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U MN Foundation announces Paparella Center for Hearing & Balance



*By Patty Porter,
Vice President
of Development,
Medicine & Health,
U of MN*

Many people know of Dr. Michael Paparella's incredible generosity through his decades of patient care, through his belief in the importance of mentoring future generations of otolaryngologists, or because he founded the International Hearing Foundation to support otopathology research and global collaborations.

I am honored to share that Dr. Paparella and his wife, Treva, have expressed their generosity in another way as well — by making a philanthropic pledge totaling \$10 million to create the Paparella Center for Hearing and Balance at the University of Minnesota.

The Paparellas' gift will help to recruit and retain world-class faculty, continue the important work of the Otopathology Laboratory, establish a Hearing Discovery Fund to support high-potential research studies that need startup or bridge funding, expand clinical offerings, and create an education and training fund to support the next generation of physicians and research pioneers. Dr. Meredith Adams will be the center's inaugural director.

Dr. Samir Khariwala, chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the U of MN Medical School, said of the center's importance: "With direct access to the University of Minnesota's unparalleled expertise in biomedical research, engineering, device development, surgery, regenerative medicine and imaging technology, this center will advance research initiatives and clinical outreach aimed at restoring the precious gifts of sound and balance to those who have been living without them."



I am honored to have worked with the Paparellas on this inspired — and inspiring — commitment, not only to the U of MN Medical School, but also to bringing forward better treatments to help the millions of people affected by hearing disorders. What a fitting legacy for Dr. Paparella and his lifetime dedication to patients, colleagues, trainees and collaborators as well as to all who will benefit from this generosity!

Otopathology: Thoughts about the Past, Present & Future



*By Michael
Paparella, M.D.*

I started the Otopathology Laboratory in 1963 when I was a faculty member at Harvard University. Dr. David Lim, a dear friend and perhaps the most respected and top world authority in otopathology research, was my first fellow. Dr. Lim honored me when he asked me to be godfather to his son Michael, who is also my namesake. I miss David dearly; he is now organizing and

teaching all the otologists who reside in heaven...

After Harvard and during my three-and-a-half-year tenure at Ohio State University, the Otopathology Laboratory continued to develop. Since 1967, when I was recruited as Professor and Chairman of Otolaryngology at the University of Minnesota, the lab has had its most productive and relevant growth. It currently has a library of thousands of human temporal bones and corollary animal temporal bones.

Our laboratory — one of only three such labs active in the world — provided a basis for training hundreds of doctors and other professionals, who have become leaders in the United States and

throughout the world. This includes 30 professors/chairpersons, three deans and many professors, who, through patient care, research and education, have helped millions of patients worldwide.

New otological diseases were discovered in our laboratory, and pathogenesis research has shed light to understand the many other ear diseases that can disable humankind. While the laboratory name has been and still is "otopathology," a more accurate and appropriate name would "pathogenesis," because these research studies incorporate the causes of diseases and the mechanisms leading to pathology, resulting in symptoms that can disturb or incapacitate patients.

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Hear Ye, Hear Ye

For the second year in row, I will start with, “We hope you have weathered the pandemics well as could be expected and our thoughts go out to those who have suffered.” In 2020, when the covid crisis was at a peak, many of us were in lock-down and uncertain. 2021 brought additional challenges. The complete effects we still do not know, but there are many worrisome trends — mental health crises, education gaps and economic impacts. Now we add the Ukraine war to the picture and wonder about the outlook for us all.

While no part of the economy is left untouched, lower- and middle-income countries are worse affected because they have weak defenses against economic shocks and depend more on a few economic sectors, such as commodities and tourism. Hearing loss still affects 10 percent of the world population. The International Hearing Foundation continues with its mission of research, service, and education, and it does a tremendous amount of good with an impact around the world trying to help solve this problem. The IHF also is continuing to support outreach in Central America and investigating how we can help in Ukraine.

The Otopath lab at the University is doing well as you may have read about from Patty Porter on the new Paparella Hearing and Balance Center at the University of Minnesota on page one of this newsletter.

Summer beckons! Please join us for the 29th Annual IHF Matt Blair Golf Tournament on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022. We hope to see you at this fun event. We look forward to your support now and in the future. Your contributions are needed and together we do really make a difference!

Otopathology: Thoughts ... (continued from p. 1)

To date, the Otopathology Laboratory has had a national and international reputation for translational research that benefits the diagnosis and treatment of patients. We now have arrived at a propitious point in time when the “otopath lab” will morph into and start the Paparella Hearing and Balance Center, which will include many other disciplines in research, education and patient care. We are pleased that Dr. Meredith Adams will provide

excellent leadership as director of the center. This multi-disciplinary approach will lead to much greater opportunities to provide innovative patient care, research and education.

