



# EAR *talk*

Spring 2004

A newsletter of the International Hearing Foundation Fund of the Minnesota Medical Foundation at the University of Minnesota

International Hearing Foundation  
200 Oak Street S.E., #300  
McNamara Alumni Center  
University of Minnesota Gateway  
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2030  
612-339-2120  
TRP-MMP@prodigy.net  
www.ihf-mmf.org

## International Research Fellows Celebrate

Former IHF Fellows and academic colleagues from 21 countries met in a private party sponsored by Starkey and by Board Members Bill and Tani Austin, at the House



Dr. Michael Paperella and IHF Director Treva Paparella with a presenter and his poster on immunochemistry and ultrastructure of the extracellular matrix of the basilar membrane at the American Academy of Otolaryngology meeting.

of Blues in Orlando, to honor IHF founder Dr. Michael Paparella. Many had just presented their research on hearing to the American Academy of Otolaryngology, meeting in Orlando in 2003. Then, at

their party, they enjoyed catching up on the news from other IHF Fellows from Chile, Japan, Switzerland, Korea, Portugal, Iran, China, Brazil, Senegal (Africa), Turkey, Canada, the Philippine Islands, Russia,



IHF founder Dr. Michael Paparella is surrounded by former IHF Fellows and academic colleagues from 21 countries at a party in his honor at the House of Blues in Orlando, Florida.

Ecuador, Panama, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, England, Argentina, Spain, and the U.S. The celebrants have worked or trained at IHF in Minneapolis or in the Otopathology Laboratory or other hearing laboratories at the University of MN. Now they do research and serve patients in their home countries. Many also teach in medical schools, passing on knowl-



Pat Schachern, Dr. Cureoglu, and Dr. Michael Paparella of the Otopathology Laboratory with their poster on regulation of angiogenesis in granulation.

## Thanks to Our Online Members of Support Groups



Carolyn Sutherland of the Otopathology Lab describes some research to members of the Meniere's & Tinnitus Support Group.

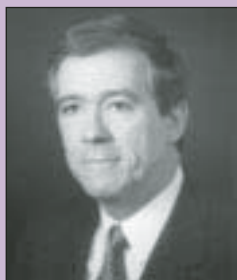
"I always have had hearing problems, but when it becomes echoey or tinny, you know people are talking, but it takes every ounce of energy to try to understand. When this happens one feels isolated and useless. At our last meeting, Jay and Elizabeth Folie provided a great presentation and new avenues to explore. This is what group is about. But after the meeting two members told me how nice it was to receive e-mails from me, how it helps to talk and be informed online. I began to feel accomplishment, feel worthy. Thank you for helping me! I thank all of you for your openness and contributions. I wish I had the ability to cure us all, but I will be content in just helping. I'd like to tell of some of my online work. In June, I was contacted by an attorney

*Continued on page 3*

Stay in touch! Visit:  
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or e-mail:  
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May is  
Better  
Hearing  
Month

## *Hear Ye, Hear Ye...* *from the President* *Joseph McCarthy*



I am honored to serve as President of the International Hearing Foundation in this its 20th year. Since 1984, I've been privileged to play a small role in its development, serving as first executive director and then on its board. The IHF, a unique and well-focused organization, has never wavered from its original goals nor shirked the responsibilities of its stated mission. From its beginning it has supported research efforts at the University of MN while dedicating resources to help those suffering hearing impairments and ear diseases. And, it is dedicated to medical education, as in its MN fellowship program that provides training to ENT physicians from around the globe.

International in perspective and outreach, the IHF has lived up to its name. It has used its connections worldwide to create opportunities to share with others in distant places its knowledge, skills, and high energy levels. As someone involved in international business for 30 years, I can attest to the impact of these efforts and the value of outreach undertaken by IHF. We have achieved an international presence that builds upon and enhances the domestic image and reputation of IHF. Our global networking has proven to be more important with each passing year, allowing the impact of our medical service, education, and research to be carried across borders and put to work in different cultures and environments. I thank all who have supported the IHF since 1984, who deserve credit for its growth and success. I invite your continued participation in our mission as we begin our third decade.

