



# IFHOH JOURNAL

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V2

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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 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](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,

Russian writer Leo Tolstoy wrote: "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." Real and effective change must start with your own self, otherwise your efforts to change the world around you will likely not be as successful as you hope. Another way to express this is that it is fine to have big goals - but you will not reach them unless you bring your own personal self to a place in line with those goals. You need to walk the talk! To do so, you must deal with the changes around you.

Over the past couple of years, I have experienced several significant changes, while some were setbacks, most were forward-looking but profound changes. Thankfully, none affected my physical health. However my husband's passing, learning to be autonomous in all things, my decision to retire a year later, my discovering that my adult children are moving on with their lives, the lifestyle changes I have implemented in terms of exercise and nutrition... Learning to live with all the changes feels like so many waves crashing against each other! It does seem overwhelming at times. I know you have felt this at some time.

It is much the same road for all of us who work as advocates for hard of hearing people. We deal a lot with change. Governments adopt new laws and policies. Advances in medicine and technology are hard to keep up with. New advocacy and volunteer organizations appear, and others fade. Advocates and volunteers come and go. The needs of persons with hearing loss are also constantly evolving. The demands on IFHOH are different from year to year. I am sure that the IFHOH Board of Directors often feel the waves of change crashing against each other! I know that advocates and volunteers for hard of hearing people around the world have felt this too. I invite you to remember self-care and to "walk the talk" by being the best model you can be of a person living well with hearing loss.

The IFHOH website, the IFHOH Facebook page and this *IFHOH Journal* can be a source of inspiration for your efforts. Most of all, they are reminders that you are not alone in facing the oceans of change. Reach out to us - we may be hard of hearing, but we are good listeners - and doers!

- Carole

# IFHOH President's Message



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

We have many exciting developments underway. At the top of our list is the IFHOH Congress 2020 from May 27-29 in Budapest, Hungary. SINOSZ, our partner, has been working hard on putting together this event with IFHOH, and information is available on the website about registration and the Call for Papers. Please go to <https://www.ifhoh2020budapest.com/>. More information about the Congress is also available in this issue of *IFHOH Journal*.

Keynote speakers at the Congress include Laszlo Lovaszy, Ph.D, from Hungary who is a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He brings to the Committee his expertise as a hard of hearing person as well as his expertise from his academic and community work.



**Dr. Laszlo Lovaszy**

Another keynote speaker will be Dr. Shelly Chadha, technical officer who leads the work on ear and hearing care at the World Health Organization. The theme of her talk is *Hearing Across the Life Course: A Myth or a Possibility?* Her talk will be timely as she will be able to share updates about the release of the World Report on Hearing Health Care and action taken to date on Resolution WHA70.13 passed in 2017 by the World Hearing Organization Assembly.

Another major development is the formation of the World Hearing Forum which will hold its annual meeting in Geneva early in December. IFHOH has been an active member of the foundation committee for the Forum and we are active on its Global Champions subcommittee, a committee seeking to identify high profile individuals who can lend their luster to shine a light on our issues.

Please also note on your calendars that March 3 is World Hearing Day. This is an important day for our community to raise the profile of our issues through



**World Hearing Day**  
3 March

awareness- raising and other activities. The theme for this year is *Hearing for Life. Don't Let Hearing Loss Limit You.*

In conjunction with our Congress next year, IFHOH will hold its Biennial General Meeting on May 27, and EFHOH will hold its AGM on the same day. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a call for nominations for IFHOH positions as well as applications to apply for the Marcia Dugan Fellowship. The fellowship is named in honor of Marcia Dugan whose mentorship of so many of us is fondly remembered and we seek to honor her each year with the fellowship in her name.

