International Symposium on
Hearing Disorders in Early Childhood
Etiology, Screening, Diagnostics and Rehabilitation
6-8 May, 2004
Prague, Czech Republic

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Zdeněk Kabelka

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great honour and pleasure to invite you to the Czech Republic for the Symposium on Hearing Disorders in Early Childhood to be held in Prague from the 6th – 8th May 2004.

Early diagnosis and habilitation of hearing impairment has been one of our primary goals and a focus of our efforts over many years. Contemporary hearing screening technology now allows us to identify children with hearing problems several days after birth. Regrettably, these scientific advances have not always been matched by favourable financial conditions, especially in so-called Eastern European countries. This symposium calls for participants to share their solutions. We hope to find common arguments and identify the priorities to present to our respective Healthcare services.

We hope that this Prague Symposium will attract a wide range of professional specialists - ENT doctors, audiologists, phoniatricians, speech and hearing therapists, teachers of the deaf and others who are interested in this field.

In close collaboration with leading world experts in the field of hearing we have arranged a stimulating program that contains exciting round table discussions, and we welcome ideas from all participants. We do not plan for free paper sessions, but all contributions will be acknowledged as official presentations.

Let me assure you that this meeting finds Prague in her most beautiful season, and will provide you with relaxation and inspire you with her “Genius loci.” Prague was the ancient capital of the Czech Kingdom and the seat of the oldest University North of the Alps, Charles University was founded by the Czech King and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV in 1348. The fortunes and destiny of the city through centuries of war, plagues and disasters has made it one of the greatest examples of art and architecture in the world today.

We sincerely hope that our symposium will be a success and that you will leave Prague with feelings of empowerment and of mutual support as well as great cultural satisfaction.

Zdenek Kabelka

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The purpose of the meeting is to analyse the current situation in paediatric audiology, its theoretical and practical possibilities and limitations, with a special focus on the Eastern and Central European countries.

Each topic will be covered in a broad perspective in order to give the multidisciplinary audience a comprehensive overview, rather than specialized details. Therefore we do not plan for free paper sessions. The whole symposium will be held as panels.

Poster presentations are welcome.

Each panel will be opened by a key-note presentation (approx. 30 min) followed by individual contributions by each panelist and concluded by an open discussion. Expected total time for each panel is approx. 120 minutes.

All participants are encouraged to contribute to open discussions with their descriptions of the current situation in their countries and with their visions of possible developments and solutions for the future.

Main topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal hearing screening</td>
<td>Monika Lehnhardt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epidemiology and genetics of hearing disorders</td>
<td>Pavel Seeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology and plasticity of the auditory pathways</td>
<td>Josef Syka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostics of hearing disorders in early childhood</td>
<td>William P. R. Gibson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing aids</td>
<td>Stig Arlinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochlear implants</td>
<td>William P. R. Gibson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation of children with hearing disorders</td>
<td>Sue Archbold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs and benefits in auditory habilitation</td>
<td>Monika Lehnhardt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final programme will consider all these topics and its detailed structure will reflect the key interests and the number of contributions from participants.
International scientific faculty

International panel sessions

Thursday 6. May 2004 8.30 – 16.00

International panel sessions

(Conference venue)

Friday 7. May 2004 8.30 – 14.00

Paediatric audiology

in the Czech Republic

scientific programme in Czech language

(Faculty hospital Prague – Motol)

Saturday 8. May 2004 8.30 – 12.30

Call for abstracts

Abstracts for oral contributions to the panel discussions and for posters should be sent to the scientific committee of the symposium for review. The abstracts can be accepted in electronic form only. Please send the abstracts to the following electronic address:

E-Mail: lesny@cesnet.cz

The guidelines for abstract formatting are as follows:

- Use either Microsoft Word (*.DOC), Open Office Writer (*.SXW), Rich text format (*.RTF), HTML or plaintext file format. Abstracts cannot contain images. The abstracts will be reformatted in order to create a CD ROM presentation.
- The abstract title should be less than 200 characters long.
- The names of the authors can be in any order; the presenting author should be marked with an asterisk (*).
- The abstract text should be less than 2000 characters long.

