



# IFHOH JOURNAL

*April 2018*  
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.*

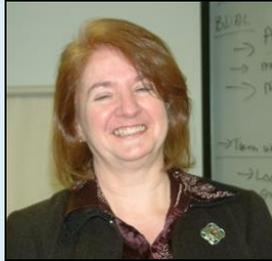
*IFHOH is registered as a charitable organisation at Vereinsregister Amtsgericht, Hamburg, Germany  
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*IFHOH Journal includes information about IFHOH activities, world news related to hearing loss, articles written by IFHOH members, and much more. It 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,

This issue of *IFHOH Journal* provides much information on events for World Hearing Day 2018, which took place March 3. It is wonderful to see people around the world working on a common theme - *Hear the Future*.

I am absolutely thrilled that I will be chatting in person with many of you this May at the upcoming IFHOH Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Applications to attend the conference have been received from all over the world: Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia. I hope to speak with as many persons there as possible to hear your ideas on how *IFHOH Journal* can serve you best.

In addition to the conference, there will be the business meetings, and I am honoured to be representing the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association as its delegate at the IFHOH Biennial General Meeting (BGM), a role I carried out previously in Sweden and Norway. I personally know how the delegates from the various Member Organizations take pride in their role at the IFHOH BGM. This is an election year, so that will be a hot topic. The BGM agenda lists many other important issues, including proposed constitutional changes, the action plan and budget plan for 2018-2019, motions relating to an IFHOH Asia-Pacific Region, and to Hearing Care, and so on.

Adem Jahjefendic, speaking on behalf of the host organization, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clubs Association of Slovenia, has described Ljubljana and the events around the conference as follows: "Ljubljana is famous for its safe and historic city and is also the green capital of Europe. In addition to the Conference and General meetings, all participants will be taken through the historic city where the Mayor of Ljubljana will prepare a reception for participants and delegates. Before the conference, we will be having dinner at the Ljubljana Castle overlooking our capital city. The conference will also be attended by government representatives from (the) Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, a Member of the Slovenian Parliament, and a Member of the European Parliament."

I am really looking forward to IFHOH Conference 2018 and I hope to see you there!

# IFHOH President's Message



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

The World Hearing Day of March 3<sup>rd</sup> is gaining more attention and prominence. I would like to thank all those who celebrated the day. The success of the day depends on all of us joining in its recognition.

IFHOH's Board issued a press release about World Hearing Day; see this issue for the full text. In the release we refer to the latest statistics on hearing loss released by the World Health Organization. A review of the metrics shows that the numbers of persons affected by hearing loss is 466 million; previously the figure was 360 million. The magnitude is enormous and raising awareness is an important step to ensuring that policies and programs meet our needs.

Coming up this spring is the 2018 IFHOH Biennial General Meeting on May 12. The meeting will be preceded by a conference on Accessibility on May 11 and a workshop on the CRPD and SDGs. Registration for the workshop has closed but persons may still contact Adem Jahjefendić to see if space is still available for the conference. He is with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clubs Association of Slovenia who have been doing the lions share of organizing the conference in lovely Ljubljana. Adem's email is [naglusni@zveza-gns.si](mailto:naglusni@zveza-gns.si).

At IFHOH's BGM we will be entertaining a motion to encourage member states to adopt measures to improve hearing care and to prevent hearing loss. IFHOH will be developing a reporting document for our members to use to make their own assessment of health care in their countries. WHO is also preparing a report to present back to the WHO World Assembly about the status of hearing health care. Discussions about the framework for the report will be held at meeting in early April in Geneva which I will be attending.

Another motion at the BGM will entertain establishing a new region in IFHOH: the Asia Pacific Region. According to our constitution three members from a region may request to

become a region, subject to approval from the membership at our BGM. Currently, IFHOH has one region, the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH).

Constitutional changes will also be presented and discussed at the BGM. The changes proposed are a more realistic quorum threshold for BGMs, to include the Board Member position voted on by the Assembly some years ago, and to make the language gender neutral.