Finally, I want to highlight that excellent work is being carried out for our first development project on inclusive education. Project consultants in Nepal and Uganda are conducting field interviews, which will culminate in a project report and will provide insights for the revision of our Education Policy, adopted in 2014. My thanks go to the team of Karina Chupina, Jeevan Bhattari, Patrick Egessa Gift, Neeta Keshary, and Brender Wanyana for their hard work. The project was made possible through funding provided by the Department of International Development of the UK, through the International Disability Alliance.

We are also part of IDA's Inclusive Education Flagship which has developing an inclusive education document on behalf of all member organizations of IDA. We are pleased to be working together for a unified statement for the disability community on this important topic. I continue to take a lead role with IDA as its First Vice-President.



I invite you to contact me at [president@ifhoh.org](mailto:president@ifhoh.org) to share your thoughts on hearing loss issues and thank you for your continuing support for work on your behalf.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Ruth P. Warick  
President, IFHOH

# WORLD WITHOUT BARRIERS



**Are you ready for a congress without barriers?**

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*IFHOH Congress in Budapest  
27-28-29 May 2020*

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**Budapest is waiting for you!**

IFHOH and the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ) invite you to attend the **11th IFHOH World Congress in Budapest, Hungary from May 27 to 29, 2020**. 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 keynote speakers are:**

- ✓ **Shelly Chadha**, medical officer of the World Health Organization (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, we are wishing to structure the congress around the following themes:

✓ **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-anchored 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 U.N. *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

**The Call for Papers submission is open now!** Please read more about call for paper at: <https://www.ifhoh2020budapest.com/#ifhoh-submission>.

The Congress will be preceded by the BGM of IFHOH and the AGM of EFHOH. As well, there will be a town hall meeting of the IFHOHYP.

**Registration is now open! Register now to get the early bird rate. Go to the main page** <https://www.ifhoh2020budapest.com/> and to the tab for registration.

We hope that this Congress will be a wonderful experience for you and your family!

SINOSZ Organizing Committee



# IFHOH World Congress 2020 - Keynote Speaker

*Dr Shelly Chadha*

IFHOH is honoured to announce that Dr Shelly Chadha will be the keynote speaker at the IFHOH World Congress 2020 in Budapest. The title of her presentation will be: *Hearing Across the Life Course: A Myth or a Possibility?*

Shelly Chadha was trained as an otolaryngologist at the University of Delhi, India and subsequently undertook doctoral studies in public health at the same university. Prior to joining WHO, she was working as a Professor of Otolaryngology at the Maulana Azad Medical College in New Delhi, India. She has long-standing experience in community ear and hearing care, planning and policy development for hearing care.



Dr Chadha served as a member of the national committee for development of National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness in India. She was closely associated with the development of the Sound Hearing 2030 initiative in the South East Asia region.

Since 2012, she is the technical officer leading the work on ear and hearing care at the World Health Organization where she leads WHO's work in the field of ear and hearing care, including advocacy for prioritisation of hearing care; technical support to countries for development of hearing care strategies and development of technical tools and guidance.





## Call for Marcia Dugan Fellowship Applications

### **Applications Open for a Grant from the Marcia Dugan Memorial Fund to Attend the IFHOH World Congress 2010**

The IFHOH Board of Directors is accepting applications for a grant from the Marcia Dugan Memorial Fund for partial coverage of expenses for a hard of hearing person to attend 2020 IFHOH Congress and BGM in Budapest, Hungary from May 27 to 29, 2020.

#### **Who is eligible as a candidate?**

Any hard of hearing person, regardless of age, who demonstrates an interest in working with hard of hearing people and who are currently involved with hearing loss issues. Preference will be given to individuals from IFHOH member countries as well as to an individual from a developing country.

The applicant must have demonstrated an interest in remaining actively involved with hearing loss issues and must have indicated that a grant would enable his/her attendance at the IFHOH Congress and BGM. A short presentation is expected to be given at the IFHOH BGM. An article from the candidate is expected following the Congress and BGM. Willingness to have his or her name publicized in receiving the award will be a condition. Note: the candidate must have eligibility for a Visa if applicable.

