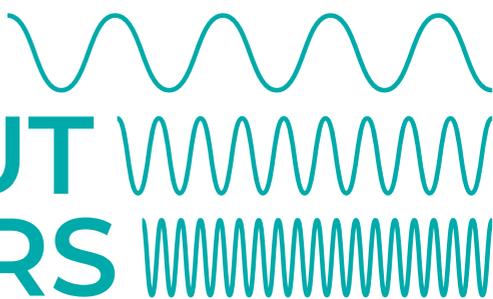
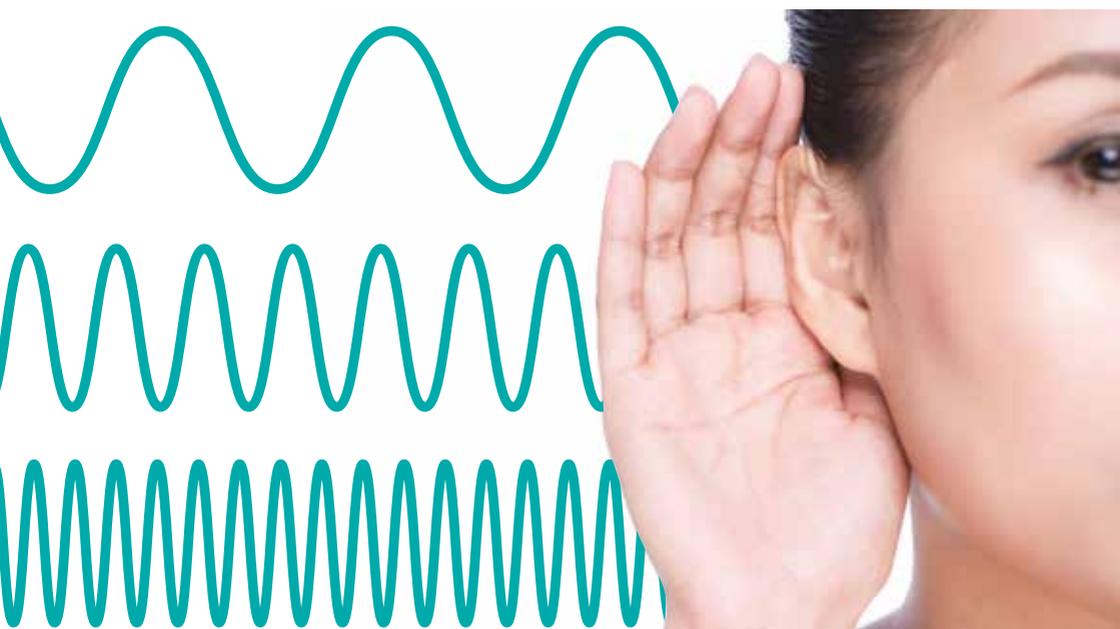


WORLD WITHOUT BARRIERS

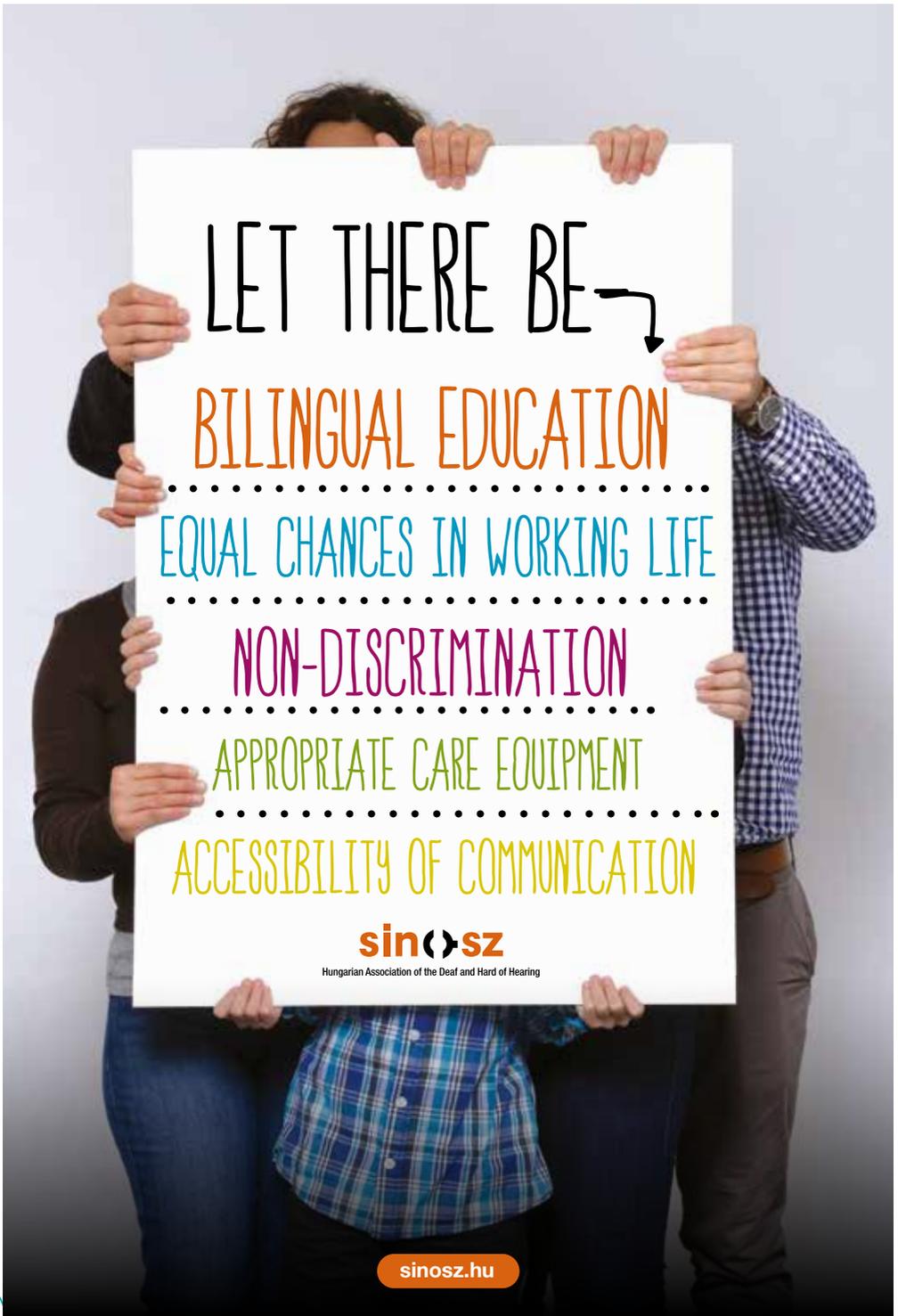
A teal soundwave graphic that starts with a low-frequency wave and gradually increases in frequency as it moves from left to right, positioned behind the main title.

IFHOH 2022 World Congress
in Hungary



22-23-24 September 2022

www.ifhoh2022budapest.com



Dear Friends,

Welcome to IFHOH Congress 2022 which is a feat after weathering a delay of over two years due to the coronavirus pandemic and then the eruption of war in Ukraine. Our prayers and thoughts go out to those who are dealing with conflict and struggling with their health.

My thanks to each one of you who are able to be here to celebrate together the many achievements in our communities toward building a World Without Barriers, the title of the Congress. At the same time, we acknowledge that there is so much more that needs to be done to create a truly hearing accessible world.

The advocacy of those who have a hearing loss is critical to making advances, working with our partners in business, education, healthcare and allied fields. Our movement is based on self-help and empowerment of those who live with hearing loss; giving voice to our lived experience and to our reflections for resolution are critical.

I look forward to meeting with many of you throughout the Congress as we gain information and knowledge from presenters and exhibitors and have a chance to dialogue together around the program themes: identity and interactions, current and new technologies, medical developments, and legislative, policy and human rights advances.

This 11th IFHOH Congress would not have been possible without SINOSZ, the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing People. They have shown tremendous fortitude in persisting with the Congress; it was really like organizing two Congresses as plans shifted and evolved between the event postponed from May 2020 to the one being held this September 2022. In particular, I wish to single out Ádám Kósa, President of SINOSZ, for his leadership and Zsuzsanna Habán for her incredible work in assuming the Secretariat role for the Congress.

My thanks to the team who worked with me closely on this Congress from IFHOH's side: Avi Blau, Vice-President of IFHOH; Lidia Best, President of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People, and Marcel Bobeldijk, previous EFHOH President. As well, thank you to IFHOH Board Members for their on-going support.

I also want to especially thank our sponsors and exhibitors; your support is vital to this Congress. Thank you so very much to gold sponsors, the Hungarian National Lottery and the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior; silver sponsors MED-EL, Cochlear Inc., and Bethlen Gábor Foundation; and bronze sponsors Bluetooth and Apple. As well thanks to Audmax and Williams AV for their technical assistance. To delegates, please make a point of taking time to visit the various exhibits.

A debt of gratitude goes to the International Disability Alliance which lent logistical support and sponsored three IDA-IFHOH Fellows, enabling them to showcase to us their work in developing countries.

As President of IFHOH, along with my board members, we are very proud to welcome you to the 11th Congress of IFHOH. Enjoy and cherish these days together.

