



The Ear Drum

Virginia Lions Hearing Foundation & Research Center, Inc.
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2012

Message from the President

One of my first goals this year was to address our web site situation. . Even though the foundation has a web address, it has never been activated and in the cyber space world, we were only linked through the District 24-C web site. This link contained very little information, and most was outdated.

At our board meeting on November 17, I appointed a committee consisting of PDG “Woody” Woodard, FVDG Kenneth Quantock and PCC Don Colley to work to create an active web site, containing useful and up-to-date information.

My thanks go out to this committee for their dedication, hard work and the speed with which they are accomplishing one of my goals for this Lions year.

My second foundation goal for this Lions year is to get a hearing-education program for fourth grade students introduced into the public schools in Virginia. To provide a curriculum for the teachers, the Farmville Lions Club and Longwood University developed an outstanding, interactive program entitled “**Lions Club Hearing Conservation Presentation**” which has been approved by the Virginia Department of Education.

Lion John Deacon (District 24-B) has most diligently been carrying the torch to make this a reality. He spends countless hours in talking and pushing this effort through the State Education System, but Lion John cannot accomplish this by himself. I ask all Virginia Lions for their help in contacting their local elected officials, school board members, PTAs, newspapers, civic clubs, church groups, etc., to encourage them to contact their school districts. We must request that the public schools enlighten their elementary teachers to the great need to present the one hour program to all their fourth grade students.

Lions can access the “**Lions Club Hearing Conservation Presentation**” on the Virginia Department of Education web site:

<http://healthsmartva.pwnet.org/healthtopics/index.php>.

Fellow Lions provide us your support in helping Lion John’s dream to become our reality.

The great works of your foundation and medical staff cannot be accomplished without the financial help of the Lions of Multiple District 24. Please keep the foundation in your club’s budget and donate at least ten dollars (\$10.00) per member to our foundation. Also, you can recognize one of your club or community members by giving them an “**Elbyrne G. Gill Fellowship**” fellowship award by contributing \$750.00 over a consecutive three-year period.

Again, I thank you for your support.

Yours in Lionism,

Doug

Lion Douglas Cross, PDG
President, VLHF

Executive Director’s Message

During the Christmas holiday season many people become especially appreciative of their own health, wealth, and good fortune; they seek opportunities to help others who are less fortunate. For members of the Lions family in Virginia, however, this season of good will and helping others extends throughout the year. We Lions, Lionesses, and Leos proudly proclaim every month that “We Serve”. Our service touches other

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Executive Director's Message *(Continued)*

people's lives; it changes, improves, and often extends people's lives.

Our International President Wayne Madden describes the broad extent of our service activities in the international theme for this year: "In a World of Service."

If your Lions Club did not donate to the Hearing Foundation last year, please do so this year. If your Lions Club did contribute, please do so again this year. Your continuing financial support of hearing research is a prime example of your adherence to the Lions motto. We serve with funds as well as with work.

Yours in Lionism,

Don

Lion Don Colley, PCC
Executive Director, VLHF

Meet the VLHF Medical Staff

The hearing foundation's board of directors consists of 24 members, 18 Lions and six University of Virginia Health System medical personnel in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. Here is a brief look at those individuals, several of whom are conducting research projects funded in part by the hearing foundation.

Cynthia A. Clark, Au.D., has worked for three years as a clinical audiologist. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland at College Park. She earned her Doctor of Audiology degree at Northwestern University. She is a member of the cochlear implant team at the University of Virginia. Her other clinical interests include electrophysiological testing, vestibular and balance assessment, and intraoperative monitoring. Dr. Clark is professionally affiliated with the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) and the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA).

Amber M. Gardner, Ph.D., has worked as a clinical audiologist for ten years. She studied at James Madison University, receiving her undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders and her Ph.D. in Audiology. Since 2005 she has served as coordinator of the cochlear implant program at the University of Virginia. In addition to her cochlear

implant duties, she has a special interest in intraoperative monitoring and pediatric electrophysiological testing. Dr. Gardner is affiliated with the American Academy of Audiology (AAA), the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), and Speech-Language Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV).

A. Tucker Gleason, Ph.D., is Director of Audiology and the Vestibular & Balance Center at the University of Virginia. She is an Associate Professor with faculty appointments in both the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and the Department of Neurology.