## **From the Executive Director...** *Treva Paparella*



As I celebrate my 13th year as Director, IHF celebrates its 20th year. We've come a long way yet have more to do. With your annual donations, we're able to support our missions: free hearing aids and medical care to needy

children and indigent elderly patients, the Senegal and Chile missions, grants to the Otopathology Lab, and the local Meniere's and Tinnitus support groups. We appreciate all the support over 20 years and hope your commitment will continue. Think about a future where people with hearing disorders have complete access to medical professionals and help to purchase hearing aids, where children are taught at an early age to protect their hearing, where researchers working diligently finally find cures for many of the hearing disorders so many suffer. Your donation can help us make a difference.

## **A Note from Dr. Paparella...**



We can be proud that IHF has developed programs to help thousands in the U.S. and abroad, on a modest budget. But IHF was founded primarily to support the Otopathology Laboratory at the University of Minnesota, a unique and essential resource with the largest collection of temporal bones in the world, in one of only three viable labs like it in the U.S. Only through studying pathology can we know what any disease is, its cause and effects; then we can better treat patients. Every hospital has a pathology department for all fields of medicine except one—ear diseases (otology). Thousands of ear diseases cause millions to suffer deafness, dizziness, even death, but the acquisition, preparation, and study of temporal bones (housing all of the ear) is time-consuming, expensive, and requires unique professional expertise, so it is classed as “research.”

In the Otopathology Lab, new diseases and methods of treating disease have been discovered. Many doctors come from the U.S. and abroad to study for a year or two in our lab and are then able to return to their home state or country to help patients. There are currently 9 Fellows in our lab who first completed ENT training; 28 professors and academic chairmen have trained there. For the first time in years we have professionals with special expertise dedicating their lives to our Otopath Lab: Dr. Sebahattin Cureoglu, Dr. Vladimir Tsuprun, Pat Schachern, and Carolyn Sutherland. We need to retain these unusually talented people in our serious current financial straits. Would you help with whatever contribution you can to sustain this IHF Center of Excellence so it can continue to help patients? Please join me in this worthy cause, as our experts are capable of writing grants and acquiring funds from NIH to allow this important and unique resource to continue and to thrive.

## **Lane Burger retires from IHF Board after 18 years of service**



## **Tina Huang, Resident, Wins 2003 Paparella Award**

Tina Huang, second-year resident at the University of Minnesota, did research on the Ototoxicity of Gentamicin on Vestibular and Cochlear Hair-Cells that won the Paparella Award for medical residents. She is the recipient of the 2003 Paparella Award.



# Orlando 2003 AAO Meeting: Professor Fisch Wins Paparella Award for Distinguished Clinical Otology

The Paparella Award for Distinguished Contributions in Clinical Otology was established by Dr. Michael Paparella through IHF in 1993. The mini-Nobel Prize honoree is selected every two years by a Board of Governors from the American Academy of Otolaryngology to



Professor Ugo Peter Fisch, M.D., receives Paparella Award for Distinguished Contributions in Clinical Otology from IHF Executive Director Treva Paparella.

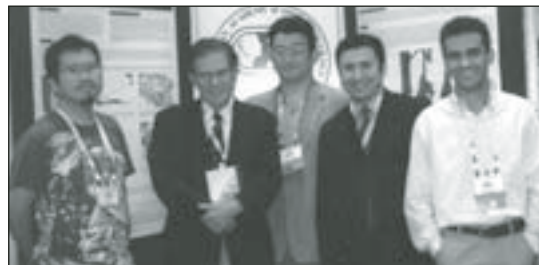
receive a cash award, travel, lodging, crystal trophy and plaque. The first international winner, in 2003, was Professor Ugo Peter Fisch, M.D., of Zurich, Switzerland, Head of ENT at University Hospital in Zurich, 1970 to 1999 and currently in charge of Otology and Skull Base Surgery at the ORL-Center of the Klinik Hirslanden, Zurich. Among his more than 300 articles and many books on microsurgery of the middle ear and skull base

are two classics: *Tympanoplasty, Mastoidectomy, and Stapes Surgery*, and *Microsurgery of the Skull Base*.

At the AAO meeting before his award, Prof. Fisch entertained a packed house with his lecture on ossiculoplasty and talked about stumbling blocks and successes in his long, distinguished career. He said the award was a great honor, and that the opportunity to give the Paparella Lecture “helps me to pay back what I learned years ago.” Many challenges led him to development of a new titanium

prosthesis, the thinnest available. Patients who use this ossicular replacement now show little or no hearing loss or vertigo. Where Teflon was too

weak and steel caused fractures in the bone, titanium placed on a growing bone lets it grow naturally.