#### **Submission date:**

Nominations may be emailed to [info@ifhoh.org](mailto:info@ifhoh.org) by December 10, 2019, using the Marcia Dugan Memorial Application Form (see next page).

#### **Grant announcement:**

The selection of the fellowship recipient will be announced by early February, 2020.

Grant awardees will be formally introduced during the IFHOH BGM and/or Congress. IFHOH reserves the right to freely publish the name and photograph of grant winners.

#### **For more information:**

Contact by email [info@ifhoh.org](mailto:info@ifhoh.org)

**Marcia Dugan Memorial Grant**  
**IFHOH Congress May 27 – 29, 2020**  
**Budapest, Hungary**  
Application Form

Name:

Street Address:

Country and postal code:

Phone:

Email:

IFHOH General Member (Name the organization):

Please advise if you are a presenter at the 2020 IFHOH Congress:

Have you attended a previous IFHOH Congress? If so, which year?

Nature of hearing loss in decibels:

For the following three questions keep responses to 100-300 words and attach extra pages if necessary.

Description of hearing challenge:

Description of involvement in hearing loss activity:

Reason for application to the Marcia Dugan Memorial Fund:

Email responses by December 10, 2019 to [info@ifhoh.org](mailto:info@ifhoh.org)

# Marcia Dugan Memorial Fund Appeal



Marcia Dugan was President of IFHOH from 2001 to 2006, during which time she was instrumental in establishing the presence of IFHOH within the international disability movement. In particular, she promoted IFHOH's involvement in activities that led to the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006). Her passion, commitment and vision have contributed enormously to the cause of hard of hearing persons worldwide. Her departure on February 7, 2010 at the age of 78 years was a loss to our community.

In recognition of Marcia, IFHOH established the Marcia Dugan Memorial Fund. The fund provides financial support for people from developing countries to enable their participation at IFHOH meetings, including its BGM, World Congress and special seminars. Given Marcia's leadership in the international community and her significant role in instigating IFHOH's presence in the international disability community, the IFHOH Board felt such a fund would be an appropriate legacy to her and would provide much-needed support to members of the community who require such assistance.

The Fund is managed by the IFHOH Board. Individuals have been funded to attend IFHOH Congresses in 2012 and 2016 as well as the IFHOH Biennial Meeting in 2018. We are hoping to again support an individual, through the Fund, to attend the IFHOH Congress in Budapest, Hungary May 27 to 29, 2020.

Donations from individuals and organizations to the Fund would be welcomed. To donate please complete a wire transfer in your name to the following account:

Nordea Bank Finland PLC  
Helsinki-WTC  
IBAN: FI96 1200 3000 0109 67  
SWIFT-code: NDEAFIHH

For more information, contact: [info@ifhoh.org](mailto:info@ifhoh.org).



## **IFHOH CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2020-2022**

As co-chairs of the IFHOH Nominations Committee, we are asking for your help to identify colleagues who would be well-suited to serve on the IFHOH Board of Directors, which is responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the organization. Nominations for the Board of Directors of IFHOH are now being accepted and may be submitted by **February 20, 2020**. Positions open for nominations are:

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

General Secretary

Board Member-at-large

Successful candidates will serve a term of two years and will take office immediately following the IFHOH BGM held May 27, 2020 in Budapest, Hungary. Candidates must be nominated by a member organization of IFHOH.

To make a nomination, please communicate to the co-chairs of the Nominating Committee by sending an email to [ntkeshary@gmail.com](mailto:ntkeshary@gmail.com) and include:

- Biographical summary regarding the candidate (100-200 words)
- Statement by the member organization of the reasons for supporting the nomination of the candidate (100 to 200 words)
- Contact information for the candidate: (name, address, telephone, fax, email, etc.)
- Contact information for the member organization and for its representative who is making/signing the nomination (name, address, phone, fax, email, etc.)
- Confirmation that the nomination is supported by the IFHOH member organization and by the candidate.

