit your application, go to <https://cghh.usu.edu/smallgrants/2020/>. Applications must be submitted by **February 21, 2020**.

### **Looking for Ideas for 2021 and beyond**

WHO is looking for your ideas for future World Hearing Days. Kindly submit your idea [here](#), it could be the next World Hearing Day theme.

### **Where to Find More Information on World Hearing Day 2020**

Full information on the campaign is displayed on the WHO webpage [www.who.int/world-hearing-day](http://www.who.int/world-hearing-day). Information materials including posters, banners, infographic, PowerPoints, etc. are being made available on this webpage. If you would like to receive updates and information about the World Hearing Day, you can register by sending an email to [whopbd@who.int](mailto:whopbd@who.int)



# Nepal and Uganda: Needs Assessment

## *Needs Assessment Report on Requirements for the Inclusive Education of Hard of Hearing Children and Youth in Nepal and in Uganda*

### **Project Overview**

A needs assessment study on the requirements for the inclusive education of hard of hearing children in Nepal and in Uganda is underway. Through a **mapping exercise** of the educational status of hard of hearing children within the Kampala school district in Uganda and within Province Number 3 of Nepal, **factors** that are key to inclusive education for hard of hearing students will be identified. This data will be used to develop an IFHOH position paper and an advocacy plan to promote the right to inclusive education for hard of hearing children.

**Some issues to be considered, but will not be limited to, are as follows:**

- Barrier free environments
- Captioning in the classroom
- Captioning of videos and other audio-visual materials
- Language development
- Hearing aids and cochlear implants
- Assistive technology
- Support services (e.g., tutoring)
- Social interactions
- Teacher education

The project is being conducted by lead coordinator Karina Chupina with Brender Wanyana in Uganda, and Jeevan Bhattarai in Nepal. The management team includes Ruth Warick (lead), Patrick Gift and Neeta Keshary Bhattarai.



**Brender Wanyana interviewing parents in Uganda**

The work of the project is contributing to a report of an Inclusive Education Task Team under the auspices of the International Disability Alliance. Ruth Warick is a member of this task team which is working towards framing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Groups (SDGs) from the perspective of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and disabled people's organisations (DPOs), while ensuring participation of the most marginalised groups.



## EFHOH News



By **Marcel Bobeldijk, EFHOH President**

By now, you are all aware of IFHOH Congress 2020 in Budapest! Please note that the EFHOH Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Wednesday morning, May 27, 2020. EFHOH members can look for the papers in the *For Members* section on the EFHOH website.

I am looking forward to the 2-hour Lunch Debate at the European Parliament in Brussels on March 4, 2020 on the theme of *Hearing for Life - Don't Let hearing Loss Limit You*. It will be hosted by MEP Maria Spyraiki (Greece, EPP) and co-hosted by MEP Alex Agius Saliba (Malta, S&D). This event is a joint effort by EFHOH, the European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals (AEA), and the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA). For more info:



<https://www.efhoh.org/invitation-for-european-parliament-lunch-debate-4-march-2020/>

As of February 2020, EFHOH has switched to a new format for the *EFHOH Newsletter*, which is an email version. It is designed to keep EFHOH members better informed about EFHOH and its partners with the latest news and information. While this new email version is sent to a mailing list of persons who are EFHOH members or who are contact persons representing an organization, it is also possible to read the latest issue of the *EFHOH newsletter* on-line at: <https://www.efhoh.org/efhoh-newsletter-issue-no-1-feb-2020/>.

EFHOH is a partner in the TIN-ACT project. TIN-ACT is a European consortium that investigates tinnitus ("ringing in the ears"). Tinnitus is a very common and potentially devastating condition. People with tinnitus continuously hear a penetrating phantom sound in absence of actual sound. An estimated 50.8 million EU citizens hear tinnitus, of which 5.1 million are severely bothered by it. TIN-ACT is seeking to understand the basic neural

mechanisms of tinnitus, and to find ways to measure and treat it. For more info: [www.tinact.eu](http://www.tinact.eu).