I sincerely thank IHF executive director Treva, our board member and donors for helping us in the past, and I hope they will continue to assist as we witness the development of the Paparella Hearing and Balance Center as a center of national and international excellence.

The future has never been more exciting.



**IHF President
Joseph (Joe)
White**

From the Executive Director's Desk

Greetings to our many friends and supporters of the International Hearing Foundation. As we enter our 37th year, IHF has gratefully benefited from the generous giving of thousands of supporters.

COVID may have slowed us down a bit, but it didn't shut us down. For that we are very thankful. Research continues with the help of our newest lab staff member, Dr. Rafael Monsanto. You can read about him in IHF's latest Ear Talk on page three. We welcome him.

Over the years, IHF has been consistently fulfilling its mission in research, service and education. With the critical support from the IHF board and others, as well as several temporal bone research grants, we can continue the much-needed research surrounding ear diseases. The Otopathology Lab team works tirelessly in hopes of finding cures for Meniere's disease and otis-media, plus deafness and many other ear diseases that disable patients.

IHF's valuable support of several international missions continues. You can read about the Senegal, Africa mission under the direction of Dr. Malik Diop, a former IHF fellow on page four. His ongoing devotion to these humanitarian missions is admirable.

Dr. Robert Margolis has been instrumental in bringing Rotary and the IHF together to help support “Hearing for Humanity,” which provides grants for audiologic services to places such as Cambodia, Vietnam, Mexico and Chile.

Because of you — our donors — we can continue the mission of IHF — research, service and education. IHF was founded to address needs related to hearing disorders and other all-too-common ear diseases. We are committed to carrying out this mission. We still need your help.

Thank you for the caring spirit that leads you to make life-changing contributions in support of the International Hearing Foundation.



**IHF Executive
Director 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 research, service and education — all areas of great need. Beneficiaries of these charitable endeavors are first local but also international. The IHF is an affiliate of the University of Minnesota Foundation.

Board of Directors: Joseph P. White, CPA, President; Jantze Haley, Vice-President, Michael M. Paparella, M.D., Secretary and Treasurer; Treva Paparella, Executive Director. Board: Jerry Abbs, Meredith Adams, Tani and William F. Austin, Teri Austin, Brad Birnberg, Sebahattin Cureoglu, M.D., Frank Grovenstein, James D. Hainlen, Ph.D., Richard Kleber, CFM, Robert Margolis, Ph.D., Matthew Patterson, M.D., Elizabeth Payne, M.D., Bevan Yueh, M.D. IHF Event Director: Tim Miller. Medical/Research Advisory Board: Hamed Sajjadi, M.D., San Jose Ear and Sinus Center.

Meet the new Otopath Lab Member: Rafael Monsanto

By Rafael Monsanto, M.D.

My history with the Otopathology Laboratory started seven years ago, when I had just finished my Otolaryngology residency training in Brazil. Through the residency program, otology was the area that fascinated me the most. The high complexity of the various structures that comprise the hearing and balance organs of the human body got me fascinated.

While trying to learn and understand more about these intricate systems, I would eventually cross with groundbreaking publications from the otopathology laboratory directed by Prof. Paparella, one of the most important ear surgeons in the world. Knowing that such an eminent surgeon was the main responsible for the publication of so many translational research that changed the way ear diseases are treated (and even cured!) got me very interesting in diving deeper into ear research. Encouraged by the strong track-record of teaching and publications from the lab, I decided to continue my studies in otology at the otopathology laboratory, under the mentorship of Dr. Paparella and Dr. Cureoglu.

The experience I had in my first period at the laboratory (2015-16) was life-changing. I learned more about the



Top, from left: Melisa Igdelioglu, Richard Har, Rafael Monsanto, Grace Song. Bottom, from left: Rafael, Michael Paparella, M.D., Sebahattin Cureoglu, M.D., Patricia Schachern (inset).

fascinating structure of the temporal bone by taking advantage of a laboratory that is unique in the world. I expanded my

understanding about the pathogenesis and pathophysiology of virtually all diseases

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Congratulations to these award winners....

Doug Chieffe received the Paparella Clinical Otological Research Award for his published research,



“Combined infralaby-rinthine-infracochlear approach for placement of a novel auditory nerve implant.” Doug is a now a PGY5 (chief) in the Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery department at the U of MN. The International Hearing Foundation, along with Dr. and Mrs. Michael Paparella, congratulate Doug for his outstanding research. The Paparellas established

the award through the IHF in 1999 to recognize a resident’s outstanding clinical research in the field of otology.

This year’s winner of the Eivind Hoff Award is Paul Escher, now a resident at the University of Iowa, for his work, “Minimizing transfusion in sagittal craniosynostosis surgery: the Children’s Hospital of Minnesota Protocol,” “Malnutrition as a Risk Factor in Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery,” and “Effects of PPAR- γ agonists on oral cancer cell lines: Potential horizons for chemopreventives and adjunctive therapies.”

