



IFHOH JOURNAL

March 2016

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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
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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. 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.

From the Editor's Desk

From the Editor's Desk



Carole Willans, Editor

Dear IFHOH friends,

We have all heard some of the many slogans about disability... "Disability does not mean inability." "I am a person first, not a disability." "Disability means differently abled." You probably have your own favourite saying. I just prefer thinking of people with or without disabilities as being just that... people... each one with their own life story, which brings me to this great quote (see grey box), often attributed to Albert Einstein.

"Everybody is a genius.
If you judge a fish by
its ability
to climb a tree,
it will live its whole life
believing that it is stupid."

For me, this means that it is inappropriate to judge any person by focusing on an ability which he or she does not possess. A fish is an excellent swimmer, but his life story does not include the climbing of trees, and that's just the way it is.

There is no right or wrong about it. It makes no sense to judge a fish as stupid or useless because it cannot climb a tree. Similarly, I would personally make a terrible receptionist were I try to take to take telephone messages all day, but my friends will tell you that I make a great listener in any face-to-face conversation! I invite you to treat yourself and others with kindness, not judgment, and to appreciate the wonderful and unique contribution that each one of us makes to the world that surrounds them.

You can send me email at journal@ifhoh.org or follow me personally on Twitter @CaroleWillans.

IFHOH MEMBER ORGANISATION DELEGATES

Plan your travel to ensure attendance at the 20th IFHOH Biennial General Meeting!

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

(On-site check-in is at 9 a.m. – Proceedings are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00p.m.)

Washington Hilton Hotel

Washington, DC, USA

Advance registration required (by email to general.secretary@ifhoh.org)

IFHOH President's Message



Ruth P. Warick, IFHOH President

The 10th IFHOH Congress is less than three months away at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. from June 23 to 26, 2016. The deadline to register is May 31. Please go to <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention>. Our thanks to Hearing Loss Association of America for their hard work in putting on this amazing event.

IFHOH's BGM will be held Wednesday June 22, preceding the Congress at the same location. To register, please contact our General Secretary Hang Duong Phuong (general.secretary@ifhoh.org) and, if you have not already done so, please pay your dues to our Treasurer Heikki Niemi (treasurer@ifhoh.org).

In other events associated with the Congress, IFHOHYP (the youth wing) will hold their AGM on Sunday, June 26. IFHOH will be holding a workshop on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on Tuesday, June 21. Please contact Louise Carroll - humanrights@ifhoh.org - for more information as space is limited. The CRPD workshop in Washington, D.C. will mark the fourth such workshop since the launching of our CRPD project with funding by the Oticon Foundation. A detailed report is provided in this issue (starting on page 8) and I salute our workshop trainees for their commitment and enthusiasm and our board members for their hard work on the project.

In other IFHOH news, this was the third year in a row that we celebrated World Hearing Day, formerly known as International Ear Care Day. We have joined with the World Health Organization and other organizations to raise awareness on March 3. This year's theme was *Act Now. Here's How!* World Hearing Day focuses attention on the over 360 million persons - 5% of the world's population - who have a hearing loss. 32 million of them are children and around 60% of childhood hearing loss could be avoided through preventive measures. For other children and adults, their quality of life can be improved through hearing aids, cochlear implants and support services.

I am impressed with the growing number of activities held in conjunction with this important day; we have reports from New Zealand, Denmark, Nepal, Cambodia, Pakistan and EFHOH. I was personally pleased to bring electronic greetings to an event organized at the Jinnah University for Women in Karachi, Pakistan with thanks to Akram Muhammad. The video can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCriV8iVdR8> and is also on the IFHOH Facebook page.

In the next month you will be asked to complete a survey on live event captioning / speech-to-text interpreting. Our goal is to improve live event/speech-to-text captioning at international events including those sponsored by the United Nations. This is a joint survey with the World Federation of the Deaf. In finalizing the survey, I have been working closely with a subcommittee of Lorin MacDonald, a Director of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, and Loren Storck, President of CCAC = Captioning Advocacy + Community. The survey is currently in a testing phase and is to be ready for distribution in April.