EFHOH is also a partner in the LTA European Project, which involves the training of "real-time intralingual respeakers and velotypists". LTA is a European Union (EU) co-funded project that aims to set up education and training for subtitlers and speech to text interpreters in Europe, as well as to raise the standards for these services. Upcoming events in which the LTA European Project will be participating include in March 2020 in Barcelona (Spain) at the *Fun for All Congress* organized by UAB, and in November 2020 in Turin (Italy) at the Film Festival organized by SUB-TI. For more information, see the LiveTextAccess website: <http://ltaproject.eu>.

# European Disability Forum



## EU DISABILITY STRATEGY

After a new disability strategy post-2020 was confirmed by Commissioner Helena Dalli on January 16, 2020, Members of the European Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee debated a proposed draft resolution on this strategy on January 23. This resolution will mark the first position of the European Parliament towards the disability strategy post-2020.

Demands shared by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) included:

- Full involvement of persons with disabilities and their organisations when drafting the strategy;
- Full alignment the strategy with UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Ratification of the optional protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Clear objectives, a clear timeline and adequate resources (both financial and human resources);
- Assurance that EU funds are not used for projects that do not ensure the rights of persons with disabilities (for example, residential institutions or inaccessible infrastructure); and
- Assurance that no differences exist in how Member States treat persons with disabilities.

## EDF WEBINAR – HOW COUNCIL PRESIDENCIES WORK

European Union (EU) institutions and their work can seem abstract and far away from the daily lives of persons with disabilities. Also, for the disability movement, it may seem complicated to engage in EU decision-making procedures that appear to be detached from national level decisions. But there are many connecting points, and one of those is the work of the Council of the EU and especially its Presidencies. On February 20, 2020, the EDF is presenting a webinar that will explain the EU decision-making process. For more information on this webinar: <http://www.edf-feph.org/events/20-february-webinar-council-presidencies>

For more on the EDF: [www.edf-feph.org](http://www.edf-feph.org) To contact the EDF: [info@edf-feph.org](mailto:info@edf-feph.org)

# Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened



The Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) has been a regional member of IFHOH since 2018. The current members of the APFHD are: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam. Its President, Duong Phuong Hanh, is also IFHOH's General Secretary.



**Duong Phuong Hanh, APFHD President (front row, centre) surrounded by APFHD representatives, with Avi Blau, IFHOH Vice-President (front row, far right)**

The achievements of APFHD countries are diverse. For example, Mongolia has prepared a research report looking at the understanding of parents and children regarding hearing loss, and the capacity of school physicians to provide adequate assistance. Both areas were found wanting. A more effective use of the resources of international NGOs is being advocated.

In Nepal, the national association of the hard of hearing and deafened is known as SHRUTI. It implements projects in partnership with the government, as well as with a range of international organizations, such as IFHOH, Disability and Development Partners (UK), the Abilis Foundation (Finland), and many others. It organizes employment workshops for young hard of hearing people, awareness raising, and CRPD training.

Pakistan reports a breakthrough. In its province of Sindh, deaf and hard of hearing people have won the right to obtain a driver's license and to drive a motor vehicle!

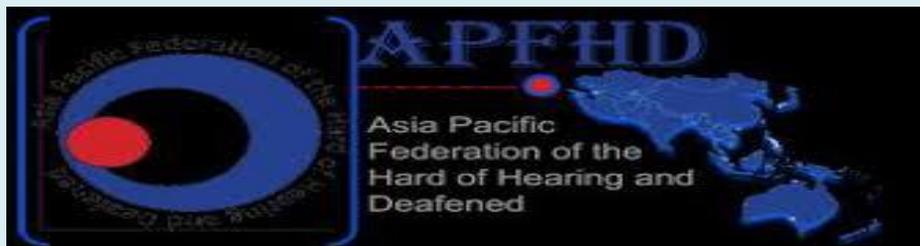
The Hard of Hearing Group Philippines (HOHGP) focuses a lot on receiving training or providing training. Its representatives attended training on strategic communication and advocacy for inclusion, as well on the development of policy platform methodology. The purpose is to enhance their advocacy skills. At the same time, HOHGP leaders contribute to training on disability equality training, particularly to explain communication tips and accessibility tools.

