



# IFHOH JOURNAL

*November 2017*  
V4

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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.*

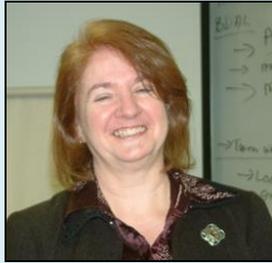
*IFHOH is registered as a charitable organisation at Vereinsregister Amtsgericht, Hamburg, Germany  
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*IFHOH Journal includes information about IFHOH activities, world news related to hearing loss, articles written by IFHOH members, and much more. It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

When it comes to advocating for hearing access around the world, IFHOH is certainly on the front lines! Consider the fourth International Accessibility Conference on Hearing Loops and Hearing Technology held in Berlin in October, where current technologies, such as hearing loops, t-coil compability, and wireless technology, were discussed. The 2017 Conference Statement focused on proven telecoil technology that works with hearing loops in large venues (see page 8 of this issue). It is clear that the needed improvements to the availability of improved accessibility systems for hard of hearing people will require the significant involvement of a variety of key participants, including manufacturers, public venue operators, and of course, *ALWAYS* including the hard of hearing stakeholders. "Nothing about us without us", as the saying goes.

IFHOH wants its member organizations to be fully informed on the issues. Conferences are one vehicle for the sharing of information, but accessible to all is this *IFHOH Journal*, and the newly proposed *IFHOH eNews* (read more about this on page 11).

I hope that you will find that this issue of *IFHOH Journal* contains information that is useful to you as a member organization, and that it will empower you and inspire you at least in some small way to help you and the people that you represent make optimal use of the assistive technologies currently available in the here and now! And also, even more importantly, to assist you in continuing to advocate for greater hearing accessibility in your communities.



# IFHOH President's Message



Dr. Ruth P. Warick, IFHOH President

## *Creating a Brave New World*

Imagine a world in which there are no hearing aids and no cochlear implants. In such a world all forms of schooling, employment and social and political activities would be closed to persons who are hard of hearing and deafened. Such persons would be hidden from society, as if there was something to be ashamed about a hearing loss.

For many of us, who have grown up with the use of hearing aids and cochlear implants, the above scenario is unfathomable. We live in different times but it was not so long ago in the history of the world that there were no hearing aids or cochlear implants. Although ear trumpets have been around since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the first modern hearing aid, an eclectic hearing aid, was created in 1898. In 1961 the first cochlear implant was invented and the first modern multi-channel cochlear implants were implanted in 1977 and 1978. (Source: Wikipedia).

Yet, despite the existence of hearing aids and cochlear implants, there are sadly many countries in which there is limited provision for hearing aids and cochlear implants and, in many countries, both developing and developed ones, hearing aids and cochlear implants are beyond the capacity of individuals to afford. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are 360 million people with a hearing loss, defined as a hearing loss greater than 40 decibels in the better ear of persons 15 years and older and a loss of 30dB in the better ear for those 14 years and younger. The current production of hearing aids meets less than 10% of global need and in developing countries less than 3% (Source: [www.who.int/features/factfiles/deafness/en/](http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/deafness/en/)).

All too often we still hear that having a hearing loss is shunned, especially in countries of the global South, also known as developing countries. Children are kept hidden, and not allowed to go to school. There is social stigma applied to families with a child with a hearing loss. Even those of us who have grown up in the global North have experienced discrimination and shunning as a result of our hearing loss on a personal basis although, fortunately, our human rights laws protect our basic rights.

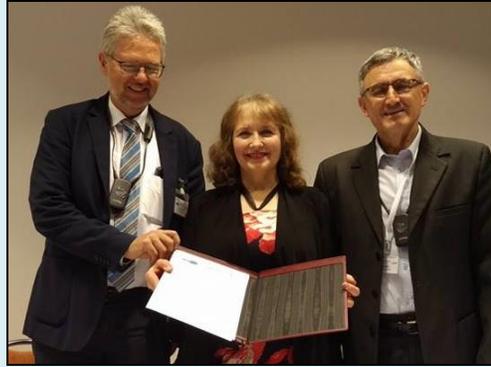
In this issue, you will find a story from one of our members, Patrick Gift Egessa, who is working hard to counteract discriminatory attitudes and practices and to provide support for those who are hard of hearing in his community. We have been working closely with Patrick to embark on a project that will bring additional resources to his work. This will be the first of IFHOH's development projects and we hope it will be the first of many more to come because we know that the need is great and that there is so much more to do.

