

# ORL-BAL INTERNATIONAL

Until 2012: Society of Friends of Otorhinolaryngology

Founded by the Academic Association of the University ORL Department in Basel and the training ORL Departments of the Cantonal Hospitals in Aarau, Liestal and Olten – ORL-BAL

## Bulletin No. 10 Activity Report for the Year 2011



**We have changed our statutes and have new logos**

We say farewell to our old logo :



Submitted in January 2012  
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**The founding of ORL-BAL International:** At the January meeting of the **ORL-BAL** in Basel, we decided to change the name of our daughter organization „Society of Friends of ORL“ to **„ORL-BAL International“**, short **OBI**. Both organizations voted for more flexibility in their statutes. The grounds for these changes is the fact that the OBI is now active in Switzerland as well (see below) and an international exchange, also on Swiss soil, is now part of our activities. We send our new statutes on demand.

**Our Website :** with a relatively small effort, we have rejuvenated our website. The partitions according to languages is clearer. The texts in German and English are direct translations, while the Serbian site is adapted to the interests of our Serbian readers. The areas of ORL-BAL and of OBI are distinctly separated. We will try to keep our texts illustrated and interesting.

**Courses, Lectures and Honours:** The traditional courses in Laryngomicroscopy and Head and Neck Surgery in Novi Sad were held under the direction of Professor **Rajko Jović**. Both courses were held the same week, present as Guest Lecturer was Professor **Cesare Piazza** from Brescia, who brilliantly demonstrated immediate reconstructive surgery. He will be back next year, which is excellent news. Present was also Professor **Hiltrud Glanz**, who supports our work for many years. Her affable character and very engaged educative work makes her a very esteemed person. Her enormous experience has decisively promoted knowledge in endoscopic surgery and has especially helped to consolidate the teamwork of the surgeons with the anesthesiologists and pathologists in Serbia. These were the reasons for which she was appointed **Visiting Professor of the Novi Sad University**. The same honour was bestowed upon **M. Podvinec** in view of his engagement in education in general and promulgation of international contacts of the Novi Sad Department. The subject of his **inaugural lecture** for medical students was the interdisciplinary exchange between dental medicine and ORL.

The 16th of April has been declared **Voice Day** by the WHO. To this occasion, Phoniatriest Professor **Joseph Sopko** was invited to a one-day symposium on **„Care of the professional voice“** ,

organized by the Belgrade University Department. His lecture, well illustrated with video clips and interesting case presentations was well received, the more because the guest took the trouble to learn and pronounce his presentation in Serbian language. Professor **Podvinec** spoke on the early diagnosis in larynx carcinoma, from the aspect of the new examining methods developed in the Aarau Department, then still under his leadership, by Lecturer **Marcel Kraft**. First results of the Narrow Band Imaging technique (NBI) were also presented.

The subject of the yearly meeting of the Serbian ORL Society ("ORL Week") had "**Rare diseases in ORL**" as main subject. Invited was Lecturer Doctor **Karl Heinemann**, from the Department of Biomedicine of the Basel University, to speak on "**Rare diseases in ENT: A practical guide to genetics**". Besides informing the audience on the newest data to the subject, he offered to help the local colleagues in research and clinical work, especially in complicated and expensive laboratory processing. This was received with great gratitude.

Professor **Rudolf Probst** held an Invitation Lecture on "**Diagnosis and therapy in acute sensorineural hearing loss**". The activity of Rudolf Probst in OBI has not abated all these years that he is Director of the Zürich University Department. He is still very often host to our guests from abroad, for which we are very grateful. M. **Podvinec** together with Professors **D. Dankuc** und **R. Jović** from Novi Sad and Lt. Col Doctor **M. Milojević from the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade** spoke in a round table discussion on the impact of educational activity in ORL through courses in the past 9 years of cooperation with OBI. **Thirty** courses were held in Serbia were visited by **546 participants**, and further courses founded on our model were organized by various Departments. They were the mainstay of modernization of ORL education in Serbia in the last 20 years. **4'800** working hours were invested by the lecturers and instructors, sponsoring in value of approximately **140'000 €** were mobilized and **56 lectures** were held by foreign guests. **26 Persons** were supported by organizing and partly financing of their stay in Western Europe, and one in the USA.

The traditional double Course in **Preparation of the Temporal Bone** (the seventh of this kind) and of **Tympanoplasty** (the third)

were held from the 2. to the 9. September in Novi Sad. Guest of Honour was Professor **Danel Bodmer**, who was Lecturer, Instructor and Quizzmaster in Radiology at the same time. He also presented his original work on implantation of stem cells into the damaged cochlea. Although the results are relative to animal experiments, this research may be indicative of possibilities in clinical work in the future. Professor **M. Podvinec** was instructor, together with Professors **Dankuc and Vlaški** from Novi Sad.

ORL-BAL organized, in the first week of September, the first course in Temporal Bone Preparation for trainees of Swiss Departments. Sixteen trainees were tutored by an instruction team consisting of experienced university teachers, professors **R.Probst, S.Schmid, K.Tschopp, Lecturer N.Gürtler und Doctor A. Zehnder**. Professor **Daniel Bodmer** was Course Director, Organizer was **M. Podvinec**. Since the Course we get much interest for a renewal, which speaks, together with result of the evaluation, for a good success. To the instructors, who sacrificed two full days for this strenuous voluntary work, goes our sincere gratitude. The firms **Anklin, Basel and Leica Heerbrugg** have supported us generously, and we thank especially Messrs **Anklin, Berger and Currat** for their outstanding service. The Chief Secretary Ms **Susi Bloch** was a marvellous key person in the organisation. The hospitality of Professor **M. Tolnay, Director of the Institute of Pathology** of the Basel University and his engagement made the course possible at all, and we thank him sincerely for the use of the very nice venue at his Institute, which is responsible for a good part of our success. Preparators Messrs **Schoch and Vogt** did an outstanding job before and during the course, and we thank all personell very much for their endeavours. The next course is in September 2012 !

**Support:** Ms **Dragana Simić**, Lecturer at the University Department in Nis was supported for her visit to a Conference on Vestibular Schwannoma at the **House Ear Institute** in Los Angeles. She was hosted there by Doctor **Gregory Lekovic**, the neurosurgeon of the Institute, who graciously agreed to cooperate in our projects. Professor **R.Jović** and Doctor **D. Dragičević** were supported for a visit to the meeting of the European Laryngological Society (ELS).

We also supported an interesting course in **Neurotologic Diagnosis and Videonystagmography**, organized by Professors **Zoran Komazec and Ksenija Ribarić**. A group of clinicians and researchers, uniting neurologists and ORL specialists came together in Novi Sad, and the lectures were at a high level. Guest of Honour was Doctor **Tatjana Tomanović** from Karolinska Sjukhuset, whose main interest is clinics and research is in Neurotology.

**Deceased:** Mr. **Roy Podvinec**, who has edited, formatted and always competently corrected our yearly reports, died unexpectedly at age seventy five of heart failure. We will very much miss his precise and technically highly qualified voluntary work, as well as his constructive, strong and outgoing personality. Already in this edition, his counsel and activity is sorely missed.

**We thank** Speech Therapist Ms. **E. Walde** for carrying the costs of professional escrow services, as every year.

**Impressions from the  
Temporal Bone Course  
in September 2011  
in Basel**