In Vietnam, the Center for Research and Education of the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (CED), of which Duong Phuong Hanh is Director, provided 140 hearing aids in 2019 for 113 children and adults with hearing loss who live in poor families. The Center is looking for support to continue this initiative in 2020. In addition, CED conducted a Hearing Care Program for children, adults, and older adults in different centers. In addition, it offered lip-reading classes, training in supporting people with hearing loss in a hospital context, as well as many various community activities.



Duong Phuong Hanh

For more details, read the APFHD's latest newsletter at <https://www.efhoh.org/apfhd-january-2020-newsletter>.





The new IFHOHYP Board was elected at the IFHOHYP Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Switzerland in October 2019.



New IFHOHYP Board members who were present at AGM (L.to R.) Manuel Rohrbach (Vice President, Switzerland), Leonie von Berlin (Board member, Sweden), Paulina Lewandowska (Secretary, Poland), Mikael de Vries (Treasurer, the Netherlands), and Bowen Tang (President, Canada)

Two further members were elected in absentia, pictured below.



Kave Noori (Board Member, Sweden)



Mozzy Serwarrda (Vice-Board Member, Uganda)

IFHOHYP Summer Camp 2020 will be taking place in Calgary (Alberta) Canada from August 9 to 15. Registration is opening soon. The Planning Team at the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association has been working hard to complete the fundraising and to reserve the venue. The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association's Foundation is among the proud sponsors. It will be a full week of adventures and fun - - in full view of the Canadian Rockies!

## IFHOH Reports on Young African Leaders Initiative

By Ediz Tekok, Chairperson, Members and Information Committee, IFHOHYP



Serwarrda Mozy

Serwarrda Mozy, Vice Board Member of IFHOHYP, recently completed an important mission for the organization.

Founded by former US President Barack Obama, the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) connects and mentors outstanding young Africans. [Serwarrda Mozy](#) is one of 108 participants from 14 African countries who presented at a YALI workshop at Kenyatta University in Nairobi.

Serwarrda's important goal was to raise awareness of noise-induced hearing loss and to end stigmatization of Hard of Hearing persons in African countries. He encouraged young Hard of Hearing Africans to connect with each other across country borders. Only this way, he said, we can be strong together and fight prejudices from society. IFHOHYP fully stands behind his mission!



**Keep posted on IFHOHYP activities!**

Website: <http://ifhohyp.org/>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ifhohyp](http://www.facebook.com/ifhohyp)

Twitter/Instagram: @IFHOHYP

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp3wyOzMgdTnBnsuxrZvM8Q>.

# New International Cochlear Implant Advocacy Alliance



International Society of Audiology



**GENEVA, December 6, 2019:** The themes of *Alliance, Advocacy, and Action* for the World Health Organization's first World Hearing Forum (December 4-5) provided inspiration for a separate meeting held on December 6 of an emerging International Cochlear Implant Advocacy Alliance with representation from hearing health professional and consumer advocacy organizations. The meeting focused on the need to address a worldwide lack of access and awareness about the benefits of cochlear implants (CI) to treat severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss.

It is estimated that only 5% of the world's population who could benefit from cochlear implants receive them even though cochlear implants are a clinically proven cost-effective treatment for many people.