We in IFHOH are determined to create a Brave New World that is inclusive, accessible and welcoming for all persons who are hard of hearing, deafened or a cochlear implant user. We are speaking out about the need for hearing aids, for cochlear implants, for assistive listening systems, for hearing loops, for t-switches in hearing aids, for captions on television, for subtitling at events and for so much more.

We are using the vehicles of Statements to get our message out. The most recent statement is from Berlin at the fourth conference of *Future Loops* sponsored by IFHOH and Deutscher Schwerhörigenbund e.V. DSB. This Statement stresses the importance of hearing loops for large venues to provide accessibility for hard of hearing persons, the importance of the telecoil in hearing aids, and the need for standards for any new developments in accessibility systems for large venues.



Ruth reading the Berlin Declaration with Harald Siedler at the 'Future Loops' conference in Berlin (October, 2017)



**Showing the Statement (Berlin Declaration):**  
Harald Seidler, DSB President, with Ruth Warick and Avi Blau of IFHOH

Three other recent Statements are:

- The Washington Declaration of 2016 advocating for qualitative, affordable hearing aids and for cellular phones with telecoil compatibility with hearing aids and cochlear implants. (<https://www.ifhoh.org/>)
- The EFHOH Essen Declaration of 2015 adopted at the EFHOH AGM, signed by IFHOH, calling for affordable, good quality, professionally approved hearing aids, assistive listening devices, and the training and support standards to use them successfully. ([https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/c2e099\\_13e3b120ba6b4518a5567ce2287cc593.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/c2e099_13e3b120ba6b4518a5567ce2287cc593.pdf))
- The Prague Declaration of 2013 adopted at the EFHOH AGM, signed by IFHOH, addressing the importance of the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and the perspective of hard of hearing persons and their access needs ([https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/c2e099\\_6f44a980253d40049e2d2b9245f35dad.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/c2e099_6f44a980253d40049e2d2b9245f35dad.pdf)).

Communicating our message is important. IFHOH will be launching a new electronic bulletin to inform our members of our work and to share your initiatives; we invite you to make submissions. We also will be producing an Impact Report on achievements and issues, to be available in 2018 at our biennial meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia on May 12, 2018. See more about this important meeting and the electronic bulletin in this issue.

As well, IFHOH continues to develop policy documents on key issues. This year we will be updating our Accessibility document. Others that have been developed include policies on Cochlear Implants, on Education, as well as resources on the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, all available on our website under position papers. We also continue collaborations in support of WHO's World Hearing Day of March 3, the reduction of noise levels, the promotion of safe listening, and the incorporation of hearing health within the health care system.

We recognize that we face challenges in getting our message out, in making it understandable and appealing to the public. No one dies of a hearing loss directly, but, I venture to say, that indirectly it has negative impacts. Hearing loss is a silent killer by cutting off people from communication and from others, resulting in loneliness and isolation. As social beings, the need to communicate is as important to our well-being as air, water and food.



Ruth is shown with Colin Allen, President of the World Federation of the Deaf at the WFD 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference in Budapest, Hungary with the local organizer being the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Sinosz). Dr. Warick presented at the conference on Access to Captioning and a copy of her presentation is available by contacting her.

Hearing access unchains us from the limitations of a hearing loss and enables our full self-development and engagement. Join with us to create a *Brave New World* of full hearing access and well-being.

Warmest Regards,

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



Ruth is second Vice-President of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and is shown here with the IDA Board in the second row, third from the left. She represented IFHOH at the IDA Board meeting October 5-7, 2017 in Athens. She spearheaded the Code of Conduct document approved by the Board and chairs the Communications Committee of IDA

# 'Future Loops' 2017 Conference Statement

## - Accessibility for Hard of Hearing Persons in Large Venues -

Initiated by the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) and hosted by Deutscher Schwerhörigenbund e.V. (DSB), the 4th International Accessibility Conference on Hearing Loops and Hearing Technology, "Future Loops", took place October 6-7, in Berlin, Germany. This conference was about hearing technologies for hard of hearing persons with a special focus on hearing accessibility in large venues.



