

# Echoes

THE CHILDREN'S HEARING INSTITUTE  
www.childrenshearing.org

AUGUST, 2010



## **National Institute of Health Awards \$2.5 Million Dollar Grant for Cochlear Implant Study**



### NIDCD

National Institute on Deafness and  
Other Communication Disorders

Improving the lives of people who have communication disorders

The Children's Hearing Institute is proud to announce that The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary has been awarded a 2.5 million dollar grant by the NIH – National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders. This prestigious grant will fund research led by Dr. Richard Schwartz, who had been conducting preliminary research (funded by The Children's Hearing Institute) at the Cochlear Implant Center for the past several years.

Dr. Schwartz, who is the Presidential Professor in Speech-Language Hearing Sciences at The Graduate Center CUNY, will collaborate with Dr. Derek Houston, Associate Professor at Indiana University School of Medicine, and Elizabeth Ying, SLP, of The Ear Institute at New York Eye & Ear.

The research, to be conducted over the next five years, will investigate how children with cochlear implants acquire language compared with their nor-

mal-hearing peers. It is anticipated that the findings of the study will help improve approaches by therapists as they evaluate and work with very young children with cochlear implants, optimizing the way they learn speech and language. The grant will utilize control groups consisting of normal hearing children (ages 5-11) and children with cochlear implants (ages 7-11). If you are interested in being part of this study, please contact Dr. Richard Schwartz at (646) 438-7838.



We congratulate Dr. Schwartz on his grant, and as always, we thank the donors and friends of The Children's Hearing Institute for

your long term generosity in funding pilot research projects. This grant represents a significant accomplishment for The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary and would not have been possible without the continued support of our loyal patrons of The Children's Hearing Institute.

# The Children's Hearing Institute Educational Outreach Program

UPCOMING CONFERENCES FALL 2010

## **Audiology 101 - A Hands on Workshop (CEU Course)**

Basic Audiology Course for Speech Language Pathologists, Auditory Verbal Therapists, TODs & Administrators. *Registration limited to 10 Participants*  
The Ear Institute, New York, NY

**Friday, Sept. 17, 2010; Friday, Dec. 10, 2010**

## **Sounds in Motion: Learning and Implementing the SIM Program**

**Pre-K thru 1st Grade  
(CEU Course)**

This program has evolved into a phonemic awareness and early literacy tool by using body movements from the Verbotonal System to train perception and production of speech sounds.

**Saturday, September 25, 2010  
Horace Mann School**

## **Auditory Processing Disorders in School Aged Children: Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists Working Together (CEU Course)**

This workshop will review auditory processing assessment, treatment and management strategies. There will be a mix of theory and practice resulting in case study analysis. Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) is a neurological defect that affects how the brain processes spoken language. This makes it difficult for the child to process verbal instructions or even to filter out background noise in the classroom.

**Friday, October 1, 2010  
Westchester ARC, Hawthorne, NY**

## **Optimizing Auditory Skill Development Through Partnerships: Parents, Providers, and Peers**

**A 3-Day Course  
Friday, October 1, 2010  
Friday, November 5, 2010  
Friday, December 3, 2010  
Ear Institute, New York, NY**

## **Hearing Aid Dispenser Course (CEU Course)**

Fulfills the biennial hearing aid dispenser licensing requirements for audiologists, hearing aid dispensers and cochlear implant audiologists. Includes NY State & Federal Rules/Regulations & Professional Conduct, as well as Hearing Healthcare and Infection Control. 4:00pm – 8:00pm  
**Thursday October 21st, 2010**  
Beth Israel - PACC

**For information contact:  
Melissa Willis, Director of Educational  
Programming at 646-438-7858 or  
mwillis@nyee.edu**

*You can also register online by visiting our  
website at:*

[www.childrenshearing.org](http://www.childrenshearing.org)



## **William McCahill to be Jule Styne Humanitarian Award Recipient**



William McCahill is an Executive Vice President for Capital One Bank and is the Senior Banker for Capital One's real estate finance activities in the New York City market. He will be the recipient of the 2011 Jule Styne Humanitarian Award. This honor is being bestowed on Mr. McCahill in recognition of his generosity and years of service to The Children's Hearing Institute. He has served as a member of the Board and

Treasurer of The Institute since its inception.