The Alliance meeting attendees agreed that advocacy, education and awareness efforts should intensify to provide cochlear implant education to health care professionals, enabling diagnosis, and appropriate referral pathways to expert CI practitioners. The need for national adult hearing screening programs, followed by defined referral pathways to qualified CI hearing health care professionals would help millions of adults with untreated hearing loss to hearing. Nineteen CI and hearing loss advocacy organizations representing more than 40 countries attended the meeting.

### **The Global Problem of Hearing Loss**

The meeting of this new Alliance focused on cochlear implants was timely given the World Health Organization's recognition of hearing loss as a major public health concern. Untreated hearing loss is associated with the risk of falls, isolation, depression, anxiety and there is a correlation between hearing loss and cognitive decline. The World Health Organization (WHO) urges governments and non-state actors to respond with priority to the rising prevalence of hearing loss. The WHO estimates there are 466 million people worldwide living with disabling hearing loss and the global cost of untreated hearing loss is estimated at \$750 billion annually.

### **Adult CI Standards of Care to improve referrals pathways and treatment**

A landmark International Delphi Consensus Process paper expected to be published in 2020 will help establish a minimum Standard of Care for Adult CI treatment. The paper will provide an important steppingstone to better education of health care professionals and consumers. An International Standard of Care will provide expert guidance on improved referral pathways and consistent clinical guidelines for treatment of severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss. To ensure that cochlear implant and patient advocacy organization perspectives were considered in the Delphi Consensus Process, the Consumer and Professional Advocacy Committee (CAPAC) was formed. The Geneva meeting of the new Alliance was convened by the co-chairs of the CAPAC.



Participants at the historic meeting in Geneva

At the meeting in Geneva, international advocacy organizations and cochlear implant manufacturers came together to take a global approach to solving the problem of untreated hearing loss and the lack of beneficial referral pathways to CI treatment. Attendees also stressed the need for worldwide recognition of the benefits for reimbursement of bilateral implantation for adults, highlighting the benefits for productivity and employment, lifelong learning, social inclusion and health and well-being. The need for standards for rehabilitation and aftercare was also highlighted.

The CAPAC co-chairs and a sub-committee of new Alliance members will facilitate ongoing international collaboration on CI awareness and advocacy for hearing screening

programs, better CI referral pathways, best practice treatments and stress the need for rehabilitation and aftercare.

The Alliance agreed to a wide dissemination effort of the consensus paper when it is published to include:

- people with hearing loss to empower them with information about when cochlear implants might be a treatment option for them;
- clear and accurate information for hearing health professionals including otolaryngologists, audiologists, rehabilitation teams, and primary health care practitioners about when people should be referred for evaluation for cochlear implants;
- policymakers, including politicians, commissioners and influential government agencies, who set policies and need to be informed about the clinical and cost effectiveness of cochlear implants as a treatment for severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss;
- translation into many languages with a narrative geared to various health literacy levels.



**Harald Seidler, M.D. otolaryngologist, cochlear implant user, European co-chair of the CAPAC**



**Barbara Kelley, executive director of the Hearing Loss Association of America, United States co-chair of the CAPAC**

The meeting received support from Advanced Bionics, Cochlear, MED-EL, and Oticon Medical. Experts from these companies attended the meeting.

**For More Information**

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# Calendar of Events

## Calendar of Events

**May 27-29, 2020 - 11<sup>th</sup> IFHOH World Congress**

**WORLD**   
**WITHOUT**   
**BARRIERS** 

**IFHOH World Congress 2020** will be held in Budapest, Hungary, May 27 to 29, 2020. The theme is *World Without Barriers*.

SINOSZ (Siketek es Nagyothallók Országos Szövetsége), an organization for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons in Hungary and an IFHOH member, is hard at work planning the Congress.