Showing the Statement: Harald Seidler, DSB President, Ruth Warick, IFHOH President, and Marcel Bobeldijk, EFHOH President

### The "Future Loops" 2017 Conference Statement (excerpt)

There are more than 360 million hard-of-hearing persons in the world with disabling hearing-loss, according to the World Health Organization. Many hard-of-hearing persons use hearing-aids or cochlear-implants. Almost all of them have difficulties hearing in large venues.

Many hearing-aids and cochlear-implants include the proven telecoil technology that works with hearing loops in large venues. Therefore, hearing loops are recommended in any large venue to provide accessibility for hard of hearing persons. As well, the Telecoil has to be included and activated in every hearing aid and to work in parallel to any new technology.

The "Future Loops", as we call this conference, is also about the development of improved accessibility systems in large venues. Important characteristics for these systems are: Several audio stereo channels, high sound quality, high immunity to interferences, low audio latency and several text channels for captions.

Manufacturers of hearing-aids, cochlear-implants, smartphones, telephones and all kind of wireless assistive-listening-devices, together with communications standards institutions, and organizations of hard of hearing people, need to come up with a standard for this improved accessibility systems for hard of hearing persons in large venues.



## IFHOH NOMINATIONS CALL 2018-2020

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 no later than **February 26, 2018**. 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 12, 2018 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. 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 [cwillans@chha.ca](mailto:cwillans@chha.ca), 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 [cwillans@chha.ca](mailto:cwillans@chha.ca). Sending an incomplete nomination or sending nomination-related information to another email address may result in the nomination not being considered.

Thank you,

Carole Willans, Canada  
Neeta Keshary, Nepal  
Co-Chairs of the IFHOH Nominations Committee

# IFHOH General Secretary Update

By Dr. Louise Sinden-Carroll, IFHOH General Secretary



Hello everyone,

## Launch of IFHOH eNews

We're introducing a digital newsletter, *IFHOH eNews*, which will be shared globally once every two months, with the aim of sharing knowledge about the work of our member organisations worldwide and what we here at IFHOH are doing. The future success of this *eNews* is dependent on you, as our member organisations, providing us with interesting information to share. All you need do is email it to: [general.secretary@ifhoh.org](mailto:general.secretary@ifhoh.org). (For more information, see next page of this issue.)

## Three Exciting Projects to be done by IFHOH

On another note, the Oticon Foundation, Denmark, has approved the application of the remaining balance of their IFHOH grant, of just over 17,000 Euro on three pieces of very important work.

The three projects are: representation of IFHOH by at least 3 people who are hard-of - hearing at the 2018 United Nations Conference of State Parties in New York; the publication of a report showing the impact of IFHOH's work (the Impact Report); and the partial funding of a 2018 human rights CRPD/SDG and advocacy workshop. We are very grateful to the Oticon Foundation, Denmark, for their support of this vital work.

## Brief update on the IFHOH Human Rights Programme

As outlined above, we have partial funding to hold an IFHOH CRPD/SDG/ Advocacy skills workshop. There are limited places available to those who have completed the first IFHOH CRPD workshops. IFHOH will cover venue, workshop material development, captioning and catering costs. Correspondence will be sent to Member Organisations and invited participants before the Holiday Season.

## UN Committee on the CRPD Membership Elections

Also, elections are being held for membership on the UN Committee on the CRPD and information about this process is now available on the IFHOH website at:

- English: [www.j.mp/CRPD-Eng](http://www.j.mp/CRPD-Eng)
- Spanish: [www.j.mp/CRPD-Spa](http://www.j.mp/CRPD-Spa)

IFHOH strongly supports the work of the UN Committee on the CRPD and hopes that suitably capable individuals who are hard-of-hearing are nominated to become members of the UN Committee on the CRPD.

### **IFHOH Membership**

We now have 40 organisations from 40 different countries as *General Members* and 7 as *Associate Members*, which shows we are continuing to slowly spread globally. If you have contact with organisations that would benefit from being a member of IFHOH please ask them to email [general.secretary@ifhoh.org](mailto:general.secretary@ifhoh.org) as we will be able to answer their queries and send them the appropriate IFHOH application form.