We will also be seeking your opinion regarding hearing aids. The importance of hearing aids, cochlear implants and other technology is huge for our community. As a result, there is concern when changes are proposed that could affect the telecoil compatibility of mobile phones. Although innovation is certainly welcome, our community needs to be safeguarded in what we know already works for us, namely the telecoil in phones with our hearing aids. This is an issue being discussed in the social media including IFHOH's Facebook so well managed by our Vice-President Avi Blau (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IFHOH>).



Jan-Peter Strömberg and Ruth Warick at the United Nations

Finally, I want to close with our thanks to former IFHOH President Jan-Peter Strömberg who retires this May after several decades as President of our Swedish member organisation. Jan-Peter has been a leader in our community and will be sorely missed; we wish him well in his future plans.

With best regards,
Ruth Warick, IFHOH President
Email: president@ifhoh.org



***Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)
Hosts HLAA Convention 2016 and
IFHOH Congress 2016***

June 23 - 26, 2016

Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C., USA

IFHOH's Biennial General Meeting (BGM) will be held June 22, 2016. The IFHOH Congress 2006 will be held June 23-26, 2016 in conjunction with the annual convention of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA).

Event website (for registration and all info): <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/convention>

Schedule-at-a-glance - [Schedule-at-a-glance \(preliminary\)](#)

Stay Up to Date - sign up for HLAA's free bi-weekly [e-news](#).

Host Hotel - all sessions and workshops will take place in the [Washington Hilton](#) located just three city blocks north of the DuPont Circle area at 1919 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. (see map at <https://goo.gl/maps/3cTfO>). Enjoy walking to top restaurants, shopping and nightlife. The hotel is the perfect home base for sight-seeing, located only four blocks from the Dupont Circle Metro, so plan to stay a few extra days!

Info - Questions may be directed to Nancy Macklin, Director of Events and Marketing, at 301-657-2248 Ext. 106, or email nmacklin@hearingloss.org. For more information about HLAA, visit www.hearingloss.org.





Call for Proposals - IFHOH BGM 2018

General member organisations of IFHOH in good standing are invited to submit a proposal to host the IFHOH Biennial General Meeting (BGM) 2018. In association with the BGM, a one-day educational program is usually also held.

Please provide the following information:

- Name of organisation:
- Address:
- Phone and fax numbers:
- E-mail:
- Main contact:
- BGM organisational plan, and committee and volunteer plans
(Your application should include 2-3 pages of the plan for the BGM and educational session, as well as 200 word biographies of at least two of the main organizers.)

Please submit your proposal as soon as possible or by April 15, 2016 to the IFHOH General Secretary at general.secretary@ifhoh.org. Enquiries about your submission should be directed to this e-mail address.

Call for Proposals - IFHOH Congress and BGM 2020

General member organisations of IFHOH in good standing are invited to submit a proposal to host the IFHOH Congress and Biennial General Meeting in 2020. Following the IFHOH BGM, a two-to-three day Congress is proposed.

Please provide the following information:

- Name of organisation:
- Address:
- Phone and fax numbers:
- E-mail:
- Main contact:
- Congress proposal and organisational plan
- Committee and volunteer plans
(Your application should include 2-3 pages of the plan for the BGM and Congress, as well as 200 word biographies of at least two of the main organizers.)

Please submit your proposal as soon as possible or by April 15, 2016 to the IFHOH General Secretary at general.secretary@ifhoh.org. Enquiries about your submission should be directed to this e-mail address.

IFHOH CRPD HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT UPDATE



Louise Carroll
IFHOH Board-Member-at-Large
With Human Rights Responsibilities

At its last BGM in Israel, IFHOH pledged to ensure that information about the *Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD)* and how it applies to people with hearing loss would become globally available. IFHOH President, Dr Ruth Warick, and I have been very busy honouring this pledge.

We developed the IFHOH CRPD Toolkit and applied it as the basis for the workshop agenda that assisted representatives from 35 IFHOH member organisations in Europe, Asia and Africa to learn about the CRPD. Three IFHOH CRPD Human Rights international workshops have now been held. Marcel Bobeldijk, the EFHOH representative on the IFHOH Board, and I worked collaboratively to deliver two in Copenhagen, Denmark, on October 19 - 23, 2015. Then the third workshop, for participants from IFHOH member organisations in Africa and Asia, was delivered collaboratively with The National Foundation for the Deaf in New Zealand on January 22-24, 2016.

The next CRPD Human Rights Workshop is being held in Washington, DC on Tuesday, June 21 and IFHOH member organisations are now able to nominate participants to attend. Please email humanrights@ifhoh.org for more information.