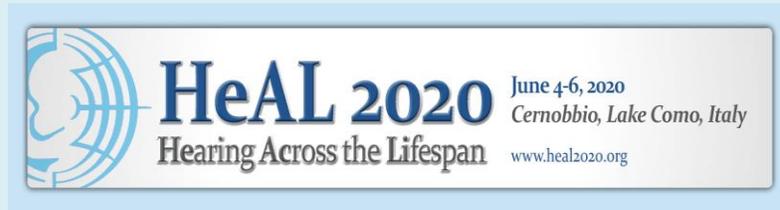
IFHOH and EFHOH are holding their BGM/AGMs during the Congress. IFHOHYP has scheduled a town hall meeting.

For more info, visit the main conference page at <https://www.ifhoh2020budapest.com/>.



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June 4 - 6, 2020 - HEAL 2020 - HEaring Across the Lifespan



Location: Cernobbio, Lake Como, Italy

Information: [www.heal2020.org](http://www.heal2020.org)

Contact: Ferdi Grandori, Chair - [meet@meetandwork.com](mailto:meet@meetandwork.com)

This series of meetings held every two years are an opportunity to discuss the most recent clinical and technological developments in the care of hearing and communication disorders.

\* \* \* \* \*

June 5 - 6, 2020 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Swiss Conference on Barrier-Free Communication

Location: Winterthau, Switzerland

Information:

<https://www.zhaw.ch/en/linguistics/research/conference-on-barrier-free-communication/#c129805>

Contact: Susanne Johanna Jeket - [barrierefrei.linguistik@zhaw.ch](mailto:barrierefrei.linguistik@zhaw.ch)

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June 18 - 21, 2020 - HLAA 2020 - Hearing Loss Association of America



Location: New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.

Information: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)

Contact: [convention@hearingloss.org](mailto:convention@hearingloss.org)

Early Bird Registration until March 2, 2020

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**July 1 - 2, 2020 - Unlimited! - Innovation for Access: New Interactions**

**Location:** Antwerp, Belgium

**Information:**

<https://www.opentoeankelijk.be/activiteiten/unlimited>

The Unlimited! conferences are an opportunity to discuss research, practice, policy and technological innovation regarding the accessibility of live events and broadcasts.

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**September 10 - 14, 2020 - IVSS Churchear**

*Living Out Christian Values - Making Pastoral Care Among Hard of Hearing So Important*



**Location:** Eisenach, Germany

**Information:** <http://www.churchear.org/event/family-days/>

**Contact:** Katharina Nitschke - rk.nitschke@t-online.de

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**September 17-18, 2020 - XIII International Tinnitus Seminar  
and the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Tinnitus Congress**

**Location:** Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

**Information:** <http://wtc2020.net/preliminary-program/>

**Contact:** Prof. Piotr H. Skarżyński, [secretariat@wtc2020.net](mailto:secretariat@wtc2020.net)

The primary aim of this congress is to bring together experienced and up-and-coming scientists and clinicians to actively discuss the latest ideas, results and challenges. It is hoped that the event will spark new insights that will be applied in research and clinical work

# News Bytes

## News Bytes

### NEW STUDY COULD LEAD TO REVERSAL OF HEARING LOSS

A team led by Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts Eye and Ear researchers may bring scientists a bit closer to developing treatments that regrow the missing cells that cause hearing loss. In a new study, scientists report a new strategy to induce cell division in the mature inner ear. With this pathway, they were able to reprogram the inner ear's cells to proliferate and regenerate hair cell-like cells in adult mice. This proof-of-concept study, and first of its kind, may provide an approach to the regeneration of sensory hair cells and other important inner-ear cell types in people with hearing loss. [READ MORE](#)

### DEEP BRAIN STIMULATION MAY HELP DEAL WITH TINNITUS

Ringing in the ears (tinnitus) can make life miserable, but preliminary research at the University of California suggests that a brain implant may help. In a phase one trial of five patients whose severe tinnitus did not respond to other treatments, deep brain stimulation diminished the ringing in four. The fifth patient received no relief. None of the patients had serious side effects of surgery or brain stimulation. [READ MORE](#)