## **IFHOH To Launch eNews**

Dear IFHOH Colleagues:

I'm very pleased to advise that IFHOH will be launching an electronic newsletter, *IFHOH eNews*, to be released every eight weeks. It is intended to aid with the sharing of knowledge globally. We would like your support with input to make this a successful endeavour.

We would appreciate receiving links to articles, project information, reports including research findings, human rights advocacy work, successful fundraising events, etc. from our member organisations, CRPD advocates and supporters, to be considered for inclusion in our *IFHOH eNews*.

The dates we would appreciate receiving your information for our coming editions of the *IFHOH eNews* are:

January 22, 2018

March 19, 2018

The email address to send it to is [general.secretary@ifhoh.org](mailto:general.secretary@ifhoh.org).

I'm happy to answer any queries too.

All the best,

Dr. Louise Sinden-Carroll, IFHOH General Secretary



# Report on Some Key IFHOH Activities in 2017

By Avi Blau, IFHOH Vice President

## *World Hearing Day*

IFHOH Vice President, Avi Blau, participated in the WHO - World Hearing Day - March 3, 2017. This year the topic was the cost of untreated hearing loss. [READ MORE](#).



## *WHO-ITU Consultation on Make Listening Safe - March 6-7, 2017*

Avi Blau also represented IFHOH at a WHO-ITU strategic planning meeting of the *Make Listening Safe* initiative, in Geneva, Switzerland on March 6 and 7, 2017 involving members of expert groups and other stakeholders, with the objectives to:

- review progress made in the different areas of work as part of this initiative
- determine appropriate exposure limits for safe listening, and
- develop a health communication strategy and a research protocol.

Participants included experts in the field of audiology, otology, public health, epidemiology, acoustics, sound engineering, as well as representatives of professional organizations, standardization organizations, manufacturers and users. The meeting highlighted the need for a collaborative and consistent approach towards safe listening which takes into account the viewpoints of all stakeholders.



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

Discussions focused on determination of suitable exposure limits to be included in the standards for personal audio systems; evaluation of safe listening software application; health communication strategy for safe listening including messaging to be included in the standards and the app; outlining the research protocol and drafting of the global standards.

### ***STI Forum - May 15-16, 2017***

Vice President of IFHOH, Avi Blau, represented IDA in the STI forum - Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs 2017.

As requested by the *General Assembly resolution 70/1 on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the President of ECOSOC will convene the meetings of the STI forum once a year to discuss science, technology and innovation cooperation around thematic areas for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The *General Assembly* also decided that the meetings of the forum will be co-chaired by two Member States and will result in a summary of discussions elaborated by the two co-Chairs.



The second annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on May 15 and 16, 2017.

The theme of the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is "*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*", and the Member States have decided that the HLPF 2017 shall focus on six SDGs (1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14) in addition to SDG 17 that will be considered at each HLPF. In this context, the following topic may be considered for the STI Forum 2017: "*Science, Technology and Innovation for a Changing World - Focus on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 14*".

The UN Inter-Agency Task Team on STI for SDGs (IATT) was mandated to work with the 10 representatives from civil society, private sector and scientific community to prepare the STI Forum. H.E. Mr. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, the President of ECOSOC, reappointed [H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau](#), Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations and [Dr. Vaughan Turekian](#), the Science and Technology Adviser to the US Secretary of State, to act as co-chairs for the 2017 STI forum.



H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau



Dr. Vaughan Turekian



## 4th International Accessibility Conference on Hearing Loops and Hearing Technology

*October 6 and 7 in Berlin, Germany*

### A VIEW OF THE CONFERENCE – FROM PLANNING TO EVENT

By Claire Sabler-Landesmann

I have been asked to write about my time working with the DSB to help develop and organize their conference. How did that come about? Me, living in Vienna, Austria, volunteering in the development and organization of a conference on Hearing loss and technology in public places to be held in Berlin and organized by the German Hearing Loss organization in Berlin?

To explain that I need to tell you a bit about myself.