Warmest regards,
Dr. Ruth Warick
President
International Federation of Hard of Hearing People

sinosz.hu

SINOSZ115

BACK TOGETHER – PAST AND PRESENT

24
09
2022

MARGARET ISLAND
WONDER ISLAND

WAITING FOR YOU TO COME!

NATIONAL WORLD DAY OF THE DEAF
EVENT IN BUDAPEST

FINALLY WE CAN MEET!



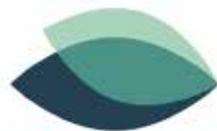
WHEN?

24th of September 2022
Saturday 11.00 am–11.00 pm



WHERE?

Budapest,
Margaret Island – Wonder Island



WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

meeting, talking,
award ceremony, sport,
surprises, entertainment
programs for all ages

sinosz
Süketek és Nagyothallók Országos Szövetsége


BELÜGYMINISZTERIUM

Wonder Island
ÉLMÉNYPARK



Dear Interested Parties, Participants, Dear Guests!

It is both a pleasure and an honour that, after the coronavirus pandemic has completely turned our lives and plans upside down, Hungary can finally host the IFHOH World Congress 2022 this year. In recent years, many people have been able to experience what it means to live with barriers, so now there is a historic chance for even more decision-makers to see why it is so important to understand and treat people with hearing difficulties as equal partners.

We are proud, you will now be hosted by a country where – be it education or work – significant results have been achieved in the integration of people with disabilities and where in the constitution we concluded that the Hungarian sign language is also part of our culture.

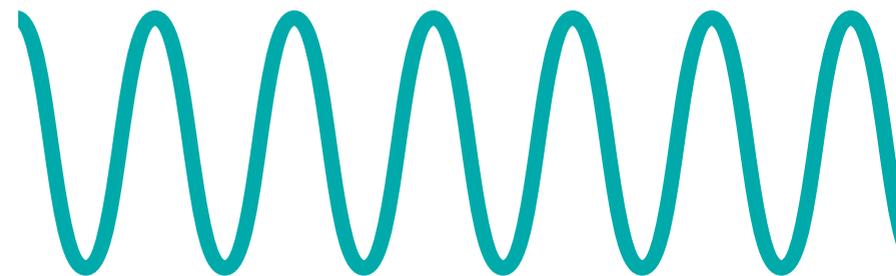
This could happen thanks to the work of the past ten years, including the activities of the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

I trust that after the useful and interesting presentations, you will have the opportunity to discover the sights of Budapest and the program opportunities offered by the capital, and later you will visit us with your family members and friends.

Hungary not only awaits you, but also welcomes you back!
Budapest, September 5, 2022.

Yours faithfully,

Viktor Orban
Prime Minister of Hungary



Dear Distinguished Participants,

It is a great honor to be a Patron for the 11th Congress of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People hosted by SINOSZ, the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I am pleased to extend my heartfelt thanks to the organizers for the hard work they have put in over the last four years to bring this Congress to you, having weathered an unprecedented pandemic and the impact of an international conflict. Their fortitude in persisting to present this event is laudable.

I also wish to thank the sponsors and exhibitors whose support has made the event possible, and to thank each participant for joining with us.

The Congress title is "A World Without Barriers" and is even more relevant than ever. Presenters will share valuable insights within four themes dealing with the social cultural aspects of hearing loss, medical and technological challenges and advancements, and legislative, policy and human rights advances. Your own experiences and thoughts will be part of the learning that will enrich the Congress.

Time has been allocated for breaks, lunches and social gatherings so that can meet old friends and make new ones. This Congress offers plenty of opportunity to engage with each other, culminating with a gala event on the last evening of the Congress.

We are fortunate to attend the Congress during an excellent time of the year in a beautiful European city with plenty of character. The venue is in a lush natural setting just steps away from our meeting rooms.

On behalf of myself and my wife, Ritva-Liisa, who is accompanying me, I wish you a wonderful and successful Congress.

Sincerely yours,
Juergen Schaeding
Special Advisor
International Federation of Hard of Hearing People



Dear friends, Hard of Hearing people around the world!

Welcome to Hungary, the heart of Europe. On behalf of the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, I welcome you to the World Congress organised jointly with IFHOH. We attach great importance to Hungary hosting this prestigious world event. Our aim is to spread the message to Hungary and its neighbouring countries that Hard of Hearing people are here among us and wish to assert their rights in order to become respected and useful members of our society. To do this, they need to be recognised as people with disabilities, as people who need clear and transparent support to benefit from state-of-the-art hearing aids. This will enable them to learn, work and become useful members of society. This is a common goal and we need to learn from each other to achieve it. The best way to do this is to organise such a high-level professional event. The Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing celebrates its 115th anniversary this year. We are proud to be one of the oldest disability organisations in Europe, and proud that the World Congress gives Hard of Hearing people, who make up the majority of our membership, the opportunity to meet advocates and professionals from around the world and strengthen the bond between Hard of Hearing people.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Adam Kosa
President
Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



HIGH PATRONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Hungarian High Patron

Mr Viktor Orban

Prime minister of Hungary

International High Patron

Juergen Schaeding

Special Advisor

International Federation of Hard of Hearing People

LOCAL ORGANISER/ HOST

sinOSZ

Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ)

The Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ) as a national non-profit advocacy organization operating in Hungary. SINOSZ is an organization formed by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. SINOSZ has served both communities for over 115 years through direct assistance programs and advocacy. The work of SINOSZ is driven by our commitment to equal opportunity. Our vision is a world where the sign language of the Deaf is part of the national culture and where the deaf and those who have partial hearing loss are helped on the road to active social participation in national life. SINOSZ was established in Hungary in 1907 to secure social acceptance of people who are deaf or hard of hearing and to advocate for the establishment of education, employment and transportation conditions that promote independent living. Deaf and hard of hearing members and their friends and relatives and national and international experts help SINOSZ realize our goals. To this end, the legislation provided for the implementation of encouraging help improve their quality of life, real needs and demands, based on processes encourage accessibility, community theatres facilities.

1068 Budapest
Benczúr utca 21.
HUNGARY

www.sinosz.hu

SCIENTIFIC ORGANISER



International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH)

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) was established in 1977 as an international, non-governmental organization, registered in Germany. IFHOH represents the interests of more than 466 million hard of hearing people worldwide. This includes late deafened adults, cochlear implant users, and people who experience Tinnitus, Meniere's disease, Hyperacusis and auditory processing disorders. IFHOH has over 40 national member organizations from most regions of the world. IFHOH and its two regions, the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH) and the Asia Pacific Federation of Hard of Hearing and Deafened people (APFHD), work to promote greater understanding of hearing loss issues and to improve access for hard of hearing people. IFHOH has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), affiliation with the World Health Organization (WHO), and membership in the International Disability Alliance (IDA).

www.ifhoh.org



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH)

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH) was established in 1993 as a non-profit, non-governmental organization, registered in the Netherlands. EFHOH consists of organizations of/for hard of hearing and late-deafened people, parent organizations, and professional organizations at a European level in dialogue with the European Union, members of the European Parliament, and other European authorities. EFHOH is currently comprised of 24 national member organizations and represents the interests of more than 52 million hard of hearing people throughout Europe. This includes late-deafened adults, cochlear implant users, and people with tinnitus, Meniere's disease, hyperacusis, and other auditory processing disorders. EFHOH is a partner and member of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH), a full member of the European Disability Forum (EDF), and a member of the WHO – World Hearing Forum (2019-2021). Our aim is a Europe where hard of hearing people can live without barriers and have the opportunity to participate at all levels of society.

NVVS
Randhoeve 221
3995 GA, Houten
The Netherlands

www.efhoh.org

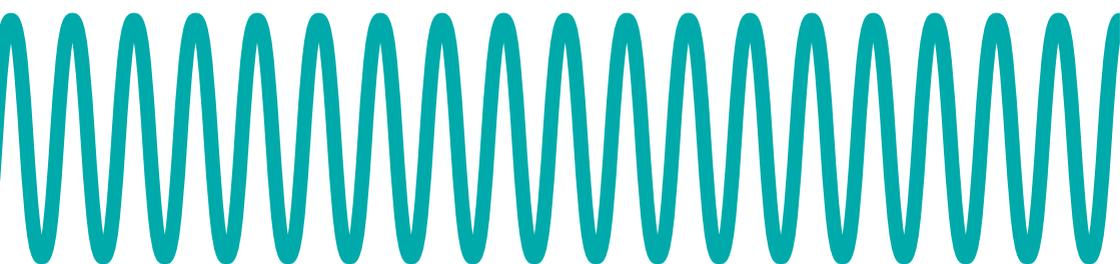
SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dr. Ruth Warick, President of IFHOH
Avi Blau, Vice-President of IFHOH
Lidia Best, President of EFHOH
Marcel Bobeldijk, previous EFHOH President
Dr. Adam Kosa, President of SINOSZ

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr. Adam Kosa, President of SINOSZ
Csilla Csetneki, Vice-president of SINOSZ
Margit Safrany, Director of SINOSZ
Zsuzsa Haban, Professional Leader of SINOSZ
Eva Nemeth, Pr referent of SINOSZ

Design by Zsuzsi Laszlo www.laszlozsuzsi.hu



EXHIBITION OPEN HOURS:

23th September 2022 – Friday 9:00-18.00

24th September 2022 – Saturday 9:00-16:00

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SUPPONENTERS



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SILVER SPONSORS



www.medel.com



www.cochlear.com

BRONZE SPONSOR



www.bluetooth.com

TECHNICAL SUPPORT



www.audmax.hu



www.williamsav.com

EXHIBITORS



GENERAL INFORMATION

CONGRESS VENUE

Ensana Thermal Hotel Margaret Island ****

Tel: +36 1 889 4752

Budapest – Margitsziget, 1007 Hungary

www.ensanahotels.com/thermal-margaret-island/en



THERMAL MARGARET ISLAND / HOW TO GET THERE

The Grand Margaret Island Health Spa Hotel is situated on Margaret Island, a green oasis in the heart of Budapest only 20 minutes from the town centre. The hotel is easily accessible by car, bus, rail and air.