Preparing for the BGM and carrying on other work has involved the IFHOH Board in regular meetings by Skype. We also have held Skype meetings, in cooperation with EFHOH, with the Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD) and with the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP). We have identified the need to increase our resource capacity, both staffing and infrastructure support. The needs are great but the resources are not at the magnitude necessary for all of the work facing us.

As President, I continue to represent IFHOH on the Board of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). In February I attended the IDA's Executive Committee Meeting in Beirut and then the IDA's Program Committee.



Attending the IDA Board meeting in Lebanon (Ruth third from left) / An evening with hosts in Lebanon

In March I attended a meeting of IDA's Education Flagship Project tasked with developing an inclusive education framework for persons with disabilities.



Sian Tesni, Sr. Advisor, Education for CBM, and Ruth Warick at the Education Flagship meeting in London, England



Ruth Warick and Beirut skyline

In early May, IDA will have its BGM in Quito, Ecuador and a bonus is that the Chair of Red Latinoamericana de Personas con Discapacidad y sus Familias (RIADIS) in Latin America will arrange for me to meet with persons who are hard of hearing and their family members. In addition, IFHOH Board Member Patrick Gift Egessa and I have been working closely with IDA staff to put together a development project for funding from the Department of International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID).

In closing, I would like to take this time to express appreciation to Louise Carroll, who served as a board member from 2014 to earlier this year. She most recently held the position of IFHOH General Secretary. Due to ill health she has stepped down but during her tenure she contributed substantially to IFHOH. I know you join with me in wishing her all the best.

With warmest wishes,  
Ruth Warick  
President, IFHOH

## Thanks to Dr. Louise Carroll



Our thanks to Dr. Louise Carroll for her tremendous service to IFHOH. Louise has resigned from the IFHOH Board as General Secretary and as IFHOH Human Rights Advocate due to a need to focus on her health. Since her appointment as IFHOH Human Rights Advocate in 2013 her contributions to IFHOH have been significant, including the securing of a grant to advance IFHOH's human rights work related to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She has also made an invaluable contribution as an IFHOH Board member since 2014. She will be sorely missed and we wish her well.

# LJUBLJANA 2018 - IFHOH BGM, EFHOH AGM & Conference

## *Accessibility Removes all Barriers*

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clubs Association of Slovenia are glad to host the IFHOH BGM, EFHOH AGM, and a Conference in the country's capital, Ljubljana, on May 10 to 12, 2018. In Slovenia, deaf, hard of hearing, cochlear implant users and deafblind people of Slovenia are joined together in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clubs Association of Slovenia (acronym ZDGNS).



Topics at the conference will focus on the adaptation and accessibility of both the physical environment and the people living in it. We believe that understanding the problem of hearing loss allows a better understanding of the need for accessibility and integration into everyday life. For more information, please look at the host website: <http://www.zvezgns.si/ifhoh-conference/>.

A report on the conference will appear in the next issue of *IFHOH Journal*.



# World Hearing Day - IFHOH Press Release

March 3, 2018 – *Hearing the Future*

On the occasion of World Hearing Day, the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) urges governments to take action to implement comprehensive hearing health care programs including early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation and the reduction of noise exposure. In developing programs, governments are called upon to consult with persons with hearing loss in member organizations of IFHOH and regional networks.

Action is required given the increasing numbers of persons with hearing losses and their unmet needs, stated IFHOH President Dr. Ruth Warick. The social impact and economic cost of not addressing hearing loss impacts on individuals and society, and costs more than providing treatment, rehabilitation and prevention, she noted.

The World Health Organization (WHO) now estimates that 466 million people worldwide experience hearing loss, up from the previous estimate of 360 million people. The increase is due to a growing aging population, noise exposure, complications from ear and vaccine-preventable infections like measles, mumps and rubella and from certain medicines. By the year 2050, some 900 million people could experience disabling hearing loss. Hearing loss costs an estimated \$750 billion annually.