Participants - IFHOH European CRPD Workshop - Group 1 October 22-23, 2015

Name	Country
Dominique Dufournet	France
Ondrej Folk	Czech Republic
Patrick Oldenburg-Hennings	Belgium
Dr Istvan Hendrik	Hungary
Anne M.P. Kristensen	Denmark
Andre Nijssen	Netherlands
Darja Pajk	Slovenia

Asuman Saygi	Turkey
Beata Strzelczyk	Poland
Celia Willoughby	Ireland
Heikki Niemi	Finland

+ Marcel Bobeldijk, EFHOH and Louise Carroll, IFHOH



Participants – European CRPD Workshop – Group 1

**Participants - IFHOH European CRPD Workshop - Group 2
October 22-23, 2015**

Name	Country
Volker Albert	Germany
Zdravka Bastijan	Croatia
Richard Darbera	EFHOH (France)
Sindre Falk	Norway
Paulina Lewandowska	Poland
Martin Novak	Czech Republic
Aida Regel Poulsen	EFHOH (Denmark)
Victor Rehn	Finland
Pille Ruul	Estonia
Stephan Wilke	Germany

+ Marcel Bobeldijk, EFHOH and Louise Carroll, IFHOH



Participants – European CRPD Workshop – Group 2



European CRPD Workshop – Group 2

**Participants - IFHOH CRPD Human Rights Africa and Asia Workshop
January 22-24, 2016 in Auckland, New Zealand**



Front Row (left to right):

Mr. Avi Blau, Israel; Dr Ruth Warick, Canada; Mrs. Louise Carroll, New Zealand

2nd Row:

Mrs. Neeta Keshary Bhattarai, Nepal

3rd Row (left to right):

**Mr. Javkhlan Byambasuren, Mongolia; Mr. Patrick Egezza, Uganda;
Dr Kazuhiko Seya, Japan; Mr. Akram Muhammad, Pakistan; Mr. Macha Maharhjan, Nepal;
Ms. Kerriane Robertson, Australia; Mr. Royee Rothman, Israel;
Mr. Mohammad Mia, Bangladesh; Mr. Chimm Kim Hean, Cambodia**

The following participants who have completed the IFHOH CRPD workshop have now joined the global network of IFHOH CRPD advocates:

#	Name	Country
1	Kerriane Robertson	Australia
2	Ishaque Mia	Bangladesh
3	Patrick Hennings	Belgium
4	Kim Hean Chhim	Cambodia
5	Dr Ruth Warick	Canada
6	Zvravka Bastijan	Croatia
7	Martin Novak	CZ Republic
8	Aida Regel Poulsen	Denmark
9	Richard Darbera	France
10	Pille Ruul	Estonia
11	Victor Rehn	Finland
12	Dominique Dufournet	France
13	Volker Albert	Germany
14	Stephan Wilke	Germany
15	Celia Willoughby	Ireland
16	Royee Rothman	Israel
17	Macha Bhai Maharjan	Mongolia
18	Neeta Kershary Bhattarai	Nepal
19	Andre Nijssen	Netherlands
20	Aroha Henry	New Zealand
21	Sindre Falk	Norway
22	Muhammad Akram	Pakistan
23	Beata Strzelczyk	Poland
24	Asuman Saygi (Ece)	Turkey
25	Patrick Gift Egeessa	Uganda

To contact an IFHOH CRPD advocate or for further information about the IFHOH CRPD Human Rights Program, please email humanrights@ifhoh.org. We express our thanks to all who have participated by funding this program, and by nominating workshop attendees. Our thanks to the attendees who have all taken time out of their busy lives to learn how to best assist a person with hearing loss to advocate for their right to live a life of dignity.



EFHOH News



Marcel Bobeldijk, President (Netherlands), Lidia Best, Vice President (United Kingdom), Aïda Regel Poulsen, General Secretary (Denmark), Richard Dabéra, Treasurer (France), and Jaana Linna, Board Member (Finland)

Dear EFHOH friends,

Here is some information on what is happening at the European level.

