

## Report

of

the 10 th INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF HISTORY OF OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY meeting  
in Utrecht The Netherlands.

The meeting was scheduled from Thursday September 29 through Saturday October 1 in 'Paushuize' in the ancient centre of Utrecht the Netherlands. The program started with a welcome dinner in the "La Cantina di David" "in one of the oldest "werfkelders" ( the 15th century storehouses on the river Rhine) of Utrecht beautiful located at the main canals. The next day the scientific program took place in the recently magnificently restored conference rooms of the "Paushuize". This place was built by cardinal Adriaan Boeyens before he was elected as Pope of Rome in 1522. The scientific program consisted of twelve inspirational lectures of high standard (see abstracts) and Exhibits by Utrecht University Museum, dr. Wolf Luebbers, Hannover, Kugler, Amsterdam . Over 30 persons visited the meeting. On Saturday a visit to the Senate room with the 17-19th century paintings of university professors and a visit to the Aula followed by a walk through the oldest streets of the city ended in the Buurkerk (10th century) with a visitation of the museum 'Speelklok'.

It was decided that the next meeting of the ISHO will be in Varna Bulgaria autumn 2017

Rinze A.Tange

The organizing Committee 10th ISHO meeting 2016



From left to right : Bert Huizing , Kees Graamans & Rinze Tange

Group photo visitors of the 10th ISHO 30-9-16 Paushuize Utrecht



## **ABSTRACTS**

### **Jusepe de Ribera created etchings of noses, mouths, and ears, including a third degree dysplasia in the 1620s.**

Wolfgang Pirsig

Jusepe de Ribera, also known as Giuseppe or José, (1591-1652), was a Spanish painter and printmaker known for his naturalism and dramatic use of light and shadow which inspired many painters of the Baroque period in Italy and Spain. He obviously took a fancy to depict people with deformities like „the Boy with the Clubfoot“ or the bearded woman „Magdalena Ventura“ and also martyred saints or tortured gods often in a horrific manner. He was a master of drawings and his etchings are considered to be the best before Goya in Spain. In the Kupferstichkabinett of Berlin I was fascinated by a series of his etchings between 1620 and 1630. These etchings of normal and deformed noses, mouths, and auricles, among the latter an ear with a third degree dysplasia grade, will be presented.

### **Lucae’s springy pressure probe to mobilize the ossicular chain: rise and fall of an ingenious instrument**

Rinze Tange, Albert Mudry

In 1884 the German otologist Johann Constantin August Lucae (1835-1911) from Berlin introduced a new “method to mechanically treat chronic troubles of the mobility of the hearing organ transmission apparatus”. It consisted in the use of a springy pressure probe to directly mobilize the short process of the malleus. The aim of this study is to trace the invention, clinical use, technological modifications and disparition of this instrument. We reviewed Lucae’s publications, comments by his colleagues, and trade catalogues published between 1880 and 1940. Lucae presented at least six different models of his springy pressure probe during all his career. Some of his colleagues modified it. The success rate was very disputed, thus leading it to oblivion soon after Lucae’s death. Lucae’s spring pressure probe is another exemple of the ingenuity of man to try to find a solution confronted with an unclear and unresolved otological problem.

### **Investigation of a mummy of an unborn boy from the Renaissance by micro computer tomographic scan.**

Sokiranski R, Haase S, Klocke J, Gauert O, Pirsig W

It is an unusual story how the mummy of an unborn boy looking like an Egyptian mummy at the first glance had come into possession of Stephan Haase, maxillofacial surgeon at the University of Ulm. In 1991, Haase, Pirsig and Parsche had published about an Egyptian mummy with a mandibular fracture. In 1998, Haase got a call from the Police in Lüdenscheid near Cologne, asking whether he was the author of this article. After Haase's confirmation, the police told him that a child mummy had been offered in the local newspaper for sale. Its owner had declared that his father had brought the mummy home from a trip to Egypt. Because of a suspect of illegal provenance the mummy had been confiscated by the police

and thus Haase was asked to investigate it. Some weeks later in Ulm, an elderly man handed over the mummy to Haase together with a document stating the name of the new owner. Upon receiving a confirmation by the police that the case was finally closed from their point of view, we continued a thorough investigation of the mummy, including a CT scan in Ulm in 1998 and radiocarbon dating of a hair sample, carried out by the Physical Institute of the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg in 2005. We were surprised that the calculated age of the mummy was dated to the Renaissance period and not to the time of Egyptian mummification which ended in the eighth century A.D. due to the influence of Muslim religion. In 2016, the first author again investigated the mummy using the most modern micro CT scan (0.4 mm slices) and received more brilliant anatomical images than in 1998. Because of several details in the mummified child which differed from the usual techniques of Egyptian mummification we looked for help by Egyptologists. Inspired by a running outstanding exhibition on 'Mummies of the World' in the Roemer-Pelizaeus-Museum in Hildesheim/Germany, we included the restaurator Jens Klocke and Oliver Gauert, one of the curators, in our investigation. Here we present some of the CT scans with focus on the temporal bones and a probable solution of the mummy's provenance