For more resources and information about World Hearing Day please see:  
<http://www.who.int/deafness/world-hearing-day/whd-2018/en/>



# World Hearing Day - Activity Report

- From the Philippines -

By Raphael Torralba, President, Hard of Hearing Group Philippines  
Member, Asia Pacific Federation of Hard of Hearing and Deafened Persons

*Editor's Note: IFHOH received several activity reports from organizations outlining their activities on World Hearing Day 2018. I just selected two, this one from the Philippines and the next from Cambodia, to share with IFHOH Journal readers so that they can get an idea of what is being done to celebrate this day around the world.*



In conjunction with the worldwide celebration, the Hard of Hearing Group Philippines, in partnership with ANZ Global Services and Operations Manila conducted an employment workshop entitled *Hear the Future: Make the Right to Work Real for HOH Persons* on March 3, 2018. The objectives were: (1) to create awareness on hearing loss and its effect on society, especially in employment; (2) to develop stronger working ties with HOHGP partners; (3) to help develop the confidence of HOH persons in looking for employment opportunities through career talk and job coaching; and (4) to develop a strong bond among HOH persons and partners as a whole.

Following Welcome Remarks by officials, the President of HOHGP talked about hearing loss using the materials sent by WHO. He discussed proper communicating with HOH and Deaf persons, which can be useful for employers during job interviews. A job coaching workshop followed with topics on CV writing and job interviews, as well as on the importance of LinkedIn. After the workshop, job interviews for the participants were conducted by ANZ Manila. The WHO materials were useful during the activities. For the future, our suggestion is for the early release of information materials in order for us to prepare in advance.



# World Hearing Day - Activity Report

- From Cambodia -

By Kim Hean Chhimm, Executive Director, HOPE Cambodia



Backdrop of Cambodia Hearing Day 2018

Cambodia Hearing Day 2018 was organized at the national level and was supported and organized by Raksa Koma Foundation and co-organized by HOPE Cambodia. It was an awareness session involving about 500 persons and it is estimated that 30,000 persons were reached through the activity. It took place March 4, 2018 at Koh Pich City Hall, presided over by H.E Yim Chhaylin Hun Mani, Honorary Chairperson of Doctors Alliances of Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia.



The theme of Cambodia Hearing Day 2018

The 500 participants, many of them hard of hearing, were from the private sector, local NGOs, as well as international and UN organizations. The purposes of the event were to raise awareness of hearing health care, and the needs of hard of hearing people. The media disseminated the event throughout the country by National Television Kampuchea (TVK), Cambodian Television News (CTN), Bayon Television (Bayon TV), and newspapers (Khmer Best News and Fresh News). [Read more on FB.](#)

The very useful WHO materials were used during the activity; however we would like WHO to share information materials earlier, such as in the middle of January every year, so that we have enough time to design and plan our activities with other stakeholders effectively.

The following page is a collection of selected photos of the event.



The event was presided by H.E Yim Chhaylin Hun Mani,  
Honorary Chairperson of Doctor Alliances of Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia



# WHO-ITU Consultation on Make Listening Safe Initiative



By Avi Blau, IFHOH Vice President

The WHO-ITU consultation on the *Make Listening Safe* initiative was held at the WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland on February 7-8, 2018. On February 9 there was a meeting in ITU on the drafting of a standard for music players, so that these will be safe to listen to.



## **Vision:**

To ensure that people of all ages can enjoy listening with full protection of their hearing

## **Objectives:**

- Review the progress made in different areas of the initiative
- Review and refine the proposed standards for safe listening devices
- Determine dissemination strategy for standards and safe listening messages
- Advance the development of a research protocol
- Outline process for development of a regulatory framework for control recreational sound exposure

## **Participants:**

Experts in the field of audiology, otology, public health, epidemiology, acoustics, sound engineering; member organizations of ITU; standardization organizations; NGOs, professional bodies and consumer groups.

## **The Problem:**

Concern is growing about the rising exposure to loud sounds in recreational settings such as night clubs, discotheques, pubs, bars, cinemas, concerts, sporting events and even fitness classes. With the popularization of technology, devices such as music players are

often listened to at unsafe volumes and for prolonged periods of time. Regular participation in such activities poses a serious threat of irreversible hearing loss. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that **billion** young people worldwide could be at risk of hearing loss due to unsafe listening practices. Over 43 million people between the ages of 12-35 years live with disabling hearing loss due to different causes. Among teenagers and young adults aged 12-35 years in middle- and high-income countries:

- Nearly 50% are exposed to unsafe levels of sound from the use of personal audio devices.
- Around 40% are exposed to potentially damaging sound levels at clubs, discotheques and bars.