EFHOH AGM 2016

The EFHOH Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2016 will be taking place April 1-2, 2016 in Paris, France. The French federation of hard-of-hearing people, Bucodes SurdiFrance, a group that brings together 42 associations from all over France, is very proud to host this event and the congress that follows it. The EFHOH AGM will be held on Friday April 1 (afternoon) and the Conference will take place on Saturday April 2. The Congress centre is located in the eastside of Paris in a quiet district, near the famous Père Lachaise cemetery.



The theme of Saturday's Conference is *Getting Informed about Hearing Loss*. Presentations and discussions will centre on issues of direct interest to hard of hearing people, their daily life, and how we can all take up the challenge together to improve daily living. Conference topics will focus on living with hearing loss: who are hard of hearing people, how do they manage hearing in noisy places with hearing aids, how do they live with cochlear implants, how do they get access to information, how do they manage to use a telephone, and so on.

A gala dinner is planned for Saturday evening. Sunday will be an opportunity for sightseeing with something for everyone: a guided tour through Paris, a tour of history at the Musée Carnavalet or guided walks, one focused on Montmartre and the impressionist painters, and the other through the world famous Père Lachaise cemetery. Keep up to date by checking our website at: <http://www.efhoh.org/>. Here is a link to the [draft program](#).

MANY OTHER INITIATIVES

EFHOH also organized and participated many different initiatives, including activities in the context of International Ear Care Day (see page 13) and of the European Day for Persons with Disabilities (see page 14).

DSB EFHOH AGM 2015 Essen Report

With many thanks to Deutsche Schwerhörigenbund - DSB - we are delighted to share this link with *IFHOH Journal* readers on the conference which took place in Essen (Germany) in April, 2015.



The DSB worked on collecting all presentations from the conference. Please follow the link to all these interesting materials - you can choose to read in German or in English: schwerhoerigen-netz.de-EFHOH/uebersicht#tagungsdok

HOW TO CONTACT EFHOH

Remember... you can follow EFHOH via Facebook and Twitter. The addresses are:

EFHOH	@efhoh
Marcel Bobeldijk	@marbob32
Lidia Best	@best_lidia

Asia-Pacific News



Greetings from the Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD)! In the previous issue, *IFHOH Journal* readers were introduced to the APFHD, a young networking self-help organisation founded in 2012 by hard of hearing and deafened representatives of 10 Asian countries.

In this issue, APFHD focuses on a clinical trial that took place in Vietnam involving the use of a biochip to diagnose congenital hearing loss.

In recent years, deafness has gradually become one of the most common hereditary disability in children both in developed and developing countries, including Vietnam. To assist in early detection, BioMedTech - a biotechnology and medical devices company in Vietnam - has conducted a clinical trial on biochip diagnosing congenital hearing loss.

In 2012, WHO published statistical data on the prevalence of hearing loss. There are 360M in the world with disabling hearing loss (5.3% of the world's population). 32M (9%) of these are children. The prevalence of hearing loss in children is greatest in South Asia, Pacific Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. In Vietnam, from 2000 to 2001, the Ho Chi Minh City Ear-Nose-Throat Centre and the Ear-Nose-Throat Institute launched an investigation on "Ear and Hearing Impairment Disease" in 6 provinces: the result ratio of deafness was 6%, which is a very large proportion.

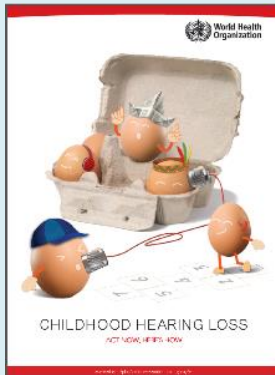
If not diagnosed early, children unable to hear will also be unable to speak; this affects their personality and their life in general. Most deafness gene mutations are recessive (2 mutation alleles are required for disease phenotype expression), thus there are cases in which both parents have normal hearing but their children experience hearing loss. Nowadays many countries have national screening for deafness in infants and in children less than three years old. Pioneers include the USA, Australia, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and China. In these countries, nearly 100% of newborns are screened for hereditary hearing loss before leaving the maternity hospital. In order to improve hearing loss detection in a way that may be more accurate and cost-effective than conventional methods, BioMedTech has researched and developed the use of a biochip in detecting genetic deafness with the following applications:

- Early diagnosis of hearing-impaired children to bring them into special education program, ensuring intervention before the age of 2, so that they can develop linguistic and mental ability normally.
- Prenuptial screening of couples who intend to have children in order to consult and better prepare if deafness gene mutations are detected.