The annual awards celebration will be held in March of 2011. "Bill is one of the most respected bankers in the business," said Leonard Boxer, Chairman of the CHI Board, "and we are delighted to recognize his long time service to the Institute."

## **CHI Sponsors Open-Captioned Performance at the Wilton Playhouse**



**William Brennan, Wilton's First Selectman and Alan Gould**

For many years, The Children's Hearing Institute has sponsored open-captioned performances at The Wilton Playhouse, in Wilton, CT. The performances are organized under the leadership of Alan Gould, a speech-language pathologist who has been a very active advocate for accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing people.

This Wilton Playhouse, with the continued support of CHI has been the first community theater in Connecticut to provide sign language performances, infrared listening system, and open captioned performances celebrating "May is Better Hearing and Speech Month."

"A wide cross-section of people with hearing loss attend the performance", said Gould. "They appreciate the opportunity to read the open captions and enjoy the theater once-again."

A special proclamation by the Town Of Wilton marked the occasion.

## **Matthew Wolfe Wins Scholarship Attends Northwestern**

Long time supporters and readers of *Echoes* will remember cochlear-implant recipient Matthew Wolfe who appeared with Dr. Simon Parisier on the *Martha Stewart Show* some years ago. This year Matthew is one of five recipients nationwide of a Graeme Clark Cochlear Scholarship. Funded by Cochlear Americas, this scholarship provides financial help to deaf and hard of hearing college students. Matthew is attending Northwestern University, majoring in Communication. He was implanted at age 3 by Dr. Simon Parisier and has been a successful mainstream student all his life.

## **Audiologist Travels to Ethiopia with Mission to the World**



**Audrey Morrison, AuD helps child in Ethiopia**

Audrey Morrison, AuD, clinical and educational audiologist at The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary's - Ear Institute, recently spent a week in Ethiopia as a volunteer with "Mission to the World," an international organization dedicated to providing medical and clinical care to individuals with HIV/AIDS. She was part of a team of 15 doctors, nurses and other medical professionals.

Dr. Morrison worked with a pediatric population providing basic hearing healthcare, including ear examinations and cleanings, identifying infections and making referrals to team physicians.

In addition, Dr. Morrison dispensed hearing aids, donated by The Children's Hearing Institute, to two children with HIV. Their hearing loss was induced by strong dosages of retro-viral drugs used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS. The hearing aids have enabled the children to hear and detect some sounds.

"We are blessed in New York with having access to excellent health care. My trip to Ethiopia made me fully realize this. It was a privilege to be able to help," commented Dr. Morrison.

# Young Professional Committee Celebrates 20 Years of Dedicated Service

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of our Young Professionals Committee. Since 1990, the YP Committee has been raising funds to support clinical research and educational programs for children with hearing loss. The Committee is comprised of dedicated, young, enthusiastic New Yorkers who serve as ambassadors of The Children's Hearing Institute, building awareness of CHI's mission among friends, coworkers, and professional and social acquaintances. This event is particularly important as it continually renews interest and support for CHI among a younger generation of donors.

"Within smaller charitable organizations, it is essential to have a broad donor base of constituents to ensure its continued success. We commend our Young Professionals for the loyalty and dedication they have shown in raising awareness of the challenges children with hearing loss encounter everyday. They have proven themselves to be steadfast in supporting our cause by cultivating and identifying new patrons to the Institute, year after year. They have the appreciation of all who depend on our services," says Leonard Boxer, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

This year was no exception to The Young Professionals' unwavering dedication. In June, over 200 loyal friends and patrons of The Children's Hearing Institute attended our Rooftop Cocktail Party on the 51st Floor Terrace of the Time Warner Center.