George T. Hashisaki, M.D., Associate Professor, was born in Missoula, MT. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Washington. He served his residency and his fellowship study at the University of Virginia. His clinical interests include otology and neurotology. His research activities include hair cell physiology, translational research in hair cell viral transfection, and cochlear implant performance measures. Dr. Hashisaki serves as the Medical Director for VLHF. He and his wife have two children.

Bradley W. Kesser, M.D., Associate Professor and Director of the Otolaryngology Residency Program, is a native of Norfolk, VA. He is married with three children, a son and two daughters. Dr. Kesser received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and earned his medical degree at the University of Virginia where he also did his residency. He studied as a Fellow at the House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles. One of his special areas of interest is congenital malformations of the ear canal and middle ear. Research interests include hearing loss after surgery for congenital middle ear malformations and disabilities associated with unilateral hearing loss.

John C. Mason, M.D., Associate Professor, is married and has three children. He earned both his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of North Carolina. He served his residency and fellowship year at the University of Virginia. His principal areas of research interest are hearing loss, auditory neuropathy, and cochlear implantation.

A Brief Look at My Research Activities

Bradley W. Kesser, M.D.

I have been privileged to continue the clinical practice of my mentor, Robert A. Jahrsdoerfer, M.D., in the evaluation and management of patients with congenital aural atresia (children born without an ear canal and an underdeveloped middle ear with no sound-conducting mechanism to the inner ear). This practice affords me the opportunity for clinical research - mostly retrospective chart reviews - in determining the best candidates for atresia surgery and in evaluating outcomes to improve and refine surgical techniques.

Patients with unilateral aural atresia have a moderate to severe conductive hearing loss in one ear. Evaluating and managing this cohort of patients has allowed me to study the disabilities associated with unilateral conductive hearing. It has long been known that unilateral hearing loss causes problems hearing in background noise and localizing sound in space. This area of research has sought to explore whether children undergoing surgery to correct aural atresia and establish hearing in the ear can locate sound in space and hear better in background noise.

We have also initiated a survey for families of children with unilateral atresia to investigate whether children with unilateral conductive hearing loss from atresia show the same scholastic/academic disabilities associated with children with unilateral sensorineural hearing loss (e.g., higher prevalence of having to repeat a grade in elementary school, need for intervention in the classroom, etc.)

Finally, I have been conducting studies in surgical simulation for teaching Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery and with my collaborators in the Department of Biomedical Engineering have designed, developed, and licensed an anatomical model of the human ear and ear canal to teach diagnostic otoscopy and myringotomy with ventilation tube insertion.

The goal of this project is to create an anatomically correct model of the human ear and ear canal to teach medical students diagnostic and pneumatic otoscopy and to teach otolaryngology residents the myringotomy with ventilation tube operation. (U.S. Patent 11/826,621)

I and my colleagues Shayn Peirce-Cottler, Ph.D. (Department of Biomedical Engineering) and Meg Keeley, M.D. (Department of Pediatrics) have received ongoing funding from the Academy of Distinguished Educators since 2008 (initial award of \$50,000 July 1, 2008; renewed for \$42,000 July 1, 2010) to design, develop, and test an anatomically accurate model of the human auricle, ear canal, eardrum, and middle ear space to teach diagnostic and pneumatic otoscopy, ear wax and foreign body removal from the ear canal, and myringotomy with ventilation tube placement.

Charlottesville Host Lions Club Special Contribution

At the hearing foundation's Board of Directors Meeting on November 17, 2012, Lion Scott Brown of the Charlottesville Host Lions Club presented to VLHF President PDG Doug Cross a contribution to the hearing foundation of \$5,000.00, the proceeds from the club's golf tournament held several months earlier. Lion Brown, who chaired the tournament, told the directors and others present that his club wished to demonstrate its strong support for the Foundation's activities to advance research into deafness and hearing impairment.

VLHF and LOVF Upcoming Meetings

The boards of directors of both the VLHF and LOVF will meet on January 12, 2013, in Riggs Auditorium in the University of Virginia Health System West Complex. The LOVF board meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m., and the VLHF board will meet at 12:30 p.m.

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