From September to December 2015, the company launched a biochip clinical trial involving 500 volunteers, of which 250 were hearing-impaired and 250 had normal hearing. The volunteers participated by donating blood for the purpose of biochip detection. Many different organisations collaborated to ensure the success of the trial by providing sites and support for blood sample donation units. Blood sample analysis units were provided by Ho Chi Minh City Medical University, Hanoi Medical University, and CapitalBio International Corporation. The photographs in the montage below are all from various blood donation events.



World Hearing Day 2016

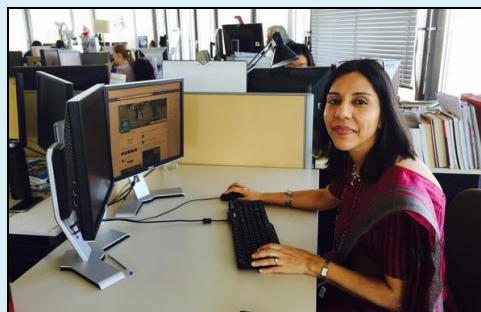


World Hearing Day is an annual advocacy event held every March 3 (formerly called "International Ear Care Day"). On this day, activities are carried out by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and its partners to raise awareness and promote hearing care across the world. This year's theme was ***Childhood Hearing Loss: Act Now, Here Is How!*** The WHO fact sheet on childhood hearing loss as part of the materials for the World Hearing Day 2016 is available at <http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/world-hearing-day/2016/en/>. This year, IFHOH once again joined the WHO in drawing attention to hearing loss on this date.

IFHOH's news release on March 3, 2016 stated: "Over 360 million persons - 5% of the world's population - have a hearing loss and 32 million are children. Around 60% of childhood hearing loss could be avoided through preventive measures, and for other children, their quality of life can be improved through hearing aids, cochlear implants and support services." "I am very pleased that members of IFHOH around the world are holding awareness events and promoting World Hearing Day 2016. Hearing loss is an often invisible and neglected condition. For young children it is particularly important to have early detection and supports in order to achieve their full potential," stated Dr. Ruth Warick, President of IFHOH.

IFHOH member organisations around the world have led or supported activities for this special day. Dr. Shelly Chadha, Technical Officer (Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss) for the WHO, wrote to IFHOH President Ruth Warick in a letter dated March 17, 2016:

"On behalf of the World Health's Organisation's programme for prevention of deafness and hearing loss, I would like to thank you for supporting the World Hearing Day initiative and for promoting its messages. Your efforts in supporting this cause through the activities undertaken by the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People are greatly appreciated. This support, advocacy and participation play an important role in increasing awareness of hearing loss and its prevention and care, and are a vital part in advancing WHO's mission in this field."



Dr. Shelly Chadha

EFHOH supported and participated in a lunch debate on the theme *Hearing Awareness - Professional Hearing Care Makes You Smarter and Healthier* which took place on March 1 in the Altiero Spinelli Building of the European Parliament.



This event was organized in cooperation with the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers' Association (EHIMA), the European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals (AEA), and the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH). It was hosted by two members of the European Parliament, MEP Ádám Kósa (Hungary, EPP) and MEP Helga Stevens (Belgium, ECR), and included a presentation by Dr. Shelly Chadha, WHO Hearing Officer, on why getting smarter and healthier through professional hearing care is particularly important for young children.

Other stakeholders have held events around World Hearing Day 2016, such as *Pro Audito Schweiz* which hosted two information events in Switzerland, one in Zurich on March 5, and a second in Bern on March 9.

IFHOH President, Ruth Warick, brought electronic greetings at an event organized at the Jinnah University for Women in Karachi, Pakistan (see the YouTube link she provides on page 4).

By celebrating this special day, we all help to increase awareness about hearing loss issues. Please write to the Editor (journal@ifhoh.org) if you would like to share what your group did to celebrate this special day, and send photos if you can!



European Day of Persons with Disabilities

Every year in December, the European Commission celebrates the Day of Persons with Disabilities together with the European Disability Forum (EDF).

The European Day of Persons with Disabilities conference was held in Brussels on December 7-8, 2015. The European Commission and the EDF co-organised a two-day conference with around 200 participants from all over Europe. The conference focused on the current situation of children and young people with disabilities and their access to education as a key factor for their participation in society. Participants included young people with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities, government representatives and academics.