I have a high frequency hearing loss since childhood and wear hearing aids. I admit I wasn't very diligent in wearing them for many years. (But that's another story.) I studied in the U.S. and at one point started to realize that my speech was slipping and that speech therapy would again be necessary to get a feeling for the sounds I didn't hear. The speech therapist introduced me to the *Hearing Loss* magazine and I loved reading the articles as they gave me the language to understand what I was going through. I kept up that subscription after moving back to Vienna, and about two years ago I read about a conference that would take place in Paris. Having a few friends there, Paris was on my travel list, so I emailed and asked if I could, as an observer, attend that conference. The organizers, BUCODES, sent me a friendly letter back, allowing me to do that. So off I went.

It was a mind-blowing experience for me! I have never met others with hearing loss. The technology, that allowed speech to text, the audio technology that made it able for me to hear the speaker directly was new to me and so exciting. The general atmosphere of that conference was amazing. I sat in front of a woman, who turned out to be the Vice President of the German Hearing Loss Association in Berlin. We started chatting. I told her about my bilingual background, and that I was somewhat at loose ends, having completed previous projects.

Renate and I met in Vienna, where Renate lived part time. She asked if I would be willing to support her team by taking over the English translations for the Conference scheduled in the fall of 2017 in Berlin on Hearing Technology in Public places. That topic was really interesting and new to me, and I accepted that challenge.

So for a little over a year I would fly to Berlin about once a month, stay for two nights and attend a day-long meeting with the conference organizers. Those days were very intense but efficient. Each person had his own assignment. Renate oversaw and connected the different projects and kept us all in line. It was quite amazing to see how many details were involved in creating such a conference and I was very impressed with the drive and discipline that each person possessed to develop independently

their own assignment as part of the conference. Every detail was laid out, discussed, assigned and most importantly followed up on. The details were numerous from setting up and developing a website for the conference to each cable needed in the venue to set up the diverse technology we wanted to offer. My task was translating every section of the website and any correspondence. That entailed the presentation of the conference, the application, the description of the agenda and anything else that needed to be in both languages as this was a bilingual conference.

Since IFHOH was one of the organizers these meetings needed to be protocolled in English so I had the enviable assignment of writing these. (When the last one was done, I celebrated!)

Back home, I was kept busy translating. It was challenging, as I am not a professional translator. I spent some time researching not just the topics (linguistic and technical) but also some of the idiomatic expressions that Germans but not Austrians use, as well as language differences in British and American writing styles. But as I love language, it was fun. With time and practice I was able to complete these translations much faster which helped because the closer we came to the conference date, the faster the translations were needed.



The U.S. Delegation at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Accessibility Conference (Photo Credit: Siegfried Karg)

I had some difficulties with the language and vocabulary dealing with hearing technology and the contemporary words to identify people with different types of hearing loss. That was sometimes difficult to find out as we were dealing with an international group of speakers and attendees. Whenever I caught this I asked one of the DSB and usually was able to find the right word. Online dictionaries were not much help here as the topics were rather specialized. Luckily another volunteer with a technical background was able to translate the more specialized papers of the presenters.

I arrived a day before the conference and started to help with the set up. That involved many repetitive tasks from filling the attendee bags to setting up the tables for registration and technology. I worked together with two women and a man and we were quite an international group; an Israeli living and studying in Berlin, a French woman working for BUCODES, a German working for DSB, and myself, an Austro-American. All of us spoke English and German to different degrees. Three of us had a hearing loss and one grew up with a parent with hearing loss. So we all were somewhat experienced with the issues in communicating with people with hearing loss. But still, it took

as a while to find the right communication tools so that everyone could understand us and we them. Due to the high noise level, I found it easier to have each person write their name down as oral communication was difficult and reading lips of people from different nationalities and meeting for the first time is really not possible.

Unfortunately due to a terrible storm delaying and cancelling trains as well as planes and many people arrived late at the conference. But even worse was that our speech to text translators were unable to get into Berlin. So at the last minute new translators had to be found and hired. I was so impressed with how the DSB conference organizers pulled together and were able to, in spite of that, get the conference going. Generally, even with this technical handicap at the beginning everyone was very understanding and flexible making the atmosphere warm and friendly.

There have been some very complimentary letters and comments about the conference so I can say that the conference was a success.



The plenary room at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Accessibility Conference (Photo Credit: Siegfried Karg)

Concluding my experience of the conference, there are many things I learned but one stands out for me: as a person with a hearing loss I have the responsibility to advocate technical availability in public places.