International Research Fellows from the Otopathology Lab in attendance at the AAO meeting included Dr. Baba, Dr. Paparella, Dr. Kusunoki, Dr. Cureoglu, and Dr. Sampaio.

## Medical Student Daniel Schneider Wins Eivind Hoff Award for Excellence in Otolaryngologic Research

“Thank you for recognizing me with the 2003 Eivind Hoff Scholarship of \$800. My research with Dr. Samuel Levine focused on middle ear mechanics of partial and total ossicular replacement prostheses using laser Doppler interferometry and will be submitted to Otology/Neurotology. It was invigorating to incorporate otolaryngology research into my first two years of medical school. I became interested in otolaryngology after hearing stories from my sister, Tammy, a surgical technician who worked with you, and after observing surgery with you at Riverside. My eyes were truly opened to the field of medicine and otolaryngology, and it altered my life trajectory. I hope I too will one day have the pleasure of introducing the next generation of physicians or surgeons to the field of medicine.”



Daniel S. Schneider, 2003 Eivind Hoff Award Recipient

—Daniel S. Schneider

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## Online Support Groups

in New Zealand representing a patient with Meniere’s against an insurance company denying benefits. I communicated for about two weeks, trying to provide information on what we really deal with, the episodic nature of this disorder and some possible avenues to explore in defense of her client. Also, I’ve been communicating with a young woman (34) in Nova Scotia just diagnosed with Meniere’s, trying to cope with that and maintain employment but very frustrated and confused (which we all do understand). I hope having someone to talk to will ease her transition. And finally, just today, I was contacted by a fellow Minnesotan, and I look forward to answering her questions and concerns. All of you, and these people who come to me online, are my true peers; you are all part of my family. I hope I help. You help me!”

**kindest regards,**

*W.C. Durnil, Online Coordinator,  
IHF Meniere’s & Tinnitus Support Group,  
durnil@aol.com*

Support Groups for patients with Meniere’s and/or tinnitus, their families and caregivers, are offered at no charge the first Saturday of each month, 10a.m.-12 N, in the auditorium, lower level, Riverside Park Plaza, 701 25th Ave South, just east of Fairview Riverside Hospital in Minneapolis. Open to anyone who wishes to attend.



Musician Aaron Schwoerer, will be the Guest of Honor at the 2004 Golf Classic on June 21, 2004. He is pictured with the Paparellas.

## Aaron Schwoerer, a Multi-Talented Musical Artist, Breaks New Ground

Dr. Paparella saw Aaron Schwoerer for his severe hearing loss when Aaron was between the ages of 7 and 18, then the Schwoerers moved to Indianapolis. Last summer, Aaron returned to get better aids with the help of IHF, and will be the special Guest of Honor at the 2004 Golf Classic on June 21. His abbreviated résumé reads:

- Born with cerebral palsy and severe hearing loss, into a musical family; taught to walk/talk normally
- Began playing drums at age 4; loved Beatles records
- Started wearing hearing aids age 6
- Played drums at Twin Cities clubs from age 10
- Switched to guitar at age 12, formed a band age 14
- Toured Minnesota with the band, over 70 shows/year
- Won Minnetonka H.S. Battle of the Bands; his band

## Recipient of IHF Hearing Aids



Nicholas Eurich, 17

*Your generosity in helping us pay for our son Nicholas Eurich's hearing aid is so greatly appreciated, words can't begin to explain. Nicholas is going into 11th grade at Glencoe-Silver Lake H.S., on the A honor roll, and always wants to do his very best at everything he does. He stays after school every day for two hours and studies in the library, and has done for the past two years. He is on the Cross Country team.*

*When Nicholas finished the 8th grade, they had a graduation and he received an award where all the teachers chose a student for the President Award for Educational Improvement. I am very proud of Nicholas. He tries so hard all the time. He does love school, and never misses a day. Once again, thank you so much for your kindness.*

—Loretta & Nicholas Eurich, New Auburn MN

- recorded at Prince's Paisley Park Studios
- Won scholarship to Berklee College of Music
- Recorded vocals, guitar, bass; produced other acts
- Placed a song on the annual CD of Berklee students
- Moved to L.A. 1998; switched to bass to play in clubs
- Toured with blues guitarist Chris Bell 14 mos. in So. CA; played bass, keyboards on Bell's 2000 CD
- With Bret Domrose Band; featured on their 2000 CD
- On guitar, formed The Pilgrims with Berklee alums
- Aug 2000, Indianapolis, recorded 3 original songs (his guitar, bass, drums, singing on 28+ tracks).