THE DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION IS 28th FEBRUARY, 2004

Posters

Posters should be displayed from Thursday May 6th during the whole symposium. The size of the poster board is 100 x 100 cm.

Official language

The official language of the symposium is English with simultaneous translation to Czech.

Conference secretariat

Contour, s.r.o.
Kolová 212
153 00 Prague 5
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 602 386 684
Fax: +420 257 910 341
E-mail: contour@volny.cz

Conference venue

Masarykova kolej
Thákurova 1
160 00 Prague 6

Transport to the Conference venue:

Metro line A to the “Dejvická” station, then approximately 5 minutes walk along the “Evropská” Street – see map.

From the airport: by city bus to the Diplomat hotel.
Registration desk

The registration desk will be located at the main entrance of the conference venue (Masarykova kolej, Thákurova 1, Prague 6) and will be opened on Thursday 6 May from 7.30 a.m. till 4.00 p.m.

All participants will receive conference materials and a badge. The badge should be worn at all times during the conference.

Certificate of attendance

A certificate of attendance will be issued to all participants.

Get-Together party

A Get-together party will be held on 6 May at 7:00 p.m in an old historical monastery near the Prague Castle.

The price for participants is included in the registration fee. Additional tickets for accompanying persons can be ordered on the Registration and Accommodation Forms.

Coffee Breaks

Coffee breaks are included in the registration fee and will be served in the exhibition area during the session breaks.

Lunches

Lunches are included in the registration fee and will be served at the conference venue.

Registration

The completed registration forms and the payment of the registration fee should be mailed or faxed to the Secretariat of the symposium before 31 January 2004 if you wish to benefit from the lower fee.

Address of the Secretariat:
Contour, s.r.o.
Kolová 212, 153 00 Prague 5
Czech Republic
Fax: + 420 257 910 341

Registration fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before 15 February 2004</th>
<th>After 16 February 2004</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EUR 200,-</td>
<td>EUR 250,-</td>
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</table>

Registration fee includes:
- Admission to all scientific sessions and exhibition.
- CD with abstracts and printed conference materials.
- Coffee breaks and lunches.
- Get-together party held on Thursday 6 May.

Confirmation of registration and a voucher will be sent to your e-mail address.

Accommodation

A limited number of rooms has been reserved in three hotels and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. The secretariat cannot guarantee that requests received after February 15th can be fulfilled. The cost of two nights accommodation should be paid in advance but not later than February 20th, 2004.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price (room / night)</th>
<th>single</th>
<th>double</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Diplomat**** Evropská 15, Prague 6 (3 minutes walk from the conference venue)</td>
<td>155 EUR</td>
<td>180 EUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Krystal*** Chosé Martího 2, Prague 6 (10 minutes by tram to the conference venue)</td>
<td>53 EUR</td>
<td>73 EUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masarykova kolej Thákurova 1, Prague 6 (conference venue)</td>
<td>50 EUR</td>
<td>60 EUR</td>
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Payment

The registration and accommodation fee may be paid in the following ways:

1. By bank transfer to the following account:
   No.: 1379507504/0600
   swift code: AGBACZPP
   bank address: GE Capital Bank
   U Národní Galerie, Prague 5
   Czech Republic
   account owner: Contour, s.r.o.
   Kolová 212, Prague 5
   Czech Republic
   Variable No: 79
   (Please make sure that your name and address appear on all your payments. Please double check with your bank that the amount is free of any bank charge for Contour, s.r.o.)

2. By credit cards Visa, EuroCard/MasterCard or American Express.

   No personal or company cheques can be accepted!

Cancellation policy

Any cancellation must be notified in writing. Refunds of registration and accommodation fee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>before February 29</th>
<th>March 1 – March 25</th>
<th>after March 25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>no refunds</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(Participants will receive Symposium materials by mail)</td>
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