**Accessibility:**

Everyone in the room has a microphone and earphone. The earphone was a regular acoustic one, but it transmitted also to the telecoil. There was a loop, but not receivable in all parts of the room. Speaking was only to the microphone, so it was possible for a hard of hearing person to follow what was said. There was remote captions, but they appear on the large screen with large delay and several words at once, so it was not useful for HOH who also listens. The captions was reachable on the Internet and somehow in this way it has lower delay and less words together.



Participants at the WHO-ITU Consultation on *Make Listening Safe*

# Planning and Implementing Hearing Healthcare

## - From Global to Local Solutions -

*Workshop led by Professor Andrew Smith, from the International Centre for Evidence in Disability (ICED), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at the Australian Hearing Hub, March 2018*

**By Michele Nealon**

Living in a global world, we all have much to learn about our own experience and the experiences of others in Hearing Healthcare. I was delighted to be invited to register for a workshop led by Professor Andrew Smith, entitled Planning and Implementing Hearing Healthcare: from Global to Local Solutions and what follows is a few of my deliberations in the week following the workshop.

As I prepared for four days immersion in the workshop, I had little appreciation of the large volume of valuable information that was to come my way. After the initial formalities, morning tea involved an exercise of those with 'normal' hearing inserting ear plugs and then endeavouring to network as they would normally. The comments that followed included, 'I found myself moving to the edges of the room away from background noise' and 'I was aware that I was speech reading and my concentration level went up a notch', 'I found it easier to speak to one person at a time, rather than in a group of three or four people'. I smiled, such a simple exercise and from hearing healthcare professionals, a glimmer of a new level of understanding from just a few minutes of activity.

The detailed information being delivered flowed readily and I found myself thoroughly engaged in the concept of approaching hearing healthcare from a public health perspective. Discussions included the role of the World Health Organisation, the various classifications of disabling hearing impairment and a comparison of the prevalence of hearing impairment in a variety of countries. I was surprised (but probably shouldn't have been) to learn that India and Pakistan have the highest prevalence of hearing impairment followed by China and East Asia.

In 2013 and 2015, hearing loss was ranked as the 4<sup>th</sup> highest disability in regards to the number of years lived with disability, according to the global burden of disease. But to return to public health planning, it has been estimated that with appropriate control methods, 50% of hearing impairment globally can be prevented.

In 2014 the World Health Organisation was responsible for instituting World Hearing Day on March 3<sup>rd</sup> each year. The day provides an opportunity for the global community to come together and highlight the impacts of hearing impairment. In Australia, a country that stands tall in its Audiology profession, we lack a national plan for hearing healthcare. Advocacy and a commitment to secure the coordinated national program needed is critical to ensuring that all Australians have the access they need to hearing healthcare services. The group work towards the end of each day, provided time for animated discussions and for the group to come up with a workable plan to implement a local solution to an identified problem - the group I participated in chose to focus on those of workforce age.

Dr. Shelley Chadha from the World Health Organisation provided a most informative presentation and I urge you, should the opportunity arise, to engage with Dr. Chadha in developing public health strategies for your country. Another tip from the presentations was that advocacy works best when you approach your Government with not only the top three issues that exist but the three solutions to those problems.

A market reality but an issue most concerning to me was a discussion raised around hearing aid companies not seeing a market in low and middle-income countries. Thankfully not an issue in Australia but a tangible barrier to many other individuals in other countries as they attempt to provide hearing healthcare.

There is hope for improvement in hearing healthcare if we can work together towards achieving hearing healthcare both globally and locally. The example was provided of the global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness called Vision 2020. The partnership of more than 20 international non-government organisation involved in eye care, prevention and management of blindness is a partnership that has provided guidance, technical and resource support to countries that have formally adopted its agenda. Public health changes are slow changes and we must stay the course towards a world where hearing healthcare is available to all.