People with hearing loss have been neglected in the development of barrier free public places and I think this conference helped establish the necessity of just such available technology. The IFHOH and DSB Conference statement includes the following:

"Many hearing-aids and cochlear-implants include the proven telecoil technology that works with hearing loops in large venues. Therefore, hearing loops are recommended in any large venue to provide accessibility for hard of hearing persons. As well, the telecoil has to be included and activated in every hearing aid and to work in parallel to any new technology."

Now that I am more aware of this need, I ask wherever I am, whether in the bank or at a cultural center or any public place, do you have a working loop? Why? Because I can hear you better when I have this availability.

*Editor's Note: Siegfried Karg has prepared a bibliography on Hearing Loss and Hearing Loops in English. You can get a copy by sending your request to [journal@ifhoh.org](mailto:journal@ifhoh.org).*

# Visit to the Center for Hearing Loss in Denmark

By Patrick Gift Egessa, IFHOH Board Member at Large

In addition to serving as an IFHOH Board Member at Large, I work as the Director of the Hope Junior School for hard of hearing children in Uganda. On October 9, 2017, I had the opportunity to visit Aida Regel Poulsen in Denmark. She is a hearing consultant at the Danish Center for Hearing Loss in Fredericia, Denmark. Aida is also licensed teacher and Speech and Hearing Therapist and a board member of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH).

This was a wonderful opportunity to discuss many issues that we have been experiencing in Uganda, including:

- Having early screening and getting hearing aids for all hard of hearing children
- Having batteries available
- Communicating with children using both speech and basic sign language (for easy communication and understanding one another)
- Educating parents about hearing loss and NOT blaming anybody for the child's hearing loss
- Having camps for children with hearing loss
- Identifying appropriate pedagogical methods for teaching hard of hearing children, including a case study (<http://www.hoeretab-info.dk/>).

At the Center for Hearing Loss, I was introduced to acoustic rooms by Aida, Orla and Mariana. It was very interesting and I learnt a lot. Orla is the person responsible for the technical and pedagogical aspects at the Center.



Patrick Gift Egessa with students from Hope Junior School in Uganda



Mariana and Orla show Patrick the acoustic rooms at the Centre for Hearing Loss



I discovered the hearing test room used by the audiologist. I also learnt some principles for good acoustics in the classroom, including:

- All classes must have good walls with soft materials.
- The sealing must be of wood or soft materials.
- The floor must be easy to clean and must absorb sound.

I am happy to report that the Center for Hearing Loss in Fredericia, Denmark, including its consultant Aida Regal Poulsen, has accepted to enter into a partnership with Hope Junior School in Uganda (prior to beginning an IFHOH demonstration project in Uganda).



You can contact me at:

Email: [board.member@ifhoh.org](mailto:board.member@ifhoh.org)

Skype: gift.patrick2

Website: [www.unahoh.org](http://www.unahoh.org)

## IFHOHYP Updates

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) held its Annual General Meeting in Helsinki, Finland October 26-29, 2017. The new IFHOHYP Board is composed of: President Victor Rehn (Finland), Vice-President Bowen Tang (Canada), Secretary Jenna Junttila (Finland), Treasurer Hanna Mullis (Sweden), Board Members Karina Obro (Denmark) and Manuel Rorhbach (Switzerland), and Vice Board Member Glenn Storletten (Norway).



IFHOHYP is proud to announce its next International Summer Camp 2018. The Dutch preparation team has now opened the registration. Go to <http://SUMMERCAMP2018.NL> for information and registration. Questions? Feel free to ask by email to [Asnlsummercamp2018@gmail.com](mailto:Asnlsummercamp2018@gmail.com).

# LJUBLJANA 2018 - IFHOH BGM, EFHOH AGM & Conference

## *Accessibility Removes all Barriers*

*The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clubs Association of Slovenia are glad to invite you to the IFHOH BGM, EFHOH's AGM, and a Conference in our capital, Ljubljana, on May 10 to 12, 2018.*



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.

We are confident that the conference will not only be interesting and informative for you, but it will also show you how to raise awareness of the environment and provide opportunities for the exchange of good practices among participants.