Please send all documents (and any questions) to the email address of [ntkeshary@gmail.com](mailto:ntkeshary@gmail.com). Sending incomplete nominations or nominations-related information to another email address may result in it not being considered.

Thank you.

Neeta Keshray, Nepal

Johan Wikstrom, Finland

Co-Chairs of the IFHOH Nominations Committee

# World Hearing Forum

IFHOH was welcomed as a member of WHO's World Hearing Forum on September 26, 2019. It will be participating in the first Membership Assembly on December 4 - 5 2019 at the WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.



The World Hearing Forum is a global network of stakeholders promoting ear and hearing care worldwide. It has been established by the World Health Organization (WHO). Members of this advocacy network, including IFHOH, are committed to facilitating the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA70.13 on "*Prevention of deafness and hearing loss*" and supporting Member States in this regard.

The World Hearing Forum will fill a critical gap by bringing a collective vision to advocacy and collaboration in this field. Its members include representatives of Disabled People's Organizations; governments; nongovernmental organizations, including those in official relations with WHO; development agencies; academic institutions, such as WHO Collaborating Centres; and professional societies.

Through networking and by sharing knowledge, skills and experiences from the field, the World Hearing Forum is seeking to galvanize action towards a world in which no person experiences hearing loss due to preventable causes and those with hearing loss can achieve their full potential through early identification and appropriate management of their condition.





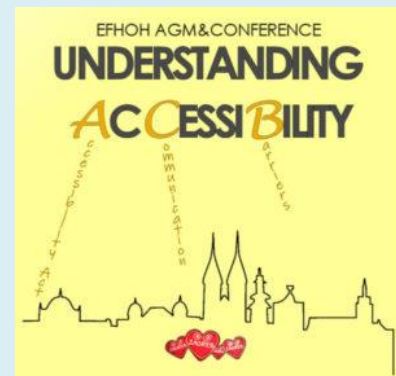
## EFHOH News



By Marcel Bobeldijk, EFHOH President

EFHOH held its Annual General Meeting April 5-7, 2019 in Zagreb, Croatia, under the theme *Understanding Accessibility*.

The Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HSGN) welcomed EFHOH members and conference participants to Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, for three interesting days of workshops and social activities. Three new workshops were introduced: Late-Deafness, Tinnitus, and Speech to Text. Many thanks to Zdravka Bastijan and her team at the Croatian Organisation for Deaf and Hard of Hearing for their hard work in organizing a successful series of events. For more details, see the conference programme at <http://www.hsgn.hr/efhoh-conferenceagm-2019/>.



EFHOH is a partner in the TIN-ACT project, TIN-ACT means Tinnitus Assessment Causes Treatment and you can find some updates about this project at the website [www.tinact.eu](http://www.tinact.eu) The University of Nottingham held our recent TIN-ACT workshop in the first week of October. Meeting most of the TIN-ACT members, the researchers revealed new outcomes of their projects. The aim of the project is to understand the basic neural mechanisms of tinnitus, and to find ways to measure and treat Tinnitus.



**LiveTextAccess European Project**

Intralingual Real Time Respeakers and Velotypists



EFHOH is also a partner in the LTA European Project, which involves the training of "real-time intralingual responders 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.



Recent news regarding the LTA European Project include:

- Intellectual Output 1 is finished: [https://ltaproject.eu/?page\\_id=101](https://ltaproject.eu/?page_id=101)
- You can find these **two reports** on Intellectual Output 1 on the page:
  - [Skills and competences of the professional](#)
  - [Training practices in real-time intralingual subtitles](#)

The LTA Team was also at the [Intersteno Conference in Cagliari](#) on July 16, 2019 to discuss curriculum design and how to make it accessible for professionals.