Speaking at the opening of the conference, EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, talked about the institutionalisation of children and young people with disabilities in many European countries, calling on the EU to not spend its funds on institutions but on community living: "In our countries, there are hundreds and hundreds of children that are separated from their families and face daily abuses and violence in segregating institutions. In particular children of ethnic minorities and children with disabilities are disproportionately represented in institutions. There are even countries that forbid institutionalisation of children under a certain age, but allow exceptions for children with disabilities. The EU needs to support deinstitutionalisation in the Member States by suspending, withdrawing and recovering funds if the obligation to respect fundamental rights is breached. The EU funds should be used strictly for the development of support services for persons with disabilities in local communities and not for institutions."



The EDF President also called on the EU to adopt the long awaited equal treatment legislation that will protect people with disabilities, including children, against discrimination, as well as to ratify the Istanbul Convention to ensure that girls with disabilities are no longer victims of gender based violence in their homes.

The European Union (EU) set a very good example by ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and this year its work on the rights of people with disabilities was reviewed by the UN CRPD Committee. In its recommendations, the Committee called on the EU to mainstream the perspective and the needs of children with disabilities in the upcoming EU Agenda on the rights of the child.

EFHOH secretary, Aida Regel Poulsen, did a presentation together with one of her students. Many things were discussed as to the different perspectives of understanding, working and facilitating inclusive education for children and youth with hearing loss.

On the 2nd day of the conference, the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, and EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, announced the winners of the 2016 Access City Award. This is the European wide award that rewards cities for their efforts in becoming accessible to all. This year's winner was Milan (Italy).



At the Access City Award Ceremony: Yannis Vardakastania (second from left) and Marianne Thyssen (third from right)

Considering that in 2016 it will be the 10th year anniversary of the adoption of the UN CRPD, it is expected that the next European Day of Persons with Disabilities will focus on celebrating this anniversary. The EDF President said: "We can say that the Convention is a ten year old child with very good ideas on how the future should look like. A future in a world without barriers, without discrimination, where persons with disabilities can be protagonists of our own lives. Let's continue working together towards this goal. It's ambitious but is not impossible."

[Watch the video of the 1st day of the conference here](#)

[Watch the video of the 2nd day of the conference here](#)

Follow updates on Twitter: [@MyEDF](#) #EDPD2015 #EUdisability #EUAccessCity

Calendar of Events

Calendar of Events

April 1-3, 2016 - EFHOH AGM 2016 and Conference

Location: Paris, France

Registration: http://ifhoh.org/data/documents/Registration_form_12.pdf



The EFHOH Annual General Meeting will take place on April 1. The following day, April 2, will be the conference day, during which workshops, debates and other activities will focus on the challenges faced by hard of hearing people, and the solutions to these challenges. April 3 will be a sightseeing day around Paris.

May 11, 2016 - 14th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Technologies

Location: Toronto, Canada

Registration: <http://www.ci2016toronto.org>

The 14th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Technologies (CI2016) will be held May 11-14, 2016, at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel in Toronto, ON, Canada. The CI2016 is considered one of the premier international cochlear implant meetings in 2016 with featured speakers and international podium and poster sessions presenting research on cochlear implants and other implantable technologies across the age continuum.



June 15-17, 2016 – 3rd International Congress on Family-Centered Early Intervention (FCEI) for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Location: **Bad Ischl, Austria**

Website: www.fcei.at

Contact: elisabeth.wild@bblinz.at

For Every Child and Every Family is the theme for the 2016 FCEI conference.



June 23-26, 2016 – IFHOH World Congress

Location: **Washington, D.C. (U.S.A.)**



The Congress will be held in conjunction with the annual conference of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). HLAA's contact for the Congress is Nancy Macklin, Director of Events and Marketing, 301.657.2248, extension 106, nmacklin@hearingloss.org. See page 7 of this issue for more info on the conference.