CITY CENTRE 6 KM

Main cities: Bratislava 200 km, Vienna 240 km, Zagreb 343 km

Motorway exit: 6 km

Train station: 4 km

International airport: 26 km

BUS STATIONS

Árpád Bridge Bus Terminal – 2 km – 25 minute walk

Margaret Island, Árpád Híd bus stop (lines 106, 34) – 800 m
– 8 minutes

METRO STATIONS

Árpád Híd metro stop (line M3) – 2 km – 25 minutes walk



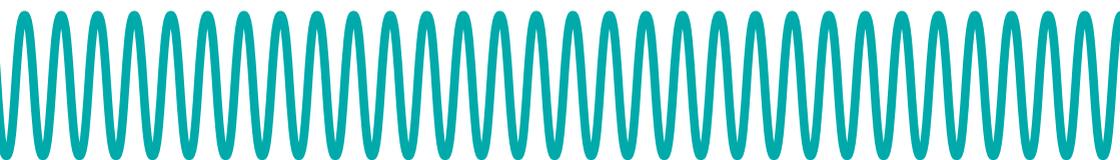
**PROUDLY
SUPPORTING DISABILITY
EMPLOYMENT
IN HUNGARY**

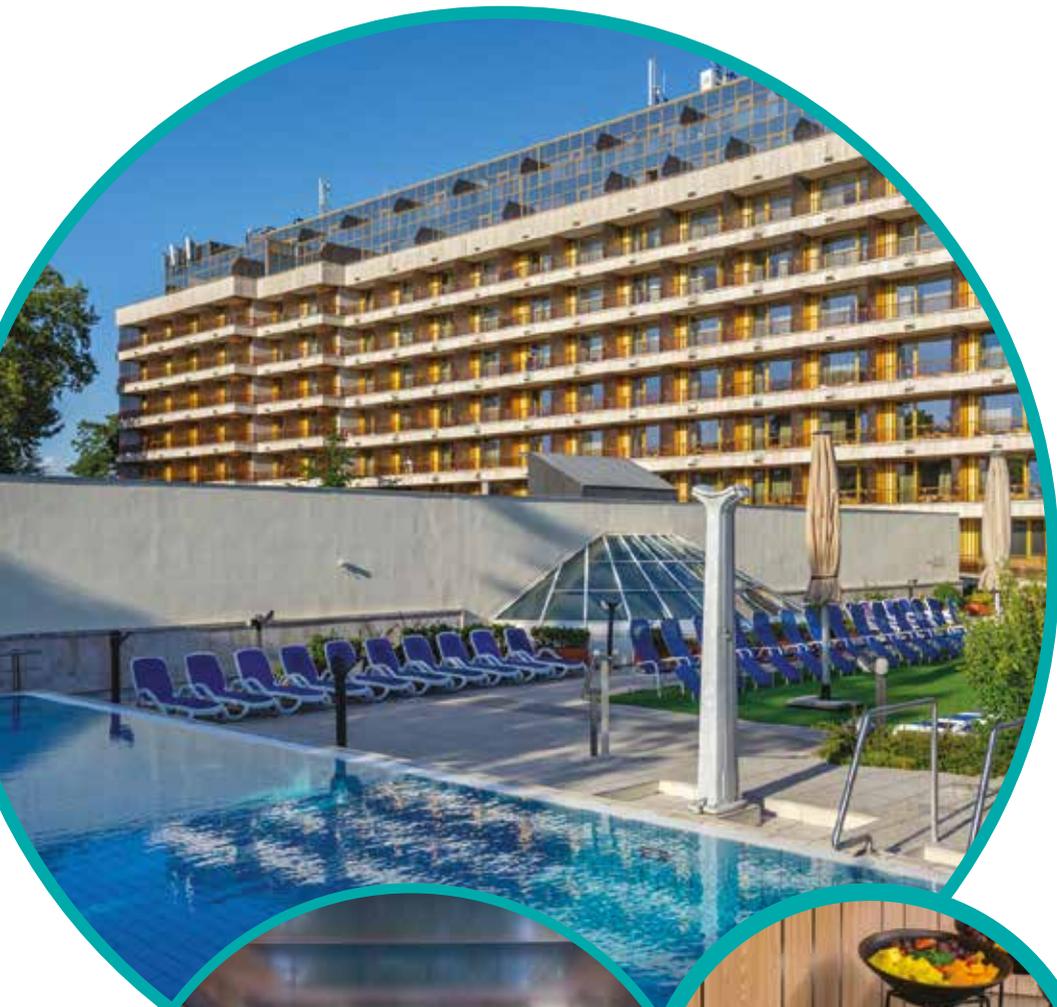
Szerencsejáték Zrt., the Hungarian National Lottery has been employing people with reduced capacity for work for fifteen years.

We strongly believe that our company contributes to society only if we provide equal opportunities for people living with disabilities.

GOOD CAUSES CANNOT DEPEND ON CHANCE ALONE.

SZERENCSEJÁTÉK ZRT.
HUNGARIAN NATIONAL LOTTERY





REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN DESK HOURS



22 SEPTEMBER 2022 / THURSDAY

- 8:30 - 9:00** Check-in open for EFHOH general meeting
- 13:30 - 14:00** Check-in open for IFHOH Biennial General Meeting
- 14:00 - 18:00** Check-in for Conference participants

23 SEPTEMBER 2022 / FRIDAY

- 8:00 - 9:00** Check-in for Conference participants

24 SEPTEMBER 2022 / SATURDAY

- 8:00 - 9:00** Check-in for Conference participants

REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE

- Access to Scientific Program and Exhibition
- Conference delegate pack (*badge, bag, pen, pad, program book*)
- Welcome reception on 22 September 2022
- Daily coffee breaks and lunches on 22- 23-24 September 2022

ACCOMPANYING PERSON'S FEES INCLUDE

- Welcome reception (*not a complete dinner*)
- Lunches
- Entrance ticket to the Szechenyi Thermal bath

Accompanying person's registration fee and exhibitor's registration fee is not valid for admission to the Scientific part of the Conference, and these fees do not include conference materials, only social events.





OFFICIAL LANGUAGES & ACCESSIBILITY

IFHOH 2022 Conference official languages are English spoken languages, English STT, Hungarian spoken language, Hungarian STT, and Hungarian Sign Language (HSL).

Live captioning in English and Hungarian as well as wifi induction loop is provided for HoH in the conference room.



BADGES

The conference identification badges are provided along with other conference items upon registration. Please wear them at all times during the event. Please note that your conference badge assures your entrance to conference premises, those without badges may be refused. The identification badges are also helpful when contacting the secretariat and other participants.



POSTERS AND BOOK PRESENTATION

Posters will be exhibited from 5 to 6 on Friday, 23 of Sept.; also from 12 to 1:30 on Saturday, 24th of Sept.



INTERNET ACCES

Free WIFI is available during the conference opening hours throughout the venue. Internet Corner is provided for participants in the social area.



MEALS

- Coffee breaks, lunches and welcome reception are included in the registration fee.
- Gala Dinner is not included in the registration fee, tickets can be purchased at the Congress Registration Desk.
Deadline is Thursday 22. September 2022
Price: 90 EUR/person



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Budapest's public transportation systems are operated by the Centre for Budapest Transport (BKK). The service includes buses, trolleybuses, trams, underground trains (Metro) and above-ground suburban trains (HÉV). Buses, trams and trolleybuses run daily from 4:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. Three of the four recent Metro lines interconnect at Deák tér Station. Service frequencies range from 15 minutes late in the evening to every two minutes at peak times. Tickets or passes must be bought before boarding. They are available at BKK Customer Service Points, tickets offices at Metro stations, from the driver onboard the bus, but best option is to use the vending machines throughout the city. Please note that front-door boarding only policy is in place on some of the bus lines (including 200E from the airport to the city).

Budapest's excellent night bus system has just been upgraded to 40 lines. Please note that to ensure that everyone has a ticket, the transport company has hired uniformed security guards who check for tickets on board.

For detailed information on public transportation fares and timetables please visit www.bkk.hu.