Should you have the opportunity to attend the Planning and Implementing Hearing Healthcare: from Global to Local Solutions workshop presented by Professor Andrew Smith I would strongly recommend you take the time out of your schedule to ensure your full involvement. The workshop led me to challenge my thinking about my own countries hearing healthcare and that of others and following the workshop, the challenge is to come up with an appropriate response.

The tyranny of distance is a burden that some of us in the Southern Hemisphere feel keenly from time to time. In Sydney Australia we have been thrilled in recent months to welcome not only Devandas Aguilar, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities but Professor Andrew Smith and soon to arrive, the Executive Director of Human Rights Watch, Mr. Kenneth Roth. What a time to be in Sydney.... Come and visit us soon!



**Group photo: Global to Local Solutions Workshop, March 2018**

*Editor's Note: Michele Nealon is a supporter of the work of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing and is passionate about hearing advocacy.*



## EFHOH News

By Marcel Bobeldijk, EFHOH President



EFHOH Board in Berlin (October, 2017)

The EFHOH Board is grateful to the DSB Board and its wonderful conference team for organising the 4<sup>th</sup> IFHOH Accessibility Conference on Hearing Loops and Hearing Technology in Berlin last October. Read about the *Future-Loops Conference Statement* about accessibility for hard of hearing persons in large venues: <https://www.ifhoh.org/>.

On February 20, the European Platform of Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Deafblindness together with Microsoft, hosted a seminar at the Microsoft Centre in Brussels under the theme: *ACT! (Accessible Communication Today!)*. The aim of the seminar was to raise awareness concerning accessible communication. Accessibility needs to be an integral part of the development of future products. Policy, as well as society, need to reflect this. The event was moderated by Mark Wheatley (EUD).

EFHOH was represented by President Marcel Bobeldijk and webmaster Bryan Bong, as well as members Leon Carlsen (DK), Alf Lindberg (SE) and Ed Weemeas (NL). Opening speeches included Emmanuelle Grange (European Commission), Helga Stevens MEP and Inmaculada Placencia-Porrero (European Commission) with presentations by Markku Jokinen (EUD president), Liisa Halonen (EUDY secretary general), Peter Vanhoutte (EDBU) and Wouter Bolier (SIGNAAL). Issues, challenges, and updates regarding legislation, accessibility and the digital future were discussed. Microsoft's Senior Accessibility Evangelist, Hector Minto, gave a demonstration of Microsoft products and shared progress regarding accessibility and inclusion in upcoming technology. EDF's New Technologies and Innovation Officer, Alejandro Moledo, spoke in length about the EAA, Audio-Visual Services Directive, and the European Electronic Communications Code. Moledo advises that we contact our ministries and try to convince them to reopen and discuss some aspects of the

Accessibility Act to make sure that we have end to end accessibility in technologies. Visit our partners at the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) to learn more about this event: <https://www.eud.eu/news/act-accessible-communication-today-european-platform-and-microsoft/>

On the occasion of World Hearing Day 2018, a lunch debate on the theme *Hear the Future - and Prepare for It* was held on March 6 at the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels. The discussion focused on the increased numbers of people with hearing loss, both globally and in Europe - how can this be prevented and how can its impact be reduced? Lidia Best spoke on behalf of EFHOH, and gave an overview of the importance of earlier debates. "As the awareness of hearing loss is becoming stronger, it is now the right time to talk about preparing for the future in relation to hearing loss and effective interventions", said Lidia.



Lunch debate at the European Parliament on March 6, 2018. On the right, Lidia Best is seen speaking.

The lunch debate was hosted by MEP Renate Sommer (Germany, EPP) together with co-host MEP Heinz Becker (Austria, EPP). The speakers and participants were:

- Dr Shelly Chadha, World Health Organization, WHO
- Professor H el ene Amieva, Inserm, Bordeaux
- Professor emerita Bridget Shield, South Bank University, London
- Lidia Best, European Federation of the Hard of Hearing, EFHOH
- Anne-Sophie Parent, Age Platform Europe
- Mark Laureyns, European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals, AEA

Professor Amieva presented new findings on the impact of untreated hearing loss, and the importance of hearing aids for independence (see page 19 of this issue for more information). Professor Shield presented new data on the costs of untreated hearing loss in Europe. (Source: <https://www.hear-it.org/how-prevent-hearing-loss-and-how-reduce-its-impact>).