## Learn to Recognize Hearing Loss

1. Do you have a problem hearing on the phone?
2. Do you have trouble following conversations when two or more people are talking at once?
3. Do people complain that you turn the volume on the TV up too high?
4. Do you have to strain to understand conversation?
5. Do you have trouble hearing in a noisy background?
6. Do you find yourself asking people to "say again"?
7. Do people seem to mumble (not speak clearly)?
8. Do you misunderstand what others are saying and respond inappropriately?
9. Do you have trouble understanding women & children?
10. Do people get annoyed because you misunderstand what they say?

If you answered "yes" to three or more of these questions, you may want to see an ear specialist or audiologist for a hearing evaluation.

### Websites:

American Academy of Audiology: <http://www.audiology.org>

American Auditory Society: <http://www.amauditorysoc.org>

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: <http://www.asha.org>

Source: Nat'l Institute on Deafness & Other Hearing Disorders

## Tips To Conserve Hearing

- Be conscious of noise in your environment.
- If you are standing 3 feet from someone but can't hear what the person is saying, the noise level is likely damaging your hearing.
- Wear earplugs during "trailers" at the movies, where volume is cranked up.
- Ask the manager of the theater to turn down the volume if a movie is too loud. Very often they will comply.
- Take earplugs to amusement parks and concerts—and wear them! You will still be able to hear, but the plugs cut out 15-20 decibels of the loud sounds
- Wear earplugs or protective earmuffs when using a power lawn-mower, power tools, or noisy household appliances like a vacuum.
- Read the labels for noise-levels on appliances, children's toys, and any product that generates sound.



## Meet Vladimir Tsuprun, Ph.D., Researcher in IHF's Otopathology Lab at the University of MN

“My training is in structural analysis of biological macromolecules (proteins, viruses, tissue structures) using transmission and scanning electron microscopy, computer-image analysis, immunohistochemistry, and biochemical and biophysical methods. I received my Ph.D. in 1980 in molecular biology from the Institute of Protein Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and my Doctor of Science in Biophysics from the Institute of Physical Chemistry, Moscow, 1990. Since 1992 I've been actively involved in academic research at the University of Minnesota Medical School. I've published more than 80 articles on research, in peer-reviewed international journals, and chapters in books. My biographical sketch was published in *Who's Who of Professionals*.

Since 1995 I have been working in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of MN. In 2001 I began working in the Laboratory of Otopathology headed by

Professor Michael Paparella and have published 10 papers related to hearing research including cochlear anatomy, the ultrastructure of the extracellular matrix in the inner ear, the structure of stereocilia links, and the pathology of hair-cells in acoustic trauma. I participated in studies that resulted in discovery of crystalline aggregates of proteoglycans in the tectorial membrane, molecular arrays of proteoglycans in cochlear basement membranes, the presence and organization of collagen bundles in the basilar membrane, the helical structure of stereocilia tip links, and the symmetric arrangement of side and attachment links in stereocilia.

My current interests are cochlear anatomy and pathology at light-microscopic and ultrastructural levels, and analysis of human temporal bones related to otitis media, acoustic trauma, and otosclerosis. I obtained a National Research Service Award (1997-99) and an RO3 grant (2001-03) from the National Institute on Deafness and Communication Disorders (NIH) and a grant from the American Hearing Research Foundation in collaboration with Dr. Paparella, Pat Schachern, Dr. Cureoglu, and Carolyn Sutherland.”