### **Otology at the Academy of Gondishapur East and West 200 – 600 CE**

Robert J. Ruben

During the period 200 to 600 CE, at a time when little progress in medicine was being made in Greco-Roman western Europe, southern Persia was home to preservation and dissemination of medical knowledge. Medical information that had been developed earlier in the East -- India -- and the West was studied, preserved, taught and developed through the establishment of the Academy of Gondishapur in southern Persia during the third century CE. This Academy was, in so far as known, the first ever teaching hospital. Medicine from the known world, East and West, was incorporated into the curriculum and texts. The translations of these documents have been analyzed for the diagnosis and care of otological diseases and disorders and are systematically summarized. Amongst the many interesting findings is a heretofore unappreciated description detailed in the Shruta Samhita of the use of a pedicle cheek flap for the reconstruction of the pinna. This technique is not mentioned by either Paré or Tagliacozzi.

### **Fixation of stapes footplate in Early Bronze Age: was it caused by otosclerosis?**

Wolfgang Pirsig , Roman Sokiranski, Bärbel Ziemann-Becker, Maria Teschler-Nicola

Otosclerosis is a histologically clearly defined pathology in the temporal bone of unknown cause. In 1995 three of the authors had published an observation of a stapedial footplate fixation in an excavated skull from a cemetery in Franzhausen in Austria. The skull was dated to about 2000 BC, the period of the Early Bronze Age. In 1990, the diagnose was made using an operating microscope and a cold light endoscope. In the right temporal bone normal conditions of the ossicles and oval window were found. In 1991, a CT scan did not show the stapes fixation or signs of otosclerosis in the right temporal bone. Recently the right temporal bone and the healthy left one were investigated again using high resolution micro CT scan (0.4 mm slices, 0.2 mm slice distance) to decide whether the reason for the stapedial footplate fixation could be found. Using the improved CT scan no signs of otosclerosis could be found

but the exact anatomy of the stapedial footplate fixation could be visualized by multiplanar reconstruction.

### **The Ónodi Collection – Lost and Found**

Neil Weir

The paper traces the life of Adolph Ónodi (1857-1919) and the catalysts which led to the formation of his collection of wet and dry specimens of the nose and sinuses in adults and children. On his Father's death in November 1919 and faced with poverty and unemployment induced by World War 1 and the Hungarian Bolshevik revolution Ladislaus Ónodi sought to sell the Collection. It was eventually purchased in 1922 by a group of British laryngologists and was presented to the Royal College of Surgeons of England. A definitive Catalogue of the Ónodi Collection was published, in conjunction with the College, in 1934 by the Journal of Laryngology and Otology. Sadly the majority of the wet collection and a half of the dry collection were destroyed in 1941 when the Royal College of Surgeons was bombed. Today after some searching 15 wet and 83 dry specimens remain of which a selection are to be found on display in the Pathology Museum of the College.

#### **"Freud's Friend, Fliess."**

John Riddington Young

Wilhelm Fliess, a Berlin ENT Surgeon, was Freud's closest friend and confidante. Fliess postulated that reflex nasal neurosis was based on the important physiological connection between the nose and the genitals. He described specific genital spots located on the nasal inferior turbinate. Fliess' second preoccupation was with vital periodicities. He believed that the symptoms of his reflex nasal neurosis in both men and women followed regular 28-day cycles like female menstruation. He further proposed a male 23-day "menstrual" cycle, which again occurred in both sexes, which he centred specifically on the nasal turbinate. This eccentric otologist, however, exerted a profound influence on Freud's conception of human development, which is often undervalued.

*Now published in HistoriaORL.com: <http://www.historiaorl.com/john-riddington-young-freud-and-fliess/>*

#### **Utrecht 1958; radioactivity alarm after Crowe's radium therapy**

K. Graamans

In the fifties and the sixties Crowe's radium therapy was widely used in children with adenoid related disorders such as chronic rhinitis and recurrent otitis. The ORL Department of the University Hospital Utrecht disposed of the appropriate equipment for this therapy and the procedure was carried out on a routine basis. In 1958 a 5-year-old girl had this treatment. When the applicator was removed the radium tip inadvertently was left in the nasopharynx. In the evening at home she had to vomit which caused a spread of radioactive material. This resulted in a situation that at that time was considered as a sort of nuclear disaster. The house was taken down. The debris was encased in concrete containers that consequently were transported by train to the naval base in den Helder and eventually shipped to the Atlantic Ocean. There they were dropped in 3 km deep water.

A world wide storm of publicity accompanied these events, newspapers all over the world

reported what had happened. At that time the threat of atomic warfare after World War II had resulted in a widespread fear of radioactivity, regardless of the factual risks. The events also resulted in a sharp drop in the application of Crowe's radium therapy and eventually this treatment was definitively abandoned in the beginning of the eighties.

This case history illustrates that decisions on the value of therapies can be based on emotional factors, rather than being the result of scientific evaluation; medical decision making has great similarities with political decision making.