The new EFHOH website has been launched, please visit <https://www.efhoh.org/>. We hope that the new design and improved navigation will allow you to find the information that you need more quickly and easily.

The EFHOH Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be taking place Saturday morning, May 12, 2018 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It will include elections for the EFHOH Board.

# EFHOH Press Release

- For World Hearing Day, March 3, 2018 \* -



Today, 52 million persons in Europe live with a hearing loss. This number will increase, mainly because we are living longer than previous generations. Untreated hearing loss has a negative effect on your personal life, for example reduced social activity and the risk of becoming more dependent on others.

Professor H el ene Amieva, a neuropsychologist and epidemiologist working at Inserm in Bordeaux (FR), has recently published a study in the *Journals of Gerontology, Medical Science*. This study is based on data from 3,777 persons aged 65 and older who had been followed over a 25 year period.

The study shows that persons with untreated hearing loss are at a higher risk of becoming dependent on others in their daily life. According to the study, persons with hearing loss who use hearing aids have the same chance of staying independent as persons with normal hearing.

You can find the full article here:

<https://academic.oup.com/biomedgerontology/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/gerona/glx250/4783130?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

"Our members typically have taken the step to see a hearing care professional and they use amplification, hearing aids or cochlear Implants. They all value their independence and certainly want to stay dynamic, social and smart. We encourage all who experience hearing problems, to consult a professional and to take action, so they can lead a fuller, richer and much more enjoyable life", says Marcel Bobeldijk, President of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH).

\* *Editor's Note:* This is an extract from a joint Press Release dated February 28, 2018 published by EFHOH, and three partner organizations: the European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals, AGE Platform Europe, the European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals (AEA), and the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA).

Read more on the topic of hearing aids keeping you independent on the Hear It! Website:

<https://www.hear-it.org/hearing-care-and-hearing-aids-keep-you-independent>.



## IFHOHYP Update

March 3rd each year is World Hearing Day: an opportunity to raise awareness on hearing loss and promote hearing care across the world. It is with wonderful delight that this year's theme is *Hear the Future* which is a perfect timing for the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) to officially launch the Hear2Stay campaign!

Hear2Stay is an awareness campaign idea conceived by participants at the 11<sup>th</sup> IFHOHYP study held in Budapest last March. It aims to highlight that hard of hearing people can lead full lives when they have access to technologies and services. The campaign primarily takes place on social media platforms, Instagram and Facebook, where pictures and stories of hard of hearing people participating in various activities are posted. They can range from attending classes or work meetings to rock climbing and scuba diving. **We are the Future and Hear2Stay** - follow us on Instagram @IFHOHYP, on Facebook [www.facebook.com/ifhohyp](http://www.facebook.com/ifhohyp), and Twitter: <https://twitter.com/hashtag/hear2stay>.



Also, IFHOHYP is getting ready for its Summercamp 2018 in the Netherlands, taking place at the end of July. It is for hard of hearing young people between 18 and 35 years old. For more details, go to: <https://www.efhoh.org/ifhohyp-summer-camp-2018/>.



# Calendar of Events

## Calendar of Events

**May 10 - 12, 2018** - IFHOH Biennial General Meeting and EFHOH Annual General Meeting



**Location:** Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Information:** For more information, please look at the host website: <http://www.zveza-gns.si/ifhoh-conference/>.

**Theme:** *Accessibility Removes All Barriers*

\*\*\*\*\*

**June 13-16, 2018** - 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Family-Centred Early Intervention for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

**Location:** Bad Ischl, Austria

**Information:** [www.fcei.at](http://www.fcei.at)

**Contact:** [fcei@bblinz.at](mailto:fcei@bblinz.at) (Elisabeth Wild)



The FCEI conference is a unique opportunity for families, researchers, practitioners and clinicians, both hearing and deaf and hard of hearing to come together to focus on research and evidence based best practice in a global context. The theme of the 2018 conference is *Principles into Practice*. Oral and poster presentations will focus on how one or more of the Principles in the International [Consensus paper](#) are being furthered in research or implemented in evidence based Early Intervention programmes and practice.