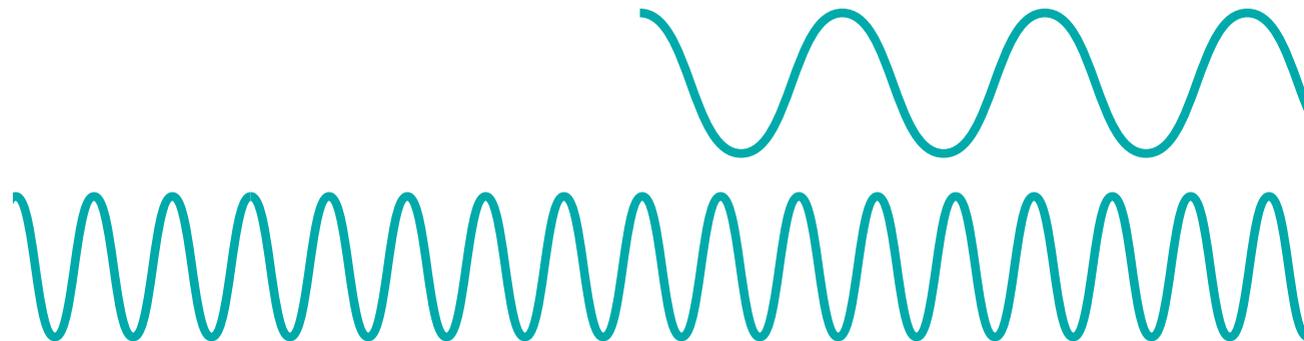
For smartphones official **BKK INFO** and **BKK FUTÁR** apps are available at Google Play and AppStore.



RECOMMENDED TAXI COMPANY

City Taxi
+36 1 211 1111
order@citytaxi.hu

Airport-City (Buda side) route should be around 8-10.000 HUF / cca 25-32 EUR. All cars accept credit cards.



SOCIAL AND OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

Welcome reception in Hotel ENSANA

Thursday 22 September 2022 19:00 - 21:00

This program is included in the registration fee. Additional tickets are available for 30 EUR/person. Refresh yourself after travelling with drinks and snacks. Come together with your friends at the conference venue in the green heart of the city!

Gala Dinner at Budapest Grand Hotel

Saturday 24th September 2022 19:00 - 22:00

Tickets are available for 90 EUR/person.

Just a few steps from the conference venue. Allow yourself to be seduced by elegance and refined style. We kindly provide the restaurant of the oldest hotel in Hungary as the venue for the gala dinner. The Grand Hotel Margaret Island is an imposing neo romantic building constructed in 1873. The graceful elegance and refined interior of the historical building, The Széchenyi Restaurant perfectly invokes the atmosphere of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During the 4-course gala dinner, we will color the evening with surprise performances.

Budapest by night

(Hotel organised)

Offering breathtaking views of Budapest landmarks, rooftop hangouts across the city come to life in summer. Some are located atop luxury hotels, others above historic buildings at prestigious locations.

Half day tour

(Hotel organised)



MED[®]EL

Hearing Solutions



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Cochlear Implant System



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CONFERENCE TABLE

22 Sept 2022 – Thursday

8:30-9:00	Registration open for EFHOH Meeting
9:00-11:30	EFHOH meeting – <i>Boróka Room</i>
11:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:00	Registration for IFHOH BGM
14:00-17:00	IFHOH Biennial General Meeting (International Federation of Hard of Hearing) – <i>Magnólia Room</i>
14:00-18:00	Registration for the Conference participants
17:00-18:00	Inter-organizations meeting – <i>Boróka Room</i>
19:00-21:00	Welcome Reception – <i>Magnólia Room</i>

23 Sept 2022- Friday

TIME	PROGRAM	SPEAKERS
9.00-10.00	Welcome session	Dr. Ruth Warick (IFHOH president) Attila Fulop (Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior) Dr. Kosa Adam (SINOSZ president) Juergen Schaeding (Conf. Patron) Hungarian Lottary Company (Patron) Kompolti Péter (Hungarian Lottary Company, Patron)
10:00-10:30	Keynote presentation	Dr. Shelly Chadha (WHO) Hearing across the life course: is it possible?
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-11:20	Keynote presentation	PhD. Laszlo Lovasz Good examples + better technology = best opportunities in a more equal and sustainable society
11:20-11:40	General session	Lucas Fisher (EHIMA) Myths and facts about hearing aid usage
11:40-12:00		PhD. Andrea Jambor (SINOSZ Board) World without barriers or voices?
12:00-13:30	Lunch	

SESSION MEETING

13:30-13:50	Theme 1: Identity and interactions: personal and social dimensions of a hearing loss	Carole Willans The Value of Mentoring and Peer Support
13:50-14:10		Dr. Ewa Domagala-Zysk A decade of progress for hard of hearing community in Poland
14:10-14:30		Ursula Soffner My life as a person with electric 'artificial' ears in Germany
14:30-14:50		Patrick S.C. D'Haese Hearing loss and mental Health
14:50-15:20	Lunch	
15:20-15:40	Theme 2: Technological innovations for hearing accessibility	Stephen Klineberg (Cochlear) Working Together to improve Access to Hearing for all
15:40-16:00		Niels H. Pontoppidan, Lidia Best Insights from data-driven hearing healthcare with smart hearing aids in Horizon 2020 project EVOTION
16:00-16:20		Juliëtte Sterkens, Rob Drullman Assistive Listening Technology – Today and Tomorrow
16:20-16:40		Christopher Sutton Inclusion of Hard of Hearing Persons in the Built Environment
16:40-17:00		Chuck Sabin (Bluetooth SIG), Andrew Thomas Technology the New Standard for Assistive Listening Systems
	Conclusion	Dr. Ruth Warick (IFHOH)
17:00-18:00	<i>View of the exhibit, displays and posters including Liisa Sammalpenger, PhD. Stina Ojala</i>	
18:00-19:00	<i>Meeting of the International Hearing Acces Commttee</i>	
19.30-22.00	<i>Social events- optional evening programs</i>	

24 Sept 2022 – Saturday		
9.00-9:10	Morning Welcome speech	Dr. Ruth Warick (IFHOH)
9:10-9:30	General session	Avi Blau (IFHOH) Artificial Intelligence for Captions creation"
9:30-9:50		Dr. Kosa Adam (SINOSZ) Why is it harder to be hard of hearing these days?"
9:50-10:10		Emese Belényi One household – How many cultures?
10:10-10:30		Moses Serwadda and Brender Wanyana Employment for Persons with Hearing Loss
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-11:20		Paulina Lewandowska Significance of IFHOHYP activities for hard of hearing (HoH) people
11:20-11:40		Sanna Kaijennen & Anniina Lavikainen Digital Participation as an Outlet for Interaction
11:40-12:00		Sue Archbold, PhD, Brian Lamb Addressing the gap in access to CI: How?
12:00-13:45	Lunch – View of Exhibit & Displays and Posters	
13:45-14:05	Medical developments for better hearing	Patrick S.C. D'Haese Digital campaigns to raise awareness on hearing loss
14:05-14:25		Shari Eberts What You Need to Know about Person-Centered Care
14:25-14:45		Heldner Benjamin (Phonak) Phonak innovations in hearing loss
14:45-15:05		Dr. Leo De Raeve Development of living guidelines for cochlear implantation in adults
15:05-15:30	Coffee break	
15:30-15:50	Theme 4: Legislative, policy and human rights advances for hard of hearing people	Liisa Sammalpenger, PhD. Stina Ojala Speech-to-text interpreting in promoting equality
15:50-16:10		Nikolai Bisgaard Hearing aid uptake across the world"
16:10-16:25		Dr. Ruth Warick and Patrick Gift Egessa Inclusive Education
16:25-16:45		Lidia Best Accessibility: a requirement to inclusion and participation
16:45-17:00		Neeta Keshary Access to Hearing Health Care
17:00-17:30	Discussion and conclusion	Dr. Ruth Warick, Joseph Murray representing World Federation of the Deaf and the International Disability Alliance
19.00-22.00	Gala dinner	

Conference Keynote Presenters – Jazmin room

Friday 23th September 2022



Dr. Shelly Chadha

Technical lead, Programme for ear and hearing care – World Health Organization (India)

Hearing across the life course: is it possible?

Dr. Chadha was trained as an otolaryngologist at the University of Delhi, India and subsequently undertook doctoral studies in public health at the same university. Prior to joining WHO, she was working as a Professor of Otolaryngology at the Maulana Azad Medical College in New Delhi, India. She has long-standing experience in community ear and hearing care, planning and policy development for hearing care. Dr. Chadha served as a member of the national committee for development of National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness in India. She was closely associated with the development of the Sound Hearing 2030 initiative in the South East Asia region. Since 2012, she has been working with the World Health Organization where she leads WHO's work in the field of ear and hearing care, including advocacy for prioritisation of hearing care; technical support to countries for development of hearing care strategies and development of technical tools and guidance.