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) -

*ZDGNS is a non-governmental expert organization that endeavors for equal status and the rights of people with hearing loss and collaborates with competent governmental agencies and bodies.*

*Deaf and hard of hearing people established the first club in Slovenia almost 90 years ago, so we are a relatively old organization. In particular, the hard of hearing board was established 30 years ago, and in the last three years, we are also active in the field of cochlear implants.*

*The Association is an umbrella organization uniting 13 member clubs organized across the country with almost 4600 members (more than 3100 hearing aids users and more than 50 CI users).*

*The fundamental scope of the Association is creating jobs and conditions for full inclusion of people with hearing loss in employment, the working environment, and social life. In the past few years we are focused to remind people around us of the needs of the various adjustments required for people with hearing loss.*

*The Association offers its own informative resources, including video production, broadcasting, and a monthly newsletter.*

*Since 1999, ZDGNS has the status of an association working for the public interest in the field of social care and has been registered as a representative disability organization.*

In order to host the BGM, AGM, and to organize the conference we have booked the M hotel in Ljubljana (see <https://www.m-hotel.si/>). It is located between the Ljubljana ring road and the city centre providing a fast connection to the city center, airport and other tourist destinations and attractions in Slovenia. The city center is only a 5-minute drive away with public transportation and the closest bus stop is 50 metres away from the hotel.

Here are some links to useful information about your stay in Ljubljana:

- Airport info: <http://www.lju-airport.si> (transport from airport to Ljubljana - shuttle /9 €, taxi 20-25 €, bus 4,10 € - it takes you not more than 30 minutes). But we are not far away from the airports in Austria, Italy, Hungary and Croatia.
- Living in Ljubljana: <https://www.visitljubljana.com>
- Traveling around the city: <http://www.jhl.si/en/single-city-card-urbana>



In the late afternoon on Thursday, May 10, we will show you our beautiful city, after which we will have a reception and a social evening. The Conference day will take place on Friday, May 11, and it will be followed by the IFHOH BGM and the EFHOH AGM on Saturday May 12. Board meetings of IFHOH and EFHOH will precede the Conference.

We recommend you to come to Ljubljana on Thursday and stay until Sunday, May 13, and have a nice trip to some beautiful places in Slovenia.

A detailed program will be published in the next issue of *IFHOH Journal* and the EFHOH newsletter. We will include further details and registration forms for Ljubljana in 2018.

The events will be organized in English. However the Conference day, titled "*Accessibility Removes All Barriers*" will also have translation to Slovene. We will provide a good professional service in English, loop systems, and real time speech-to-text services. We will ensure that you can understand and hear everything as well as possible!

Darja Pajk  
Member of Organization Team

# EFHOH News

## Call for Nominations

General members of EFHOH are advised that a new board of EFHOH will be elected in the EFHOH Annual General Meeting (AGM), Saturday morning, May 12, 2018 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The nomination committee needs formal proposals from the member organizations for the positions of the board:

**Vice President**

**Board member**

All possible candidates must be nominated by a general member organization of EFHOH. A current EFHOH board member can be re-elected, but he/she has to officially communicate with his/her own general member organization about his/her availability of re-election.

The present Board comprises:

President:	Marcel Bobeldijk (The Netherlands)
Vice-President:	Lidia Best (United Kingdom)
General-Secretary:	Aida Regel Poulsen (Denmark)
Treasurer:	Darja Pajk (Slovenia)
Board Member:	Juha Hietala (Finland)

Please send information of candidates at the latest by February 15, 2018, to my e-mail address [zdravka.bastijan@hsgn.hr](mailto:zdravka.bastijan@hsgn.hr)

Chair EFHOH Nomination Committee  
Zdravka Bastijan

October 25, 2017

## Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened



Learn about this organization is doing by reading or downloading its October newsletter from [here](#).