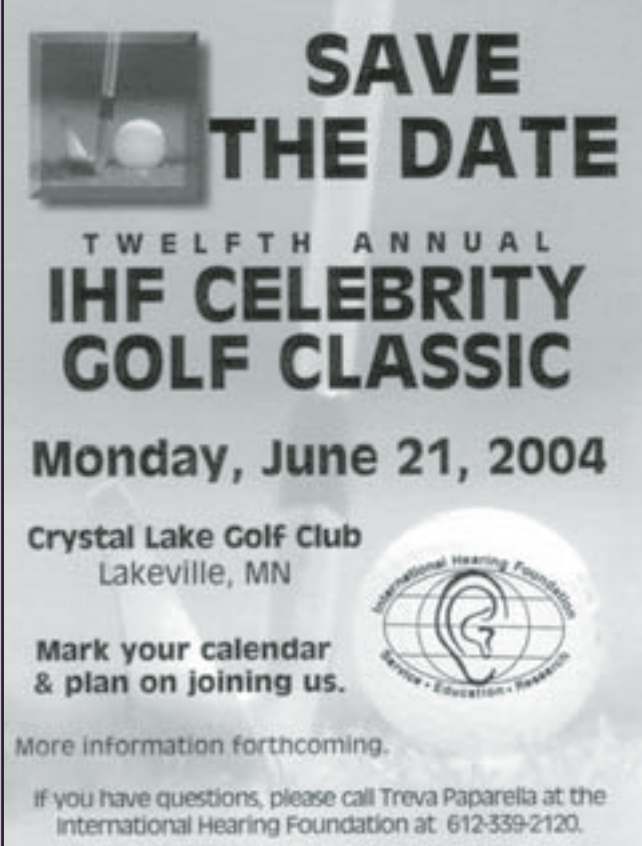
—Vladimir Tsuprun

## 2003 Celebrity Golf Classic Nets \$82,000



Left to Right: David Kristal, Dr. Michael Paparella, Robert Tate, Steve Paparella, and Matt Blair.

Call for a brochure or to register for our major annual fundraiser at this beautiful golf course. Funds are urgently needed to sustain our programs and research (see articles on page two). The driving range is open at 10:30. At the 11 a.m. buffet lunch we introduce sponsors and celebrities who join us in golfing, lining up at 12:15. Dinner and a silent auction at 5:30 are followed by awards. Title sponsors get meals, photos, tournament shirts, signage (3 teams for \$15,000). One-team sponsorships range from \$1,500 to \$6,000, or two golfers can participate for \$750.



**SAVE THE DATE**

TWELFTH ANNUAL  
**IHF CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC**

**Monday, June 21, 2004**

**Crystal Lake Golf Club**  
Lakeville, MN

**Mark your calendar & plan on joining us.**

More information forthcoming.

If you have questions, please call Treva Paparella at the International Hearing Foundation at 612-339-2120.



## 2003 Starkey Hearing Foundation Awards Gala

Honorees at the annual "So the World May Hear" gala included Arnold Palmer, Marlee Matlin, Larry King, and Dr. Michael Paparella. Guests were introduced by the master of ceremonies, Hollywood comedian Norm Crosby.

The Benefit Committee included Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, Marion Ross, Bob and Dolores Hope, Linda Gray, Toby Berman, Eric McCormick, Pat Boone, Steve Martin, Carl Pohlad, Walter Cronkite, Leslie Neilsen, and Treva Paparella.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The International Hearing Foundation — nonprofit, tax-exempt, and funded solely through donations and fundraising events — has a three-fold mission: **otological service, education, and research**, all areas of great need. Beneficiaries of these charitable endeavors are first local but also international. **The International Hearing Foundation is the only hearing-related association in the world that has an international focus.**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Joseph McCarthy, Vice-President Henry Kristal, Secretary/Treasurer Michael Paparella M.D., Executive Director Treva Paparella.

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## 711: Your Connection to the World

The IHF received, via the internet, notice that as of October 1, 2003, every state in the U.S. is required to have a 711 Telephone Relay Service for people with communication disorders—and it's about time. "Canada is well ahead of us, with 711 services already in effect. Access via 711 is designed to simplify phone calls not only for people with disabilities but also for 'hearing' people. Relay users and hearing callers can now remember one simple number, 711... to access relay operators.

At press time, 32 states had the program and have seen significant increases in inbound voice calls. Maryland alone experienced a whopping 41% surge after changing to 711. But be prepared for a few glitches: 711 may not work with cell phones, and some office phone systems may require reprogramming." For more info: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/trs.html>

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*Thank you for listening!*

Here is my pledge in support of better hearing!

- \$5.00     \$25.00     \$100.00     \$ Other Contribution  
 \$15.00     \$50.00     \$250.00     I need more information.

Credit Card Payment  Mastercard     Visa

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in information about support groups.

This gift is made  in memory of  in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation is tax deductible.

Please make your check payable to: International Hearing Foundation

701-25th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55454

For further information, please call: 612-339-2120

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