The Eivind Hoff Award recognizes medical students for their superior research and writing in the area of clinical or basic otology. Mrs. Eivind Hoff and the International Hearing Foundation congratulated Paul for his outstanding

research. Established by the IHF through the Minnesota Medical Foundation and now the U of MN Foundation, the award honors the memory of Eivind O. Hoff, the first executive director of the Minnesota Medical Foundation. Hoff joined the foundation in 1959 and served the foundation for 27 years. Following retirement, he continued to work for nonprofit organizations. At the time of his death, he was associated with the International Hearing Foundation, which is the source of funding for the award.



IMTEC Center Serves Patients in Remote Areas with Limited Resources

By Malick Diop, M.D.

I spent the year 1989 in Minneapolis under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Paparella. Like all the fellows coming from different countries and continents, I have strong memories and a deep gratitude towards this great man and all the members of the International Hearing Foundation. Besides the huge benefit of the training and experience that I received in Minneapolis, I developed a strong relationship with the IHF, thanks to Dr. Paparella and his wife, Treva, its executive director. In 1991 I started yearly humanitarian missions of ear surgery in Senegal, my home country, sponsored by the IHF and Rotary.

The first team was Drs. Neil Sperling and Jordan Stern. Then came Brazilian, Italian and other American doctors. Through this Africa project, dozens of African ENT doctors received training in difficult ear surgery and also hundreds of patients received huge benefits of great care. Encouraged by support for this project, I conducted the same missions in other African countries.

I am also supported by the Starkey Hearing Foundation, and the passionate assistance of Mr. Bill Austin and Mrs. Tani Austin, president and vice president, respectively. Since 2012, Senegal, like more than 100 countries, has hosted many campaigns of hearing rehabilitation. More than 5,000 adults and infants have benefitted from hearing aids. Similar campaigns have been conducted in Mauritania, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Ghana as well as Senegal, where all patients received the gift of hearing.

In April 2018, the Medical Center of Excellency hosted an institute for ear, head and neck diseases called IMTEC. The center serves patients in several specialties concerning head and neck, including ophthalmology, neurology, maxillofacial surgery, neurosurgery and otorhinolaryngology.

IMTEC was built and equipped with support of the Starkey Hearing Foundation. The inauguration took place under the authority of the Minister of Health and was attended by Bill and Tani Austin. Many members of the university medical school staff were present as well. Three goals are assigned to the center — to provide



Dr. Malick Diop (seated) and staff serving a patient at through IMTEC.

health care, professional training and humanitarian activity.

Over three days, the center organized a humanitarian campaign of hearing rehabilitation, with the contribution of collaborators of the Starkey Hearing Foundation from the United States, Europe and Africa. Because of this partnership, organized surgical missions in remote areas of Senegal have been made possible. Like many African and Asian countries, the population in these areas is facing a striking lack of medical resources, particularly for ENT doctors.

The concept of bringing care to those populations concerns equity and justice. As Bill Austin often says, “Alone we can’t do much. Together we can change the world.”

In practice, IMTEC operates in regional hospitals in the targeted areas. Selection of patients is made with the local ENT doctor, who is usually young and without great surgical experience, and a chief general surgeon of the hospital.

Before the arrival of the IMTEC team, composed of a senior and a junior ENT, the program is set up. Operating in two rooms, a process learned as a fellow under Dr. Paparella, the team can make the most of the limited time that is allocated by the chief surgeon of the hospital.

Some of the surgical indications that have been addressed at the regional hospital include ethmoidectomy, frontal sinus surgery, maxillary sinus surgery,

cleft lip and palate surgery, tonsils and adenoid surgery, thyroidectomy, total laryngectomy, thyreo-glossal surgery, salivary glands surgery, and ear surgery (using portable surgical microscope and instruments provided by the Starkey Hearing Foundation). It is my belief that surgeons do not need a fancy environment to do a good job.

Other activities that have been made possible through IMTEC’s partnership with the Starkey Hearing Foundation include consultation, surgery and training for the local staff and the junior ENT of the team. In addition, the IMTEC presence helps with raising funds and visibility for the receiving hospital. Teams give care to local populations and identify tougher cases requiring care in Dakar.

Some of the indirect benefits include restoration of the building before the mission, improving the reputation of the partner hospital, strengthening the reputation of IMTEC as well as the reputation of Senegal, when the mission is in areas close to surrounding countries.

As director of IMTEC, I feel proud and grateful to be a partner of the Starkey Hearing Foundation in this great model of humanitarian work. Outreach missions are an example of a simple, sustainable and scalable ways to support access to good quality care for countries with limited resources. The success of IMTEC’s outreach can and should inspire other countries.