PhD. Laszlo Lovasz

Chief Adviser to the Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Hungary

Good examples + better technology = best opportunities in a more equal and sustainable society

The presentation will focus on two interrelated aspects: social and technological innovations leading to full participation of persons with disabilities in society. In modern society continuous changes is a reality as well as a prerequisite to better innovation and solution for individualised needs, which approach is also an opportunity and value to be realised in the general public opinion. Social innovation helps to understand how existing technologies could serve the whole society and what customs and habits influence the direction of guided technological advancement via standards. Technological innovation lies within creativity and responsibility of markets with the guidance from the state representing the people. Technological innovation must serve and promote the interests of the society. To this end, we also must establish and maintain principles and moral guidelines. To set these targets, we also need focused research in terms of identifying the evolution of technology, placement of markets, and the most influential actors in the fields of planning, production and consumption – in other words: good examples + better technology = best opportunities in a more equal and sustainable society. In relation to this, civil society, together with the government, has an important role in voicing the needs of consumers with disabilities.



Lucas Fisher
European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association
(EHIMA)

Myths and facts about hearing aid usage (Germany)

According to published data, one in ten of the total EU population states a hearing loss. One in three of all hard of hearing people are treated with hearing aids. Still rumors persist, e.g., that more than every fifth hearing aid is not used and put in the drawer. Based on users' reports from the EuroTrak studies, the presentation clears up myths and shares facts about hearing aid usage. Hard of hearing people can mirror their individual hearing aid use and their personal assumptions on the issue against what other hearing aid users report on a large scale in EuroTrak studies.

EuroTrak is the largest comparative multi-country study series on hearing loss and hearing aid usage. Initiated by the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA) in 2009, EuroTrak was designed as a means for raising public awareness on key issues of hearing loss and hearing care. It sheds light on hearing loss prevalence as well as on the use of hearing aids and the experience of hard of hearing people with their hearing instruments. EuroTrak is an online panel study, covering more than 15 countries with close to 500.000 people surveyed.



Ph.D. Andrea Jambor (SINOSZ)

World without barriers or voices? (Hungary)

Severely hearing impaired since being half-a-year old. Ms. Jámber graduated as a pharmacist and got a Ph.D. in instrumental analytical chemistry. She is currently working at EGIS Pharmaceuticals PLC, where she is involved in the authorization of medicines for Russian-speaking countries.

Her primary goal is to promote the integration of hearing impaired persons into the hearing society. She and her husband have written a book about challenges and opportunities of the everyday life of the hearing impaired. This book can be used as a handbook and contains funny and sad stories about life with hard of hearing people. Her program also focuses on overcoming communication difficulties, rehabilitation of individuals with hearing loss (personality changes, increasing self-confidence, identity development), and supporting their accommodation. Expanding the international network of contacts of Hungarian Association of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People's is also of great importance, supporting all people living with hearing loss in the world. In this spirit, she has been active in SINOSZ since 2008, holding various social positions (member of the board since 2011), and she has been a Hungarian delegate at IFHOH events since 2012. She promotes deaf culture and talks to her friends using her basic sign language skills.



Carole Willans

The Value of Mentoring and Peer Support (United Kingdom)

Peer mentoring is designed to be a safe place where a mentor and a mentee can discuss the challenges they face as hard of hearing people, as well as their feelings, their questions, their opinions, their successes. The goal is to help the mentee to acquire knowledge, achieve personal growth, and develop skills that will enhance their life experience. The presenter will illustrate with examples drawn from her experience in the mentoring program of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. This national program is offered for any person with a hearing loss in Canada, connecting individuals with hearing loss virtually with someone with experience.

Ms. Willans is Interim General Secretary for the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People and a former President and Executive Director of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. She is a lawyer with profound bilateral hearing loss and wears a cochlear implant and a hearing aid. She worked in private law practice for 10 years and for 27 years as a federal lawyer working in legislative policy development of criminal law and disability law.



Dr. Ewa Domagala-Zysk

A decade of progress for hard of hearing community in Poland (Poland)

Good examples + better technology = best opportunities in a more equal and sustainable society. The presentation will focus on two interrelated aspects: social and technological innovations leading to full participation of persons with disabilities in society. In modern society continuous changes is a reality as well as a prerequisite to better innovation and solution for individualised needs, which approach is also an opportunity and value to be realised in the general public opinion. Social innovation helps to understand how existing technologies could serve the whole society and what customs and habits influence the direction of guided technological advancement via standards. Technological innovation lies within creativity and responsibility of markets with the guidance from the state representing the people. Technological innovation must serve and promote the interests of the society. To this end, we also must establish and maintain principles and moral guidelines. To set these targets, we also need focused research in terms of identifying the evolution of technology, placement of markets, and the most influential actors in the fields of planning, production and consumption – in other words: good examples + better technology = best opportunities in a more equal and sustainable society. In relation to this, civil society, together with the government, has an important role in voicing the needs of consumers with disabilities.



Ursula Soffner

My life as a person with electric ‘artificial’ ears in Germany (Germany)

This presentation focuses on the presenter’s life since her birth until today in the Federal Republic of Germany and about the interventions faced as a baby, child, teen and young adult with hearing aids and later with cochlear implants. The importance of the social system, par example the German health insurance with medical care, for her as adult obtaining a cochlear implants will be discussed. But more important than health insurance was and is the DSB, the German association for persons with different auditive disabilities. It offers for self-help and counselling with peers. DSB members are experts because of their experiences being hard of hearing, and having hearing loss or medical deafness. Without DSB the presenter feels she could have lost her integration and inclusion in a normal society in Germany, private and professional.



Patrick S.C. D’Haese

Hearing aids and cochlear implants related to social participation, depression and stigmatisation (Belgium)

The growth of the ageing European population is a trend which began several decades ago. This trend is visible in the increasing share of older people together with a declining share of working-age people in the entire population. Due to these demographic changes, hearing loss will become a prominent health problem in Europe. Of 51 million hard of hearing adults in the European Union, 34.4 million have a hearing impairment that is disabling. Two out of three are not treated for it, even though cost-effective solutions such as hearing aids and cochlear implants should be made available to them. To certain levels Age-Related Hearing loss is physiological: there is a natural decline of hearing acuity with age. Roughly 30% of men and 20% of women in Europe have a hearing loss of 30dB or more at the age of 70, and 55% of men and 45% of women aged 80 years old are affected by the condition. Untreated hearing loss and its consequent co-morbidities such as mental health disorders can prevent healthy ageing. Mental health risks are strongly linked to hearing loss and ageing. Social isolation, loneliness, and lower levels of contact with friends and family originating in hearing impairment can contribute to lower levels of mental well-being. Within this presentation, more insights will be provided, based on an in-depth literature review, on the different aspects of mental health and how they are related to hearing loss in the ageing population.



Stephen Klineberg

Working Together to improve Access to Hearing for all (Australia)

The global burden of hearing loss has been clearly documented and the evidence demonstrates Cochlear implants are a very effective intervention and cost effective. Hearing loss is the single largest modifiable risk factor for dementia. Yet many who could benefit from Cochlear implants do not receive them. The gap is significant. However, the evidence and technology continue to advance. Cochlear is supporting resolution of gaps in evidence across numerous areas and driving technology advancement. By working together across Industry, Users and Advocates, Professionals and Payers, we have the ability to champion the change and close the “access” gap.



Niels H. Pontoppidan and Lidia Best

Insights from data-driven hearing healthcare with smart hearing aids in Horizon 2020 project EVOTION (Denmark; United Kingdom)

For one full year the EU Horizon 2020 EVOTION project followed 1000 people that used smart hearing aids in detail, logging the sound environments, the sound pressure level, signal-to-noise ratio, and how they individually operated their hearing aids. While the data does not reveal what was said and done, it nevertheless provides a detailed look into the way people with hearing aids use these devices and the sound environments that they experience in everyday life. The participants were recruited at hearing clinics in United Kingdom, Greece, and Denmark that also collected additional medical data related to hearing and demographics. Preliminary analysis of the complete data show trends that could support fatigue hypothesis based on noise reduction usage patterns and reveal behavioral differences between groups of people with different degrees of hearing problems. In addition to describing hearing for the participating people with hearing problems, the data also shed light on how everyday sound environments could be harmful all citizens. These preliminary analyses show that a considerable number of the covered days could cause a small and temporary hearing loss, which has been suggested to cause permanent hearing loss after many years of repeated exposure.



Juliette Sterkens, Rob Drullman

Proposed developments in assistive listening technologies will change how hearing device users hear at home and in public spaces (USA, United Kingdom)

Hearing Loss Association of America's Get In the Hearing Loop campaign is raising awareness of the need for quality public hearing access – long provided by Infrared and RF/FM systems – via consumer preferred hearing loop systems. Hearing industry articles and advocate led changes in some state's hearing aid dispensing laws are making providers aware of the need to counsel consumers about telecoils. To assist their members, HLAA has developed a practical/educational Toolkit. Meanwhile, EHIMA is working on a Bluetooth connectivity standard which will permit streaming of high-quality stereo audio signals, called Hear Stream, direct into hearing instruments. Hear Stream is proposed as the future standard for wireless hearing aid connectivity at home and in public spaces, without needing extra accessories. This single standard across all manufacturers will ensure a consistent user experience. Consumer organizations, while excited about what the future will bring, have expressed concerns about prematurely rolling out a new technology. EHIMA, fully aware of this issue, will pay attention to usability aspects, involve stakeholders, and perform careful evaluations by a variety of end users. Results of a pilot study with a prototype Hear Stream system will be shared. A rational way forward for universal assistive technology, to benefit hearing device users of today and tomorrow, will be discussed.