Rocío Bernabé Caro presenting at Intersteno Conference

You are invited to follow the LTA Team on:

- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/LTA-2171137243107967/>),
- Twitter (@LTA\_EUproject), and
- YouTube ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW4Tp6hLEg8dty1KJTNP0Q?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW4Tp6hLEg8dty1KJTNP0Q?view_as=subscriber))



The LTA Team

For more information, see the LiveTextAccess website: <http://ltaproject.eu>.



# European Disability Forum



The [European Disability Forum](#) (EDF) is an umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities that defends the interests of 80 million Europeans with disabilities. EDF is a unique platform which brings together representative organisations of persons with disabilities from across Europe. It is run by persons with disabilities and their families. EDF is a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe.

On October 29, 2019, representatives of the EDF, led by its President Yannis Vardakastanis met with Vice-President designate for Protecting the European Way of Life, Margaritis Schinas. The EDF delegation stressed the importance to achieve equal rights for persons with disabilities, and briefed the Vice-President designate on the priorities of the disability movement, including ensuring that the Commission's focal point on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has the necessary resources.

[Read more EDF meets: Vice President Designate Schinas](#)

The EDF launched a guide on October 24, 2019 on how to engage with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The guide is aimed at organisations of persons with disabilities. The guide explains: What is the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Why should you engage with them; How to best engage with them; and so on. [Read Guide: How to engage with the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

The EU Disability Card is a pilot project managed by the European Commission in eight EU countries. It aims to develop a card that is recognised across borders and gives access to benefits mainly in the areas of culture, leisure, sport and transport. As the pilot project comes to an end, the EDF has designed a survey to gather the experiences of those who have the Card, but also of persons with disabilities that would like to get the card in their countries. The questionnaire takes around five minutes to complete. The EDF will use the results to prepare a report and recommendations to the EU Commission. [Read more](#)



EDF Board elected at its Annual General Assembly in Madrid, Spain in May, 2017

# Loops and Telecoils

Here are a few bits of historical information, as well as some news, regarding hearing loops and telecoils.

At the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference about Hearing Loops and Technology held in Berlin October 6-8, 2017, a **Steering Committee** was established. Its members are: Andrew Thomas, International Hearing Loop Manufacturers Association (Chair); Aida Regel Poulsen, Secretary of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH); Dr. Ruth Warick, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH); Avi Blau, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH); Dr. Hannes Seidler, DSB - German Association of the Hard of Hearing; Dr. Juliëtte Sterkens, HLAA Hearing Loop Advocate; Dr. Rob Drullman, Secretary of the EHIMA Technical Committee.



On May 16, 2019, biha (Bundesinnung der Hörakustiker KdöR), the **German Federal Guild of Audiologists / Hearing Aid Acousticians** issued a press release about hearing loops for people with hearing loss. The guild represents about 6,600 hearing systems companies in Germany and approximately 15,000 audiologists / hearing systems acousticians. Because Germany is the second largest market for hearing systems next to the USA, the embracing of Audio Induction Loop

Systems (AFILS) (also called "hearing loops") by Germany's hearing aid acousticians / audiologists may be an important step for the hearing loss community worldwide. (Thanks to Siegfried Karg for kindly translating the text into English.) In summary, it states that the Commissioner for people with disabilities of the German Government recently demanded further efforts in the realm of inclusion to improve the lives of people with disabilities, including people with hearing loss. The latest technology connecting hearing systems wirelessly with digital sound sources (such as smart phones, sound systems, and television sets, via Bluetooth) enables hearing without background noise. Bluetooth, however, has a big disadvantage: its range is limited to a few meters or yards. However, AFILS is a useful system suitable for public spaces. Hearing aids with a telecoil and cochlear implants can directly couple with AFILS, thus enabling the users to detect acoustic signals with distortion-free reception. Music, theater performances or lectures are transmitted directly into the ear regardless of distance or room acoustics.