The patient did not experience any harm although she must have been exposed to a hundred-fold dose of radiation. She is now 63 years old and in good health. She has two healthy children and two grandchildren.

Now published in *HistoriaORL.com*: <http://www.historiaorl.com/kees-graamans-utrecht-1958-radioactivity-alarm/>

### **The sources of „fowl otosclerosis“ (Hühnerotosklerose) found in the Karl Wittmaack's temporal bone collection and Clemens Werner's scientific heritage.**

Thomas Benkendorf , Wolfgang Pirsig,

In 2014 Rinze Tange published the book: 'The History of Otosclerosis Treatment. A survey of more than a century's searching for the best treatment of the disease.' One of his conclusions was that the aetiology of the disease is still unknown. In 1919, Karl Wittmaack published the book 'Die Otosklerose auf Grund eigener Forschungen.' (Otosclerosis based on own research) where he supported his concept about the etiology by experiments in fowls. In his time Wittmaack's temporal bone collection was the largest one worldwide and contained 90 temporal bones with otosclerosis. Between 1926 and 1936, the collection was enlarged by the biologist Clemens Werner who gave support to Wittmaack performing animal experiments also including fowls. In the 1970s, the senior author (WP) restored the Wittmaack collection and inherited large parts of Werner's library and histological research in 1975 which he included in Wittmaack's collection in Hamburg in 2009. In the last years both of us again restored the huge collection of Wittmaack and Werner, where we found a lot of the original sources about the fowl otosclerosis. This material will be presented here.

### **Robert Barany's commemorative memorabilia issued since his death in 1936**

Albert Mudry,

Robert Barany (1876-1936) was the first otorhinolaryngologist to receive the Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine in 1914. The aim of the present study is to try to collect Barany's various honorary and commemorative memorabilia produced since his death in 1936, which notably include the dates of his 60<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of Nobel Prize, and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Various objects have been found, notably two medals, one society, seven different official and one cinderella stamp with various first day covers, seven different cover letters, two stylized portraits, two sets of coins, two streets, one playing card, one film poster, one watercolor portrait and other memorabilia. All these memorabilia demonstrate that Robert Barany remains a famous Nobel Prize winner and also a well-known otorhinolaryngologist.

**Three short stories about cerumen  
Historic and sociocultural glimpses on a „sordid“ business**

Wolf Lübbers, Hannover/Germany

In my talk, I will share three peculiar anecdotes about the ENT doctor's "gold nuggets" illustrating each one of them with several antique objects and literary findings. First an absolutely unknown doctoral dissertation from an unfortunately very well-known physician written at the University of Würzburg/Germany in 1888 is presented. The second anecdote deals with a catholic relic kept in the monastery of Bordesholm/Germany in 1635, which explains why Virgin St. Mary needed an ENT doctor. In the last part, I will give a short overview of the genetic and sociocultural differences of the cerumen and the different ways to remove it in Asian and European regions. I will illustrate this with historic Roman, Chinese, Indian, Arabic, and modern instruments.

**“Het opsporen van waarheid omdat men haar alleen om haarzelve liefheeft” (The  
Search for Truth since one loves her because of herself)  
A Welcome- Introduction to Utrecht and its Otorhinolaryngology**

Egbert H. Huizing, Utrecht

In this 'Welcome to Utrecht' the rich history of the city, of its university and of otorhinolaryngology is overviewed. The foundation of the city in 48 AD as a Roman Castellum, its position as a religious centre and centre of power in later centuries and its pope Adrianus IV in whose palace our meeting is held. Utrecht was, in 1579, the place where the Dutch republic was founded, the first republic after the Roman. In 1636 in the middle of the Dutch Golden Age the Utrecht University was opened and the first woman student was allowed to attend the lectures, although in secret. The thunderstorm that destroyed the cathedral in 1674, and the Treaty of Utrecht that, in 1713, ended wars between most European Kingdoms were the most memorable events in later years. In the second half of the 19th century, the medical faculty played an international role, in particular thanks to the work by Donders and by Harting who taught Corti how to examine the membranous structures of the labyrinth and whose philosophy of scientific research has been chosen as the title of this presentation. In 1865 a municipal policlinic for diseases of the throat and of the ear (among others) was opened. A lector in laryngology was appointed in 1869, a docent in otology in 1886. In the first decades of the 20th century Utrecht became a major centre of research in the field of ORL with historical contributions by Zwaardemaker (nasal breathing: 1889, presbycusis: 1891, olfaction: 1895, hearing aids: 1912), Mink (nasal valve: 1902), Quix (translabyrinthine removal of acoustic neurinoma: 1911), De Kleijn (Van De Hoeve-De Kleijn syndrome: 1918), Stenvers (X-ray position: 1918), Quix (otolith physiology: 1923), Magnus and co-workers (postural reflexes: 1912-1928), Van Egmond and co-workers (cupulometry: 1948). In the years 1980-2005, the department featured full professors in ORL-Chair, ORL-oncology, Audiology, Phoniatics and Experimental Otology.