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## September 13-17, 2018 – IVSS Churchear Conference 2018

Location: **Strasbourg, France**

Information: <http://bit.ly/2jkHiXc>

Contact: [rk.nitschke@t-online.de](mailto:rk.nitschke@t-online.de) (Katharina Nitschke)

IVSS Churchear invites you to a thrilling conference with interesting lecturers and exciting encounters. Our conference theme this time is: *Where am I - Where do you stand? - Interconnecting Pastoral Care among Hard of Hearing.*



Conference venue: Centre culturel St. Thomas

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## October 27-28, 2018 – Coalition for Global Hearing Health 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference

*Working Towards Global Access to Care for Hearing Health*



Location: **University of Cape Town, South Africa**

Information: <http://cghh.usu.edu/> (link not active yet)

Contact: <http://coalitionforglobalhearinghealth.org/contact-us/>

Expect podium, poster, and interactive sessions

Internationally recognized guest speakers

Meeting to be held on the campus of University of Cape Town

All day Saturday October 27, 2018, a group dinner, and half day Sunday October 28

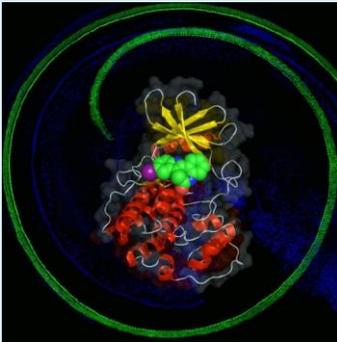
Of note the World Congress of Audiology opening ceremony is Sunday afternoon

Our conference will end with plenty of time to join the opening ceremony of the WCS



# News Bytes News Bytes

## NEW DRUGS COULD HELP PREVENT HEARING LOSS



Researchers from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (Memphis, Tennessee U.S.A.) have discovered that inhibiting an enzyme called cyclin-dependent kinase 2 (CDK2) protects mice and rats from noise- or drug-induced hearing loss. The study suggests that CDK2 inhibitors prevent the death of inner ear cells. A team of researchers led by Dr. Jian Zuo screened over 4,000 drugs for their ability to protect cochlear cells from the chemotherapy agent cisplatin. Cisplatin is used to treat a variety of cancers but causes irreversible hearing loss in up to 70% of patients. [READ MORE](#). *(The image on the left is a graphic depicting the candidate drug, kenpaullone, binding to and inhibiting the enzyme CDK2.)*

## EUROPEAN AUDIOLOGIST OF THE YEAR (AOTY) 2017



Robert Beiny, an audiologist at the Hearing Healthcare Practice in Harpenden, Hertfordshire (U.K.), was awarded the title of European Audiologist of the Year (AOTY) 2017, beating off stiff competition from seven countries across Europe.

The AOTY judges were particularly inspired by the impact Robert Beiny has had, and continues to have, on his patient Christine's life, who nominated him for this award. Without Robert's support, Christine, who has severe to profound hearing loss in both ears, believes she would not be where she is today after a successful 46 year career in public service and living life to the full. She said: "His main driver is the pleasure of being able to help people."

IFHOH Vice President Lidia Best was on hand to help present the award to Mr. Beiny.

## LOOP LOCATOR

New England Hearing Loop, a division of Shanahan Sound & Electronics, Inc. (Massachusetts, U.S.A.) has developed a [Loop Locator](#) on its website to help the hearing impaired locate facilities that incorporate hearing loops that it has installed. The Loop Locator identifies the facility, and also the location within the facility — such as a specific room, and in some instances, which rows in a facility — the Loop is active. The Loop Locator also utilizes Google Maps to provide directions to the facility. [READ MORE](#).



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## **IFHOH JOURNAL**

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is May 30, 2017. **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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**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.



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**IFHOH Board (from left to right): Heikki Niemi, Avi Blau, Ruth Warick, Patrick Gift Egessa, and Marcel Bobeldijk**