# Calendar of Events

## Calendar of Events

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

*Hear the Future*

Be sure to plan activities and events to promote this important day and to raise awareness about hearing loss

Information to come at:

<http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/world-hearing-day/en/>



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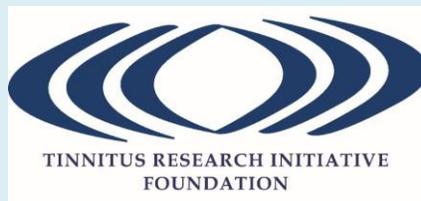
**March 14 - 16, 2018 - 11<sup>th</sup> TRI Conference and 2<sup>nd</sup> TINNET Meeting**

*Disruptive Innovations in Tinnitus*

Location: **Regensburg, Germany**

Information: <http://2018.tri-conf.org/>

Contact: [conferences@tinnitusresearch.net](mailto:conferences@tinnitusresearch.net)



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



**Location:** Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Information:** To view or download the program, please click [here](#)

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

**Contact:** [glob@congressline.hu](mailto:glob@congressline.hu)

# News Bytes

## News Bytes

### PREVENTING A FORM OF HEREDITARY HEARING LOSS

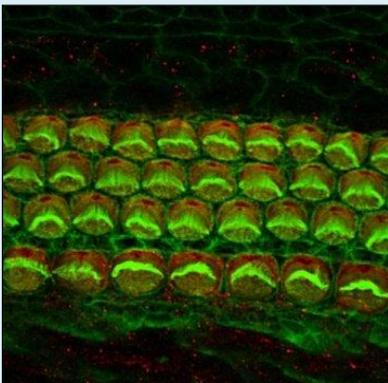
A research advance, published October 26, 2017 and co-led by Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, states that it may be possible to stop the progression of hearing loss in people with Usher syndrome type III, which is a form of hereditary hearing loss related to defects in the sensory 'hair' cells in the inner ear. (USH3 is caused by a mutation in the clarin-1 gene.) This advance can lead to significant preservation of hearing. There is still much work to be done before this approach can be tested in humans. [READ MORE.](#)

### SPIDER SILK IMPROVES MICROPHONES FOR HEARING AIDS

New research from Binghamton University, State University of New York (published October 31, 2017) shows that fine fibers like spider silk actually improve the quality of microphones for hearing aids. Professor Ron Miles explains that we can learn from insects when it comes to hearing: "We use our eardrums, which pick up the direction of sound based on pressure, but most insects actually hear with their hairs." The spider silk is able to pick up the velocity of the air instead of the pressure of the air. Source: [READ MORE.](#)



### STUDY SHEDS LIGHT ON GENETICS OF EARLY HEARING LOSS

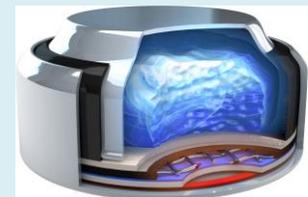


Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine published a study on October 26, 2017 explaining that mistakes in how proteins in the ear are built contribute to early hearing loss in humans. They found mutations in a 'master-switch' protein in individuals with a type of congenital hearing loss. In simplified terms, protein building in the cochlea goes awry. This affects the cochlea's ability to carry out its job of transforming sound waves into electrical signals that run along the auditory nerve to the brain. [READ MORE.](#)

*Photo: Inner ear cells from newborn mouse (Credit: Alex Rohacek, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania)*

### RAYOVAC INVESTS IN ACTIVE CORE TECHNOLOGY

Rayovac, a manufacturer of hearing aid batteries, debuted its 'Active Core Technology' product for the first time to delegates at the 62nd International Congress of Hearing Aid Acousticians (EUHA). The company, a division of Spectrum Brands Inc., has invested heavily in the new Active Core Technology. The company has made multiple changes to the cell design including: upgraded cathode for improved performance and consistency in all sound situations. *For more information, visit [www.rayovac.eu](http://www.rayovac.eu).*





## ***IFHOH JOURNAL***

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is January 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)



**MISSED AN ISSUE OF *IFHOH JOURNAL*?  
LOOKING FOR AN ARTICLE THAT YOU  
REMEMBER CONTAINED USEFUL INFORMATION  
THAT YOU COULD USE?**

You can find past issues of IFHOH Journal archived at:  
<https://www.ifhoh.org/journal>

## **FOLLOW IFHOH!**

Website: [www.ifhoh.org](http://www.ifhoh.org) | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/IFHOH](https://www.facebook.com/groups/IFHOH) | Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ifhoh](https://www.twitter.com/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

President, Dr. Ruth Warick (Canada)

Vice-President, Avi Blau (Israel)

General Secretary, Dr. Louise Carroll (New Zealand)

Treasurer, Heikki Niemi (Finland)

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 Louise Carroll