Christopher Sutton

Inclusion of Hard of Hearing Persons in Accessibility Legislation and in the actual built Environment (United Kingdom)

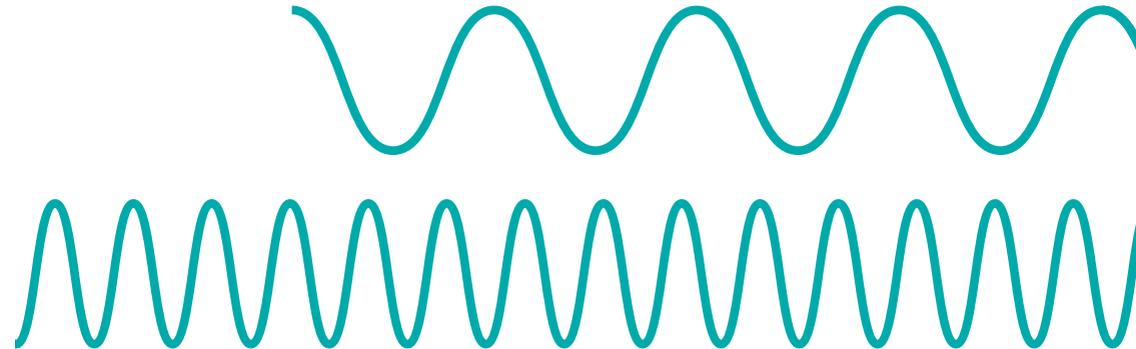
Accessibility legislation has been introduced in several provinces and federally over the past few years in Canada, in addition to various standards that have been introduced through the National Building Code and other regulatory bodies. Advocates for the hard of hearing were key contributors to the legislation in several jurisdiction, working together with other disability-related groups. In this session, the importance of effective advocacy and components of accessibility for people with hearing loss will be discussed, as well as strategies for effectively working together with other cross-disability groups and legislators for effective outcomes. The presenter will also provide an overview of the integration of legislation, standards and regulations into practice in the construction of the recently opened facility for Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility, which was named the most accessible facility in Canada for persons with disabilities by the Rick Hansen Foundation Certification Program. This award was only possible after years of hard work and dedication that combined the various universal accessibility standards, hearing assistive and adaptive technology, and the concept of DeafSpace in the development of the facility that ensured that people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing and any person of any ability was able to access a fully integrated space without barriers. This presentation will provide the audience with a visual presentation of the various accessible features and showcase how the evolution of accessibility standards and regulations, technology and a dream combined created a space that all people would be proud of.



Chuck Sabin (Bluetooth SIG), Andrew Thomas

Is Bluetooth® Technology the New Standard for Assistive Listening Systems (USA)

Bluetooth® technology is introducing a new standard for broadcast audio for assistive listening and accessibility, including enhanced listening experiences in public spaces and new sharing experiences from personal mobile devices. When this technology is available in hearing devices, it has the potential to improve the way you engage with others, and how you experience the world of audio around you. What does this mean for the future of assistive listening technology and audio accessibility? Join this workshop and learn from hearing device manufacturers and assistive listening system providers, on how this technology fits into the future of assistive listening when this technology will be available, and how it can enhance audio accessibility, for everyone. Chuck Sabin is responsible for market development and research at the Bluetooth SIG and leads a wide range of market research, market planning, and business development initiatives. Working with the Bluetooth SIG executive team, Board of Directors, and member companies, Chuck helps to expose insight, trends, and projections that influence and drive the development of strategic business priorities. A proud member of the Bluetooth SIG team for ten years, Chuck has an extensive background in marketing, product management, planning, and business development for mobile wireless networks, enterprise servers, mobile operating systems, mobile devices, and client software and services. [linkedin.com/in/chucksabin/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/chucksabin/)



Conference speaker – Jazmin room

Saturday 24th September 2022



Avi Blau (IFHOH)

Artificial Intelligence for Captions creation (Israel)

ASR (Automatic Speech Recognition) has improved significantly in the last few years by using new techniques of AI (Artificial Intelligence). As for now, IFHOH does not accept ASR-generated captions, as good enough for hard of hearing persons in public events. IFHOH, together with the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), published a statement about this issue, that can be found on the IFHOH website: www.ifhoh.org/view-asr-statement. If ASR improves, the question is what test should it pass to be considered good enough for captions in public events? Until now, the quality of captions was usually measured by their accuracy. This is the easiest parameter to measure. Latency was sometimes mentioned, but latency is hard to define and measure, so accuracy is usually used. It is suggested to take into account several factors in addition to accuracy and latency. For example, the consistency of the accuracy and the latency. How they change with time, how they change with the speed of the speaker, how they change with the level of the background noise, and maybe several more factors. There will be some demonstrations of ASR and Human-generated captions, and an effort will be made to estimate what parameters of the captions are more important for deaf and hard of hearing persons with different levels of hearing.



Dr. Adam Kosa (SINOSZ)

Why is it harder to be hard of hearing these days? (Hungary)

In 2005, I was elected President of SINOSZ. My primary task was to improve the process of providing medical devices, especially hearing aids, to Hard of Hearing people. In the intervening period, the rules have changed in countless ways and hearing aids themselves have evolved enormously. In my presentation, I will try to review this process in order to highlight areas where further progress should be made to the benefit of both the funding state and the community concerned. Hard of Hearing people and community are a valuable part of society, skilled, hard-working people who need to be presented with a vision that benefits society as a whole. SINOSZ has a strong vision that is in line with the vision of IFHOH and good practice in many countries of the world.



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We advocate for policies that improve awareness of and access to life-long hearing care. Our goal is to enable people to access treatment that is tailored to their lives and helps ensure the best long-term outcomes.

Speak with us about partnering to advance awareness and access to hearing care.

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Please seek advice from your health professional about treatments for hearing loss. Outcomes may vary, and your health professional will advise you about the factors which could affect your outcome. Always read the instructions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information.

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Hear now. And always



Emese Belenyi

**One household - How many cultures?
(Romania)**

This presentation discusses language use and identity patterns in multi-generational families set up by deaf or hard of hearing partners living in Romania, where at least one of the spouses belongs to the ethnic Hungarian minority. Language use and transmission of identity to hearing children in ethnically homogenous (Hungarian) or heterogeneous (Hungarian-Romanian) families are explored. The research is based on a survey conducted among ethnic Hungarian deaf or hard of hearing people (including ethnic Romanian spouses), life-path interviews and case studies of multi-generational deaf families. The research results denote that in the case of deaf or hard of hearing people living in ethnically homogeneous marriages who graduated from Hungarian language special school, the transmission of Hungarian identity, Hungarian sign language / oral language knowledge - combined with the components of Deaf culture – tends to be a natural and usually undisturbed process. However, if one of the spouses is Romanian, the language of communication within the family will probably be the Romanian sign language/oral language. On the other hand, in the families with ethnic minority and ethnic majority family members, complex, multifaceted linguistic communication models might prevail, favouring specific multicultural modes of intra-familial identity development and transmission. Particularly in multigenerational deaf families, a kind of special linguistic and cultural enrichment, a striving for cultural-linguistic balance can be observed, which partly stems from the natural openness and flexibility resulting from the special communication and cultural situation of deaf families.



Moses Serwadda and Brender Wanyana

**Employment for Persons with Hearing Loss
(Uganda)**

IFHOH in partnership with International Disability Alliance conducted research on inclusive employment of persons with hearing loss in Uganda from November 2020 to September 2021. The study was conducted by IFHOH-IDA Fellows Moses Serwadda and Brender Wanyana. The aim of the project was to examine the perspectives of employers towards inclusive employment, particularly for persons who are hard of hearing, and to analyze the perceptions of hard of hearing employees and prospective employees on inclusive employment in Uganda.

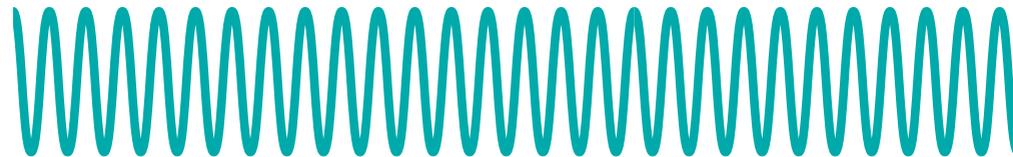
As a result of the research, factors hindering employment of hard of hearing persons were identified including: stigma and discrimination, limited awareness of hard of hearing persons and their reasonable accommodation needs among employers, misconceptions between Deaf and hard of hearing persons, and employers' organizations lack of policy guidelines and procedures related to the meaningful recruitment of persons with a hearing loss. Also identified was a lack of employability/job readiness skills for employees with hearing loss. Especially during the COVID pandemic, communication difficulties were exacerbated by use face masks.