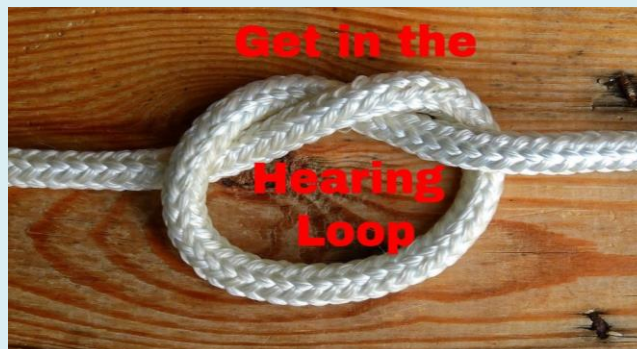
***Stop Trash-Talking Telecoils!*** is the title of an interesting reflection by Gael Hannan, a Canadian author, humorist, and hearing loss advocate. She is the author of *The Way I Hear It: A Life with Hearing Loss* (Friesen Press, Victoria B.C., Canada, 2015, 240 pages). The reflection piece appeared on July 2, 2019 in the blog *Hearing Health & Technology Matters*:

<https://hearinghealthmatters.org/betterhearingconsumer/2019/stop-trash-talking-telecoils/> In case you have friends who would prefer to read it in German, go to: <https://hearinghealthmatters.org/haveyouheard/2019/telefonspulen-schlecht-zu-reden/>

The **IHAC - International Hearing Access Committee**, of which IFHOH and EFHOH are members, published an important document on June 19, 2019. It is a discussion of when hearing loops and telecoils might become obsolete, due to the eventual transition from existing audio transmissions for assistive listening systems to a platform of digital audio streaming direct into hearing aids and cochlear implants. Consumer organizations are of course excited by what the future will bring, but at the same time they are concerned that premature announcements will discourage research in telecoils and lead to their neglect well before the new technology is fully matured and carefully evaluated by end users. The Committee concluded that it is reasonable to believe that the use of telecoils and hearing loops will continue for at least the next 10 to 15 years and possibly beyond. The rights of users of telecoils and hearing loops to access the current technologies must be respected during this period of technological change.



*Editor's Note: Thanks to Siegfried Karg for the information provided.*



# Milestone Achievement in Pakistan

In April 2019, Muhammad Akram, Founder and Chairman of Danishkadah, an organization working for persons with disabilities in Pakistan, hosted a public forum to promote the right to drive for persons with hearing loss. IFHOH President Ruth Warick provided a short video clip to support his efforts, which was shown at the event (see photo below).



**Showing Ruth Warick's video clip at a public forum  
In Pakistan (sign language interpreter in foreground)**

The struggle to obtain the right for hard of hearing and deaf persons to obtain a driver's license had been ongoing in Pakistan for quite a few years. The deaf and hard of hearing communities organized demonstrations and met with police officials and senior government officials. Mansoor Abdul Majeed, a deaf community leader, provided the necessary leadership. Muhammad Akram of Danishkadah, an IFHOH member organization, actively supported the movement and provided much needed technical support.

Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, Special Assistant to Chief Minister Sindh, took an interest in the issue, and championed it in Cabinet. During a Cabinet meeting on September 30, 2019, a summary was approved for the issuance of driving license to hearing impaired persons. It is hoped that final approval will be given by Pakistan's Assembly before the end of this year.

Info: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2069197/1-hearing-impaired-get-driving-licences/>

Tweet of Special Assistant to Chief Minister Sindh:

<https://twitter.com/qnqamar/status/1178602641347284993?prefetchTimestamp=1570082424709>

FB photos of celebrating this milestone and thanking the Special Assistant at the Press Club:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MDI.com.pk/posts/>

DANISHKADAH: [www.danishkadah.org.pk](http://www.danishkadah.org.pk)



# Carel du Toit Trust



The Carel du Toit Trust is a non-profit organization established in 1988 to develop resources to advance whole child development for children with hearing impairment. The Carel du Toit Centre (CDTC) was founded in 1973 by Professor Carel du Toit, an Ear, Nose and Throat surgeon and head of the ENT department at Tygerberg Hospital with a sincere conviction that children with hearing impairment could develop hearing and speech and function optimally in a hearing world.