### LAUNCH OF ONLINE COURSE FOR TINNITUS "FIRST AID"

The British Academy of Audiology (BAA) has launched a course of three online Tinnitus Training Modules for professionals in health and social care, underlining that "it is vital that good quality support and referral is available to anyone accessing help with Tinnitus". [READ MORE.](#)



## 2020 EUROPEAN AUDIOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

The competition for Europe's top audiologist has begun as online entries open for this year's 'European Audiologist of the Year' award. Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, the competition is an opportunity for audiologists from across Europe to compete for the title of country winner as well as for the coveted top spot, Europe's Audiologist of the Year 2020. The award is organised by RAYOVAC®, together with sponsors Audio Infos, EHIMA and EFHOH. Entries close June 26. For more info or to make a nomination, visit: <http://www.audiologistoftheyear.eu>. Like the Audiologist of the Year on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AudiologistoftheYear](http://www.facebook.com/AudiologistoftheYear) or follow on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/AOTY\\_EU](http://www.twitter.com/AOTY_EU).

The winner of the European Audiologist of the Year title in 2019 was Paula Cook of Aston Hearing in Amersham, UK.



EFHOH President Marcel Bobeldijk and British audiologist Paula Cook

## ReSound WINS 2020 BIG INNOVATION AWARD

ReSound, the Danish hearing aid brand from the GN Group, has been named a winner in the global 2020 BIG Innovation Awards, one of a series of industry recognition schemes run and promoted by the Business Intelligence Group (BIG). The BIG Innovation Awards recognise "organizations and people who bring new ideas to life."

ReSound is recognised for its landmark creation of the world's first hearing aids capable of directly streaming audio with Bluetooth Low Energy from millions of smartphones and devices running on the Android operating system. With 75% of the world's mobile users relying on Android phones and devices, ReSound's innovation has improved access to technology for people with hearing loss, boosting their quality of life and making it easier to connect with others. [READ MORE.](#)



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*This issue features ReSound!*



ReSound constantly strives to develop better solutions that help people rediscover hearing so they can live rich, active and fulfilling lives.

With roots that reach all the way back to 1943, ReSound has pioneered the hearing aid industry and delivered a number of hearing industry firsts.

ReSound was the first to deliver 2.4GHz technology in hearing aids for direct connectivity and the world's first Made for iPhone® hearing aid with direct stereo sound streaming.

ReSound is represented in more than 80 countries around the world.

Becoming an industry leader requires dedication, determination and a desire to challenge the status quo. We strive to be experts in audiology and hearing solutions, and combined with a strong focus in research and development, we empower you to hear more, do more and be more than you ever thought possible.

## ***IFHOH JOURNAL***

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is March 1, 2020. **Contributions are welcome!**

The preferred length for articles is one page (400 to 500 words). Short and long articles, from 25 to 1,500 words, may also be accepted. News bytes and announcements of coming events are appreciated, including photographs and illustrations. Please send pictures in jpeg format and files as rich text or word documents. Many thanks!

Carole Willans, Editor, *IFHOH Journal*, email: [journal@ifhoh.org](mailto:journal@ifhoh.org)



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<https://www.ifhoh.org/journal>

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**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 hearing people worldwide. IFHOH is registered as a charitable organisation at Vereinsregister Amtsgericht Hamburg, Germany (Nr. 69 VR 10 527) and is also an International Non-Governmental Organisation having special consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). IFHOH is a member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and works closely with the UN system using the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a tool for change.



## IFHOH Board

President, Dr. Ruth Warick (Canada)

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EFHOH Representative, Marcel Bobeldijk (The Netherlands)

Member at Large, Patrick Gift Egessa (Uganda)



IFHOH Board (from left to right): Heikki Niemi, Avi Blau, Ruth Warick, Patrick Gift Egessa, Marcel Bobeldijk and Hanh Duong Phuong (Hanh is photo-shopped in)