Paulina Lewandowska

Significance of International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) activities for hard of hearing people in 22 member countries. (Poland)

More and more hard of hearing young people are actively involved in the activities of non-government organizations (NGOs) associating people with hearing loss– not only for integration purposes, but also to improve their situation, according to the slogan “Nothing about us without us”. Nowadays NGOs have an increasingly stronger impact on change at many levels: individual, social and political. The purpose of the presentation is to present results of the empirical research conducted in June 2019 among 68 participants with hearing loss from 22 countries. The target audience was: hard of hearing persons, NGO activists and researchers. The study evaluated the usefulness of IFHOHYP activities in the country of respondents. In order to collect data, one of the diagnostic survey methods was used: the author’s questionnaire sent by the CAWI technique. Closed questions were statistically analysed in the SPSS. Research results indicate that in countries where social and political situation of hard of hearing persons is not good, IFHOHYP’s activities help to improve this by providing the right tools and knowledge. Interestingly, the study shows that participants from countries, where national hard of hearing/Deaf NGOs have many members, have difficulty determining the usefulness of international NGOs in social and political aspects – only at the level of integration is this assessment high.





Sanna Kaijane & Anniina Lavikainen

Digital Participation as an Outlet for Interaction. Improving Competence, Autonomy and Relatedness among the Hard-of-Hearing Elderly in Finland through a Digital Skills Game (Finland)

Finland is digitalizing its services. For the hard of hearing persons, in theory, this means accessible services. In practice, 30% of the population feel left out, with those living with disabilities at a high risk (Koskiahio & Saariaho 2019; VM & DVV 2020). Digital Skills is a three-year project of the Finnish Hearing Association (2019–2021) that improves the digital participation of the hard of hearing elderly. We designed a Digital Skills card game that aims to improve the competences, autonomy and relatedness of the participants.

Nineteen game workshops were organized between 2019 and 2021 (N=186). The participants provided written feedback after workshops. The workshop leader kept a journal. The game has been printed for the participants. The results indicate positive learning outcomes and an outlet for interaction. Long-term outcomes depend on (1) building a safe and accessible learning environments, (2) providing sufficient time and repetitions for the participants, (3) continuous efforts to support learning. This workshop demonstrates how organizations can play a key role in supporting the digital participation of its members. Digital skills game is an innovative example on how digital skills learning can be used as a method to promote competence, autonomy and relatedness among hard-of-hearing elderly.

- ▶ Challenges for advocacy work: managing diversity, shortage of time and resources, mixed messages, too many organisations, lack of advocacy training.
- ▶ Strong enthusiasm for advocacy action with advocacy/user/family groups working together, increasing the user voice globally for CI access and long-term management.

Conclusion: The respondents valued CI advocacy and gave 52 examples of its impact. However, initiatives are under-resourced and fragmented. A global advocacy network for CI users and their families was proposed and implemented: CIICA, the CI International Community of Action.



Patrick S.C. D'Haese

Increasing awareness and access to cochlear implantation through the hearpeers programme (Belgium)

Between 0.5 to 5 in every 1000 children worldwide are born with or develop sensorineural deafness in their early childhood according to the World Health Organization (WHO). While the prevalence rate varies by country (developing countries tend to have higher rates) it is a fact that children's development of speech, language, and cognitive skills, educational and career opportunities, and ultimately their quality-of-life, suffer if they are denied the ability to hear. The burden of hearing loss and the need for action by is increasingly recognised the WHO. A child with severe-to-profound bilateral hearing impairment, without cochlear implantation, may not, depending on the extent of hearing loss, be able to perceive environmental noises regardless of their loudness or nearness and he/she will certainly lack the ability to develop an understanding of human speech or develop the ability to produce speech at a level close that of people with normal hearing. After cochlear implantation, children will be able to hear sounds that normal-hearing people take for granted like everyday conversations, ringing telephones, traffic, and sirens; all of which, without a cochlear implant, they would have not perceived or perceived as too soft and unclear to be of benefit.

Repeated studies have shown children with profound deafness who use a cochlear implant have a normal language development and are significantly better at perceiving, understanding, and producing meaningful speech and reading than they would be if they had a hearing aid or received no auditory assistance. These benefits are especially pronounced if they are implanted before their first birthday.

The aim of this presentation is to further expand on how increasing access and awareness to innovative solutions as cochlear implants, can be established through the HearPeers programme. Within this presentation, the focus will be on the digital aspects of the program.



Ph.D. Sue Archbold, Brian Lamb

Addressing the global gap in access to CI and lifelong services for adults. How do we do it? The role of advocacy (United Kingdom)

Interviews undertaken with 32 individuals from 22 countries, and survey of 63 individuals from 28 countries on their views on the barriers to CI and the role of advocacy. Content analysis of responses identified and prioritised the major themes.

Results: Themes:

- ▶ Barriers to access to CI: lack of awareness of the impact of hearing loss and CI, lack of referral pathways, insufficient funding.
- ▶ Strengths of advocacy work: increased grass roots action, decision makers listen to the user voice, inclusion of diversity, flexibility and responsiveness.





Shari Eberts

What You Need to Know about Person-Centered Care (USA)

Person-Centered Care (PCC) sounds technical, and something that hearing care providers should worry about, so why is it important for us—the people with hearing loss to understand what it is and how to look for it? There are many reasons, but the most important is that the more we know about PCC, the more likely it is that we will receive it. Identifying a practitioner that uses PCC isn't always easy. "What You Need to Know about Person-Centered Care" describes the four main characteristics of person-centered care and provides the tools you need to identify whether your provider is using it in your care. Attendees will leave the presentation understanding why PCC is important to them, how to identify providers that practice PCC and what their role is in building the strong client/provider partnership that PCC requires.



Benjamin Heldner

Phonak innovations in hearing loss (Switzerland)

Benjamin Heldner first joined Phonak in August 2005 as an engineer and moved into product management in 2012. In his current role as senior product manager, Ben works closely with engineers to develop Roger solutions that meet the needs of hearing and cochlear implant users so they can communicate better in challenging listening situations. Ben has a profound hearing loss and wears a Phonak Naida Paradise hearing aid on the right side and a cochlear implant on the left side. He uses Roger technology throughout his everyday life.



Dr. Leo De Raeve

Development of living guidelines for cochlear implantation in adults (Australia)

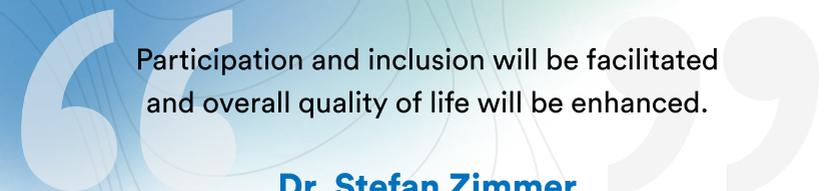
International guidelines and clearly defined care pathways on adult cochlear implantation (CI) are limited, and country-specific guidelines vary and are associated with disparate levels of access and systemic underuse across the world. In 2020, consensus statements were published representing the first step toward the development of international guidelines on best practices for CI in adults with severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss (SPNHL). The standard of care for adults with hearing loss should include treatments that best improve the individual's quality of life through optimizing hearing function, social participation, and engagement. For adults with SPNHL, the standard of care includes an accurate diagnosis and timely referral to an appropriate specialist centre for assessment and counselling. When it is indicated as the most beneficial treatment option, the patient should be advised by an appropriate healthcare professional about access to cochlear implantation (CI) and aftercare. An international group of

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Dr. Stefan Zimmer
Secretary General of EHIMA

CI users and experts in the fields of otology, audiology, and hearing care have been brought together to form a Task Force in partnership with the Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CIICA). The aim of the Task Force is to develop living practice guidelines and guidance that can be adapted and adopted in country, to optimise the care for adults indicated for CI. Member affiliations will extend to national and international organisations and a wide range of stakeholders implementing hearing care solutions within the community and most importantly patient representatives with SPSNHL. The overall objective of the Task Force is to contribute to and support the effective development and subsequent dissemination and adoption into practice of a set of accurate, consistent, and usable guidance and guidelines.

Health Technology Analysts, an independent healthcare consultancy, will coordinate the Task Force and provide technical expertise to bring the guidance and guidelines to fruition.

As the guidance and guidelines will need to be updated as new evidence is published, the aim of the Task Force is therefore for continuity and evolution over the long-term. Developing a consistent approach to optimizing the care for hearing impaired adults who may not receive adequate benefit from hearing aids will help raise awareness and better define referral and treatment pathways, so patients can receive information about a treatment option that may help them.



Liisa Sammalpenger, PhD. Stina Ojala

Speech-to-text interpreting in promoting equality (Finland)

Speech-to-text interpreting in promoting equality Stina Ojala, PhD, researcher, Department of Computing, University of Turku, Finland

Liisa Sammalpenger, expert by experience, Finland Speech-to-text interpreting is not just typing words but requires interpreting speech to readable text. This includes using text-based conventions, such as capitalization, paragraph breaks and punctuation. Interpreters in Finland use qwerty-based keyboards connected to either a laptop, a tablet computer or a smartphone and diverse interpreting strategies to present a concise and compacted output text. By default this is done in-person, but some specialized speech-to-text platforms can also be accessed over a secure internet connection.