The CDTC is the only one of its kind in South Africa that offers an early intervention centre and a school. This includes a pre-primary and primary school for children with hearing impairment up to Grade 3. The Centre hosts an in-house residence for families travelling from outside of Cape Town, including the rest of Africa, offering accommodation for the family while they are receiving therapy and the child is schooling at the Centre.



The Centre is the initiator and supporter of the first community-based infant hearing screening programme in the Western Cape. The approach followed by the Carel du Toit Methodology is based on early identification of the hearing loss and the fitting of the appropriate hearing technology as well as parent involvement.



Dr Diane Bell with her daughter  
Jody-Lee Bell

Dr Diane Bell, Chairperson of Carel du Toit Trust and a recent IFHOH member, has first-hand experience being a mother of a child who is deaf. Dr Bell's daughter started her education at the Carel du Toit Centre and has since gone on to achieving a Masters Degree in Pathology. Dr Bell and her daughter are role models respectively to both the parents of children who are deaf and the children themselves, who continue to draw encouragement from their story.

If you would like to find out more about the work done at Carel du Toit Centre and Trust you can visit the website [www.careldutoit.co.za](http://www.careldutoit.co.za).





The **International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP)** held its 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Zurich, Switzerland from October 9 to 13.

Jugehörig welcomed all members of the IFHOHYP and other hard of hearing young people to a youth conference and the IFHOHYP. The activities were fully accessible by means of induction loop and speech-to-text reporting. The activities and accommodation were all held at the Hearing and Language Centre in Zurich. The center is a school and dormitory for young deaf and hard of hearing students.



The program started with an *ice breaker* and other *get to know each other* exercises on the first evening. The next morning, October 10, there were several workshops led by Jugehörig. A sightseeing tour to visit Central Switzerland and the Swiss Alps followed that afternoon. The following day followed the same pattern, with workshops in the morning, and afternoon sightseeing, this time in the city of Zurich. It is the Swiss center of economic life and education. Located in the heart of Europe, the city offers all the modern aspects of a cosmopolitan metropolis, without sacrificing its natural beauty.

On October 12, various workshop activities were followed by the first part of the IFHOHYP AGM. In the evening, participants enjoyed a special dinner and entertainment. The second part of the AGM took place on October 13, after which closing activities organized by Jugehörig gave everyone a chance to say their goodbyes.

Visit IFHOHYP's website at <http://ifhohyp.org/> for more information on its activities.

# Calendar of Events

## **November 21, 2019 – Third International Scientific and Expert Conference on DeafBlind Persons**

*Croatian Association of DeafBlind Persons Dodir*

**Location:** Zagreb, Croatia

**Information:** <http://petar.ffdi.hr/dodir>

**Contact:** Kristina Burum – [conference@dodir.hr](mailto:conference@dodir.hr)

The theme is: *The Results of (Un)supportive Environment*. This will be a look at language acquisition, the importance of early intervention for deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind children, and ensuring quality of support in education system.

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

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



SINOSZ (Siketek és 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, read pages 6 and 7 of this issue and 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)

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** Submission deadline is January 15, 2020

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

**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](mailto:rk.nitschke@t-online.de)

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# News Bytes

## News Bytes

### APPLE ANNOUNCES HEARING HEALTH STUDY



On September 11, 2019, Apple announced the Hearing Health Study which will contribute towards WHO's *Make Listening Safe* initiative. The study that will examine how everyday sound exposure impacts the hearing health of people. The data received will improve our understanding of listening behaviors of the users of personal audio devices. With over a billion young people at risk of hearing loss due to unsafe listening, WHO is addressing this challenge through raising awareness and setting new standards for safe listening. The knowledge gained through this study will contribute to future public health action in this field.