The IFHOH BGM will be held Wednesday, **June 22**, just before the Congress. IFHOH will provide more info about the BGM in the months preceding it. For more info about IFHOH, visit www.ifhoh.org and **CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!** WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/IFHOH/

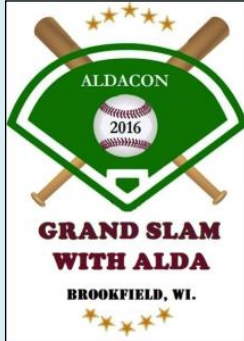


September 14-18, 2016 - ALDAcon 2016

Location: **Brookfield, Wisconsin, U.S.A.**

Website: www.alda.org

Contact: info@alda.org



The Association of Late-Deafened Adults, Inc. (ALDA) is now accepting proposals for presentations at its annual conference, known as ALDAcon. This event is held by and for a diverse group of people who have various degrees of hearing loss. All events will be fully accessible through sign language interpreting, real-time captioning and the availability of assistive listening devices. The conference will have dozens of exhibitors, offer a wide variety of workshop presentations, and feature keynote speakers at each meal.

Here are the links to the Call for Presentations (CFP) form:

DOC format -

<http://www.alda.org/aldacon2016/ALDAcon2016-Call-For-Papers.doc>

PDF format -

<http://www.alda.org/aldacon2016/ALDAcon2016-Call-For-Papers.pdf>

Once completed, the CFP form must be emailed to the program chair, Kathy Evans, at patches_alda@yahoo.com. Completed CFPs will be accepted through April 15, 2016.

* * * * *

October 23-25, 2016 - Coalition for Global Hearing Health

Location: **University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines**

Registration: <http://cghh.usu.edu/index.cfm>

The purpose of the Coalition for Global Hearing Health (CGHH) is to advocate for effective hearing health services and policies, to equip and empower hearing healthcare professionals, families, educators, communities and those with hearing loss, and to encourage and perpetuate best practices. Since 2010 the CGHH has convened an annual conference to bring together people from around the world who are interested in improving hearing health care in low-resource communities.

During the 2016 conference the CGHH will discuss the challenges it has faced and the solutions it has developed. It will also raise awareness of important issues, and explore new technologies. All sessions at the conference will be in English with American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting and CART services available upon request. You may submit an abstract to be considered to do a presentation at the conference by completing an online submission by May 2, 2016: <http://cghh.usu.edu/Abstracts.cfm>. The 7th annual conference will be held on the beautiful campus of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines.



News Bytes

News Bytes

PETITION TO STOP THE FCC FROM REMOVING TELECOIL REQUIREMENT

Dr. Abram Bailey, AuD, has started a petition to *Stop the FCC from Removing the Telecoil Compatibility Requirement from HAC Phones*: <https://www.change.org/p/federal-communications-commission-fcc-stop-the-fcc-from-removing-the-telecoil-compatibility-requirement-from-hac-phones>



Professor of audiology and hearing technology "guru" Dr. Mark Ross wrote already 15 years ago: "Telecoils are still an underestimated and underutilized hearing aid feature." This statement still holds true today. You are invited to click on the link above for more information and to sign the petition. Let's give telecoils the important place for communication access they deserve in the lives of so many people worldwide.

In the United States, the Telecommunications Industry Association, the CTIA - The Wireless Association®, the Competitive Carriers Association, the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the National Association of the Deaf announced a consensus proposal to enhance benchmarks for wireless hearing aid compatibility (HAC) regulations. The consensus proposal, submitted November 13 in a [letter](#) to the FCC, is the result of months of dialogue and collaboration between the wireless industry and advocates for those with hearing loss.

UPCOMING SURVEY ON LIVE EVENT CAPTIONING



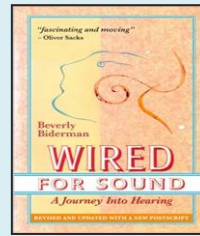
Collaborative for Communication Access via Captioning (CCAC) is pleased to work with IFHOH President Ruth Warick on a Survey about "Live Event Captioning" - also known as CART, STTR, and Text Writing. The mission of the CCAC volunteer organisation is "the inclusion of quality captioning universally". Captioning for all meetings, conferences, consultations, and all sorts of "live events" is what many of us require for full equal communication access. Other projects from the CCAC are outlined on its website (see under "Advocacy"). Included are invitations for applications for a CCAC Grant (up to \$300) for other groups to introduce live event captioning to their own organisation or at their conferences. International participation in the *Captions Capture the Votes* campaign (<http://ccacaptioning.org/captions-capture-the-votes/>) is welcome since important elections occur in all countries. What candidates "do" is meaningful (in addition to what they "say"). CCAC encourages you to ask your own candidates (any country) to use quality captioning on all campaign videos and television, and also to hold a "live event" with captioning. (Source: Lauren E. Storck, CCAC President)