Update on IHF service projects in Mexico and Chile

There have been major changes to International Hearing Foundation projects in Mexico and Chile, with both projects refreshed and providing services to patients who otherwise have no access to hearing services.

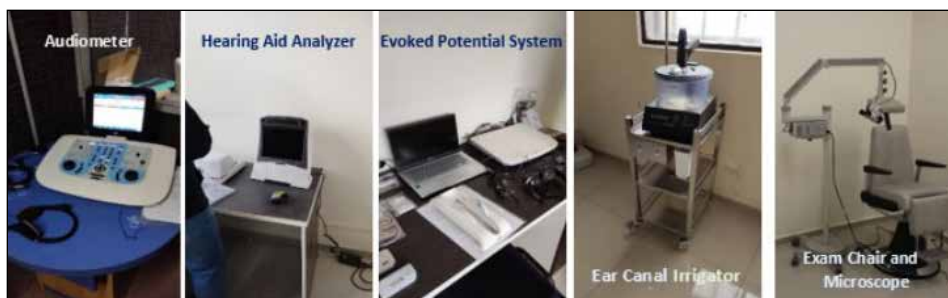
Navojoa, Sonora, Mexico

The IHF established a clinic in San Felipe, but it was forced to close due to several factors including the pandemic, loss of space, and relocation of our primary project partners.

After considering other locations in San Felipe, a decision was made to relocate the clinic to the state of Sonora where a colleague of project leaders including Bob Margolis and Jerry Yanz is providing hearing services to indigent people.

Dr. Ted Glatke, a retired audiology professor at the University of Arizona, has a home in the area and spends about half of every year providing services to low income residents. Dr. Glatke has trained physicians and technicians to provide hearing services in Hospital San José in Navojoa (center).

In addition, professionals travel to small villages and provide hearing testing and hearing aids. With permission from the



Rotary Foundation, the equipment and remaining hearing aids were transferred from the San Felipe clinic to Hospital San José.

Santiago, Chile

The clinic at the Instituto de la Sordera (School for the Deaf) has fully recovered

from the fire of December 2020 and is seeing patients again. The new equipment has been installed. Bob Margolis and Jerry Yanz have begun regular video calls with the staff to provide training and develop protocols.

An experienced hearing aid audiologist, Hortensia Goycoolea, who trained at the University of Minnesota with Margolis and Yanz, will provide training.

In 2022, new equipment was installed at the clinic, including an exam chair, microscope, audiometer, hearing aid analyzer, evoked potential system, and ear canal irrigator (photo, top).

New Otopath Lab Member: Rafael Monsanto

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that affect the human ear in such a way I never thought it was possible. The whole laboratory research team, staff, fellows, and the directors were very welcoming and always available to discuss cases and share their knowledge. In only one year, I published seven scientific papers in the most important peer-reviewed journals of the world.

This incredible experience I had at the otopathology laboratory encouraged me to pursue an academic career. I became incredibly motivated to continue doing research on ear diseases in disorders, as despite the many advances in the area, there are still many knowledge gaps that only otopathology and temporal bone studies can fill. I then got into a graduate (doctorate) program, which was done part

in Brazil, part again at the otopathology laboratory. My Ph.D. thesis was very fruitful: it was elected the best thesis in the medical subject in Brazil and I was awarded with a golden medal by the Brazilian government (CAPES).

In 2020 I received a phone call from Dr. Michael Paparella inviting me to work at the Otopathology Laboratory. Now as a full-time staff member, I was extremely honored with the opportunity to come back to the laboratory that completely changed my professional life. I know I could put the knowledge I gathered through 18 years of medical training (10 of which into otolaryngology) to contribute even further with research that could benefit the millions of people who suffer from ear diseases and disorders. Dr.

Paparella and his wife, Treva, are people that really inspired me to pursue this path and I could not be more thankful to them. Since I started working as a full-time staff in the lab 7 months ago, we already accomplished so much: we presented our research in one of the most prestigious meetings in the U.S. (Association for Research in Otolaryngology), we received funding from the Lions Foundation to purchase a state-of-the-art slide scanner, and we have been working on multiple grant proposals dedicated to expand our research to the next level. I am extremely excited to be part of the otopathology laboratory, which I am 100% will continue to prosper and continue to help millions of people who suffer from hearing and balance problems.

**IHF MATT BLAIR
GOLF CLASSIC
AUG. 8, 2022**



The IHF Golf Classic is Aug. 8, 2022 WITH lunch and program at 11 a.m. at the Crystal Lake Golf Club, Lakeville MN. Call 612-339-2120 for a brochure/registration materials; \$375 (individual) to \$10,000 (major sponsor). IHF's golf classic would not be possible without volunteers who help coordinate this event, which has been renamed in honor of the late former Viking and IHF fundraiser Matt Blair. The event is sponsored by the Paparella Family Foundation, Jantze Haley and Rich Kleber with Merrill Co.



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