This event was dedicated in memory of Matthew Brudner, a longtime friend, and a beloved member of the YP Committee. Matt was an energetic and creative member of our team and selflessly gave his time and efforts to raise awareness for children who suffer from hearing loss. This fund will benefit the Hearing Aid Dispensary Program of the Ear Institute at The New York Eye & Ear Infirmary. Early hearing loss detection through newborn hearing screenings allows infants who are 3-4 weeks old to be fitted with hearing aids. Unfortunately, children from low income families are unable to purchase these hearing aids due to finances or insurance restrictions. Donations from this event will provide these children with early amplification transitioning them from a world of silence to a world of sound.

The Committee is grateful to its sponsors who made the evening a great success: Rare Bar & Grill, Zyr Vodka, Empire Merchants, The Glazier Group, Pepsico, NY, The Abernathy MacGregor Group, The Feil Family Foundation, Weinberg Properties, Empire Search Partners, Paul Jarrod Frank, MD, Newbrook Capital Advisors, Tanya Zuckerbrot Nutrition, LLC, Phonak, LLC, Roberta and Richard Brudner, and Melissa and Michael Boxer.

The Children's Hearing Institute is continually seeking new members from the professional community throughout the Greater New York area to serve on the Young Professionals Committee. If you are interested in joining, please contact Melissa Willis at 646-438-7858 or via email at [mwillis@nyee.edu](mailto:mwillis@nyee.edu).



Adam Miller, Nandita Ray, Dana Gorman, Jane Mashburn, Luke Barrett, John McCool, and Allyson Morris.



Andrew Weinberg and Matt Snyder



James McCormick, Event Co-Chair Jonathan Ross, Josh Sussman



Nadav Besner, Fiona Bollag and Jason Yablon



Elissa Rome, Lauren Emden, Lisa Daniel and Jenna Goldschmidt



Bill Bassin, Event Co-Chair Lisa Weinberg, Justin Frankel, Jennifer Apfelbaum, Lexi Neibart



From left to right – Robert Dobson, Event Co-Chair Jason Boxer, Inbal Himelblau, Dave Stein, Chris Barnet



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## ***Music Workshops Conclude a Successful Season***

For the past several years, The Children's Institute had funded music workshops for teen and elementary students with hearing loss. The program is led by Casey Cheffo, who holds degrees in both special education and music.

Many deaf children don't get to explore their musical creativity in the same way that their normal-hearing peers do. With CHI's free music workshops, both teens and elementary students meet to explore popular music and build important friendships. Students work on building listening skills and interpreting songs from their own iPods.

During the workshops, parents are invited to attend parent education and support groups. These sessions are designed to answer questions and concerns, share information, and build a support network for parents of children with hearing loss.

In June, the workshops concluded with a combined meeting allowing both age groups to network. Please visit our website to view our Fall Schedule of Music Workshops.

## ***Inaugural Meeting for Teachers of the Deaf Study Group***

The Children's Hearing Institute is dedicated to supporting all professionals who work with children of hearing loss, and is happy to announce a new study group for Teachers of the Deaf (TODs), Speech Language Pathologists, (SLPs) and Audiologists.

Many TODs work as itinerant teachers in mainstream school settings, moving from school to school to observe students with hearing loss, and make recommendations for their educational achievement. Their work is an essential component in providing a fair, successful education to children with hearing loss in a mainstream setting.

Due to the nature of the work, these dedicated professionals are often unable to meet with other TODs or other professionals working with the student to discuss issues and share information. Under the sponsorship of The Children's Hearing Institute and the leadership of Educational Audiologist Rebecca Kooper, AuD these professionals have begun to meet monthly to discuss vital information about deaf education.

"This is a wonderful way for professionals to meet and exchange information and ideas," says Dr. Kooper. "In the end, the children those teachers help will benefit from the knowledge and experience gained during these meetings."

If you would like to attend these meetings, please email Melissa Willis at [mwillis@nyee.edu](mailto:mwillis@nyee.edu).