Website: <http://CCACAPTIONING.ORG>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CCACaptioning> #CaptiontheWorld

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ccac.captioning>

A NEW OPERA BASED ON STORY OF LEARNING TO HEAR



Beverly Biderman, the author of *Wired for Sound: A Journey into Hearing* recently announced the birth of an opera based on her memoir of learning to hear with a cochlear implant. The opera, titled *TMIE, on the threshold of the outside world*, will premiere in English September 8, 9 and 10, 2016 in Lisbon, Portugal at O'culto da Ajuda. The soprano singing the role of Ms. Biderman will be Marina Pacheco. The composer and librettist is Carlos Alberto Augusto. Other venues for the opera are expected. "TMIE" in the opera title is the name of a gene involved in deafness.

A new revised and updated version of Biderman's classic book is now available as an e-book. This "inside" account of hearing with a cochlear implant is the moving story of a deaf woman's journey through deafness and into hearing. The 2016 edition brings the reader up to date on the technology and on the transformations in Biderman's life brought on by her cochlear implant. To purchase or preview *Wired for Sound: A Journey into Hearing (2016, second edition)*, click [here](#) in the U.S., [here](#) in Canada, or any Amazon site internationally. For more information on TMIE, click [here](#). Info: Bev.biderman@utoronto.ca

MAKE LISTENING SAFE

On October 1, 2015, Matthew Brady shared his story regarding his experience with hearing loss due to unsafe listening during the WHO-ITU Joint Stakeholders' Consultation on Safe Listening Devices. Here is a link to a blog providing his narrative which was recorded by ITU and posted on the ITU homepage to raise awareness about the dangers of unsafe listening:
<https://itu4u.wordpress.com/2015/11/06/safe-listening-devices-volume-and-hearing-loss/>



MOOC ON DEAFNESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The [University of Manchester](#) has offered a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Deafness in the 21st Century, which began February 8, 2016 and will end March 26, 2016. It provided participants with information about deafness in low and middle income countries and was primarily aimed at those working as health or education professionals, government officials, support workers, NGOs and anyone with a family or personal interest in deafness. While this MOOC is coming to a close, it is possible to enroll to be advised of future sessions. Details:

<https://www.coursera.org/course/deafness>. Information on the presenters:



[Prof Wendy Mccracken](#)



[Helen Chilton](#)

WORLD BANK SAFEGUARDS CONSULTATIONS CLOSED



The current phase of consultations on the World Bank's [second draft Environmental and Social Framework \(ESF\)](#) closed March 15, 2016. Consultations were held in 33 countries, including a series of online consultations and focus groups with experts. This was the third consultation phase in the overall review of the World Bank's safeguard policies. This consultation effort is one of the largest ever undertaken by the Bank. The three phases included meetings in approximately 70 countries that brought together a range of stakeholders including government officials and implementing agencies, civil society organisations, private sector representatives, as well as academic and applied research institutions. The feedback obtained will inform the development of the World Bank's proposed Environmental and Social Framework. <http://consultations.worldbank.org/consultation/review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies>

PROFILE OF A HARD OF HEARING CANADIAN



Lorin MacDonald is a hard of hearing lawyer and a member of the board of directors of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (an IFHOH member organisation). She was recently profiled by her alma mater, Western University: <http://www.alumni.westernu.ca/alumni-gazette/winter-2016/on-the-last-frontier.html>

SIGNIA: A NEW HEARING AID BRAND

Business operations of the former Siemens AG hearing aid division were incorporated into the Sivantos Group in early 2015. One year later, the company celebrated a record first year in earnings while introducing Signia, its new brand of hearing aids, co-branded with the Siemens brand. Sivantos has announced increased spending on research and development in 2016 by another 20% to fuel the company's innovation power. (Source: News Release - - January 25, 2016) [businesswire.com--Sivantos-Introduces-Signia](#).

IFHOH JOURNAL

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is April 29, 2015. **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

Website @ www.ifhoh.org

Facebook @ www.facebook.com/groups/IFHOH/

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: (left to right): Marcel Bobeldijk, Louise Carroll, Hanh Duong Phuong, Ruth Warick, Avi Blau, Heikki Niemi

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