[READ MORE.](#)

### CANADA LEGISLATES ON ACCESSIBILITY

The Canadian government passed *Bill C-81: An Accessible Canada Act* in May 2019. Previously accessibility was provided a bit everywhere in legislation and a framework for protecting these rights was provided through the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. The new law provides a more centralized focus on creating communities, workplaces and services that enable all persons to participate fully. For more info: <https://siteimprove.com/en-ca/accessibility/accessible-canada-act/>.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau with disability advocates on Parliament Hill, Ottawa

## CONFERENCE IN PARIS

Bucodes SurdiFrance and the ARDDS IdF held a two-day conference in Paris on October 18 and 19, 2019 having as its theme: *Together to Hear Better*. Info: <https://surdifrance.org/>



## EUHA 2019

EUHA 2019 – the 64<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Hearing Aid Acousticians organized by the European Union of Hearing Aid Acousticians (EUHA) – took place October 16 to 19 in Nuremberg, Germany. The keynote address by Mr. Kai Arne Gondlach considered *How Will Artificial Intelligence Transform Our Future*. Workshop topics included feedback reduction algorithms, the impact of digitization, speech intelligibility with cochlear implants, cartilage conduction hearing aids, smartphone-controlled hearing aids, and so on.

At EUHA 2019, battery manufacturer Rayovac announced the winner of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual European Audiologist of the year: British audiologist, Paula Cook of Aston Hearing in Amersham. This competition is run in conjunction with Audio Infos, EHIMA and EFHOH. Next year, EUHA 2020 will be held October 7 to 9 in Hanover, Germany.



EFHOH President Marcel Bobeldijk and British audiologist Paula Cook

## HEARING AIDS MAY PREVENT DEMENTIA

Mental decline as we age is a serious issue. It is important to find ways to keep our mind alert and sharp. A study conducted at the University of Exeter and King's College in London (U.K.) has found that wearing a hearing aid may help to protect brain function in older adults with hearing loss. Info: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/dementia/news/articles/wearinghearingaidmayhelpp.html>



## OVERCOMING ADDICTION FOR THE SENSORY IMPAIRED

Learn more about overcoming addiction for the sensory impaired, including people with hearing loss, by reading this informative article by Ollie Clark of the U.K. organization, Rehab4Addiction: <https://www.rehab4addiction.co.uk/guides/overcoming-addiction-sensory-impaired>. Mr. Clark is a researcher and author about drug and alcohol addiction. He is concerned that not only do people with sensory impairment dealing with addiction have to face the painful reality of recovering from an addiction but finding treatments that cater to their individual physical and emotional needs can also prove to be a challenge.



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*This issue features Bernafon!*



Since 1946, **Bernafon** has been passionate about developing quality hearing systems that enable people with hearing difficulties to enjoy authentic listening experiences. With Swiss engineering, precision technology, and our commitment to individual service, we strive to exceed our customers' expectations.

Our aim is to provide extra value to our partners every day. Bernafon representatives and employees in over 70 countries fulfill our vision to help people with impaired hearing communicate again without limitations. Bernafon is the world's leading dedicated hearing aid specialist – With 60 years' experience and more than 5,700 specialist centres in 20 countries, we're the world's leading dedicated hearing aid specialist.

All our hearing care is tailored to each person's hearing and lifestyle needs and is delivered by professionally qualified hearing aid audiologists.

From our comprehensive hearing assessment to your programme of Free Lifetime Aftercare, we are committed to help you get the very best from your hearing.

## ***IFHOH JOURNAL***

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is December 10, 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)

Vice-President, Avi Blau (Israel)

Treasurer, Heikki Niemi (Finland)

General Secretary, Hanh Duong Phuong (Vietnam)

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)