This ensures that speech-to-text interpreting can be accessed remotely and thus makes it more mobile in everyday life. The need for remote interpreting arose especially due to the on-going covid-19 pandemic. Speech-to-text interpreters use various interpreting strategies and methods in different countries. These choices are language-dependent, as language families vary in syntactic, lexical and pragmatic processing of the orthographic words. Some of the speech-to-text interpreting software are language-dependent and can be used in one language per setting. However, using a qwerty-based keyboard in interpreting allows multilingual settings and makes speech-to-text interpreting language, operating system and software independent.

This presentation deals with Nordic speech-to-text interpreting possibilities in all its variations. In Finland it is possible for the person with a severe or profound hearing loss to book speech-to-text interpreting free of charge for various settings depending on one's interests and needs. Examples vary from dentist's appointment to having covid-19 vaccinations, from family gatherings to class reunions, from operating theatres to conventional ones, from international conference meetings to the all-important socialising between sessions. Remote speech-to-text interpreting has made speech-to-text interpreting more versatile as it only requires limited space within e.g. an airplane, an operating theatre or a recording studio. This versatility has increased accessibility and equality for people with severe or profound hearing loss.



Nikolai Bisgaard

Hearing aid uptake across the world (Denmark)

Many attempts have been made to estimate hearing aid coverage across the world but since very little up to date data is publicly available it is hard to do such estimates. The European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA) has for many years been collecting data on the number of hearing aids sold in countries across the world and has granted permission to use this data to estimate hearing aid coverage in a more accurate way. It seems very logical that there must be a connection between the number of hearing aids sold over a period of time and the number of hearing aid users. The presentation will explain the model behind these estimates and show the result for several regions across the world.



**Mr. Patrick Gift Egessa (Board Member IFHOH)
Dr. Ruth Warick (President IFHOH)**

Inclusive Education: Realities Facing Hard of Hearing Learners in Uganda and Nepal (Uganda, Canada)

Education is a key to individual growth and societal progress. However, persons who are hard of hearing are faced with considerable barriers in accessing education. In this session, presenters will share their findings from an IFHOH Inclusive Education project recently conducted in Uganda and Nepal. Field interviews were conducted with students, parents, teachers, administrators and key stakeholders. The rich data from the study's 82 respondents revealed significant findings that will be discussed in this webinar, including:

- The invisibility of the needs of hard of hearing learners in educational policies
- Lack of knowledge about the accessibility and communication requirements of hard of hearing learners
- Lack of provision of actual accessibility supports such as captioning and assistive devices. As well, students lack access to hearing aids.
- Early identification of hearing loss and intervention is weak.
- Lack of training specific to the needs of hard of hearing learners for teaching and educational administrative staff

Findings are contained in a study report which is available on the IFHOH website of www.ifhoh.org. Both presenters were involved with the project with Dr. Warick taking a formative role and Mr. Gift Egessa serving on the project team which also included Brender Wanyana, Neeta Keshary, Jeevan Bhattarai and Karina Chupina (project lead consultant). The project was undertaken with support from the International Disability Alliance and was funded by UK Aid and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.



Lidia Best

Accessibility: a requirement to inclusion and participation (United Kingdom)

Persons who are hard of hearing are influencing the development of new standards at ITU, the UN International Telecommunications Union. The UN CRPD contains in its overriding message, respect for persons with disabilities' right to be treated equally in society. Accessibility is a requirement to inclusion and participation in life. Accessibility for persons who are hard of hearing is fragmented at the present time. It can be confusing for both persons who are hard of hearing and those who are expected to provide accessibility accommodation to ICTs and meetings. For example, the experiences of people with hearing loss using captioning vary considerably. At the ITU, there are benchmarks and procedures which are measurable for accessibility and inclusion. They are essential components of ITU accessibility standards and non accessibility standards that contain accessibility features. Accessibility features in both cases need to be recognized and implemented. All international and regional standards are voluntary unless mandated by legislation. This can only be done by each respective country. Lidia Best, will present the ongoing work on including accessibility features in the standardization process and how meetings are made accessible for all persons with disabilities. It is important for all to learn how hard of hearing organisations can use the current consented standards and approved accessibility guidelines as part of their advocacy efforts.



Neeta Keshary, MA, Nepal (President SHRUTI)

Hearing Health Care Access (Nepal)

This session will present findings from a study undertaken about hearing health access or hard of hearing persons in Nepal last year under the auspices of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People and the International Disability Alliance. The findings were that there is a lack of knowledge and understanding of the communication needs of hard of hearing persons among health professionals. Hard of hearing persons were found to experience communication barriers during their medical visits – they were often unable to hear health providers which were exacerbated by noisy environments and the wearing of covered masks during the pandemic. A lack of knowledge about communication strategies and available accommodations among health professionals affected access to healthcare hard of hearing persons. Recommendations included a call for better training of health professionals, the development of resource materials on communication strategies and the establishment of protocols for accessible communication in risk-averse situations. The foregoing information will be shared during the session. As an IFHOH-IDA Fellow, Ms. Keshary was the lead researcher and author for the project working under the supervision of Dr. Ruth Warick of IFHOH.



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POSTER SESSIONS



Liisa Sammelpenger and PhD. Stina Ojala Vibrotactile aids in daily living solutions

The human body is able to feel vibrations that help to decipher both intonation patterns and changes in the sound volumes. That combination helps to ease the load of listening to speech with hearing aids or cochlear implants only, or in case you don't benefit from them. You can also think out of the box and experiment listening to music with your body - and get the full benefit from your mobile phone's vibration alerts. During the exhibit hall you can experience the feel of the various vibrotactile aids on display.



Shari Eberts Co-Author of Hear & Beyond

Take this opportunity to meet with Shari Eberts, Co-author with Gael Hannan of the book Hear & Beyond, and Live Skillfully with Hearing Loss. As noted on their book back cover, the authors "share their own hearing loss journeys and outline invaluable insights, strategies and work-arounds to help you engage with the world and be heard." Copies of the book will be available for purchase and autographs.



Muhammad Akram President, Association of Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened

Mr. Muhammad Akram will share the development of the Asia Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened since its inception to current priorities and challenges in this session. The presenter is the president of the Federation and a member of the IFHOH Board. He lives in Pakistan.



Patrick Gift Egessa and Dr. Ruth Warick Inclusive Education

As a compliment to their presentation, the presenters will be available to discuss their findings from an IFHOH Inclusive Education project and will have copies available of the project report to share.



Moses Serwadda and Brender Wanyana Employment for Persons with Hearing Loss

Presenters will discuss their student on employment of persons with hearing loss in Uganda from November 2020 to September 2021 when they interviewed employers, hard of hearing employees and prospective employees. The post session compliments their presentation the same topic.



Neeta Keshary Hearing Health Care Access

The presenter will discuss further findings from her study about hearing health access including communication and access challenges. Copies of the project report will be available.

HOTEL ENSANA MAP



T-SIGN

Transset T-SIGN™ is a patented intelligent loop sign that shows everyone in the room how well and if the hearing loop works. With T-SIGN mounted on the wall or on the ceiling hearing accessibility will be visible for everyone.



Why visualize?

As hard of hearing people are dependent on hearing loops it will be a great disappointment if they do not function. With T-SIGN it will be easy for everyone to check that the hearing loop works without using specific measurement tools or hearing aids.

T-SIGN can be used to check hearing loops in real time by technicians, speakers and audience. It will also give an indication to hard of hearing people that the hearing loop is on and functions. If signs are installed along seat rows it can guide the audience where to expect a properly functioning hearing loop as they are not always installed in all parts of the room.

What does T-SIGN show?

T-SIGN shows if the hearing loop is on but also confirms that the sound level is in a correct level so that hearing aid users can benefit from it. There can

be many reasons why sound level on hearing loop changes as it is dependent on several factors such as speakers microphone use, mixer board setting and other audio equipment.

T-SIGN measures the signal strength 60 times per second and gives an average indication to the audience in comparison to a measuring tool that all the time changes as sound level differs upon speech or other type of sound. This means T-SIGN will serve but not disturb. It is only upon a problem that appears over time such as a too strong or too weak signal that T-SIGN will switch indication and display a red loop symbol (too strong level on the hearing loop) or breathing green loop symbol (too weak signal on the hearing loop). Upon corrective action as bringing the microphone closer to the mouth T-SIGN instantly goes back to steady green.



FURTHER
INFORMATION AND
REGISTRATION
WWW.SKONTAKT.HU
INFO@SKONTAKT.HU



How do I become a KONTAKT user?

All you have to do is:

- register on the following website:
www.skontakt.hu
- after this first step, the next one is the conclusion of the contract that you can do whether
 - in person at the KONTAKT Customer Service Office (H-1068 Budapest, Benczúr u 21.)
 - or by post
- the third step is the provision of the necessary client devices (as a future client you shall have tools such as an own computer, laptop, smartphone or tablet)
- and finally, you will also need a stable Internet connection

How much does this service cost?

Currently, for private persons, KONTAKT services are free of charge.

What can I do if I do not have an own client device?

We provide tablets that our clients can borrow under very favourable conditions (this is available only for the members of the Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing).

We have the honour to draw the attention of our business partners to KONTAKT Interpreting Services.

**WE ARE
TOGETHER
WITHOUT
BARRIERS!**

