
EDITORIAL

Tinnitology and the Internet

The International Tinnitus Journal:

<www.tinnitus.com>

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome one and all to the Internet and <www.tinnitus.com>.

The Editors-in-Chief, Associate Editors and the Editorial Board of the "International Tinnitus Journal" (ITJ) are pleased to announce the establishment of a homepage on the Internet. It is an initial effort for the development of an electronic format of ITJ. It will provide a rich source of information to both readers and professionals in the new discipline and field of Tinnitology.

The Internet is a great tool for facilitating and providing information and a forum for exchange to readers worldwide. It allows access to information to all. It is truly the "information superhighway" of the present and the future. The world wide web (www) is the multimedia interface to the Internet. The participation of ITJ in the Internet adds to the library of information stored on computers located worldwide and connected by telephone lines and fiberoptic cables.

The goals of the ITJ web site are first to provide readers, professionals and patients up-to-date information on basic science and research efforts in the new discipline of "Tinnitology." By improving accessibility of the contents of ITJ to both professionals and patients, it is expected that there will be an increased opportunity to exchange viewpoints which

ultimately will result in more rapid progress for the delivery of quality tinnitus patient care. Secondly, ITJ is committed to the continual promotion of ideas and the introduction of features which will enhance the understanding of the symptoms of tinnitus and will provide continuous methods of improvement for the delivery of clinical services for both tinnitus diagnosis and treatment. Thirdly, to bring to attention the ongoing, significant efforts for both basic science and clinical research efforts of the Martha Entenmann Tinnitus Research Center, Inc.

Our web site preserves its focus on scientific research and clinical practice for the symptom of tinnitus as introduced in the inaugural issue of ITJ in 1995 and maintained to date. It establishes for our readers and subscribers a site for on line information on the world wide web and a means of communication with our editorial office using e-mail communication.

The new discipline of Tinnitology is multi-disciplined. This web site and the future electronic format of ITJ will expedite the exchange of information of academic and clinical interest between professional disciplines highlighted at present by otology, neurotology, auditory science, audiology, psychology, neuropsychology, neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry.

The reception of ITJ by patients and professionals has been excellent. Enhanced communication and collaboration via the Web, we believe, will be a driving force for the ongoing development of ITJ and the discipline of Tinnitology. It is hoped that <www.tinnitus.com> will provide a creative energy to stimulate an intellectual curiosity which will extend into the next millennium and realize a cure for all clinical types and subtypes of tinnitus.

This web site is considered to be an initial and ongoing effort. Suggestions concerning the style and

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substance are welcomed and can be e-mailed to "metrc@tinnitus.com."

ORGANIZATION AND FORMAT

ITJ is the first peer review journal to provide a forum for the exchange of information for ongoing basic and clinical science efforts for understanding the mechanisms of tinnitus production and its application to patient diagnosis and treatment. The ITJ web site homepage has the following sections:

-Description of ITJ:

Organizational format of the first issues of 1995 as well as the most recent issues of 1997: identification of the semi-annual publication and location of publication, goals of ITJ; organization and Editorial Board.

The web masters for this site are the Co-Editors of ITJ, Claus F. Claussen, M.D.; Abraham Shulman, M.D.; and Barbara Goldstein, Ph.D.

-Most Recent Issue:

Includes Table of Contents, authors and titles of articles of the most recent issue.

-How To Contribute:

Includes instructions for authors as set forth in each issue of ITJ.

-Subscription Information:

Requests for information are to be sent to two different addresses depending on its origin, i.e. Europe, Africa, Middle East, and India: and United States, Canada, South America, Australia, Japan and China. This arrangement is designed to expedite and facilitate subscription requests.

-Links:

Links provides a world wide web for otology, neurotology, audiology and related information resources. First time visitors to <www.tinnitus.com> will be able to quickly locate and extract information from related tinnitus web sites.

-Cumulative Index:

The cumulative index provides an archive of past issues of authors and articles published in ITJ. Readers can request articles. How to order is indicated.

FUTURE

The world wide web ITJ format is consistent with the goal of the founders of ITJ. The format assures

an open participation and discussion between scientists, non scientists and all professionals who are involved in both the basic science and clinical aspects of attempting to provide to the tinnitus patient an accurate tinnitus diagnosis and modalities of treatment. Such an interchange of information will inform both professional and patient of the state of the art for the symptom of tinnitus. No longer will tinnitus patients be informed that they should "learn to live with it." A future electronic publishing format is the goal of the Editors-in-Chief of ITJ. The present homepage web site of ITJ is our initial effort. The future electronic format will maintain the established peer review process to assure the quality of papers accepted for publication and registration on our web sit. It also will provide rapid downloading of information for abstracts from existing and to be established new sections of ITJ highlighted by drug delivery systems for attempting tinnitus control. The experience gained with the ITJ homepage will serve as a basis for future development of the electronic format of ITJ. The peer review process of ITJ and the availability of manuscripts to be circulated on the Web will assure the early exchange of information for the rapid application of the delivery of quality patient care. It is the hope of the Editors-in-Chief and the Editorial Board of ITJ that the "activist" nature of our publication will foster a rapid dissemination of information for the ultimate benefit of the tinnitus patient. Also, we hope that the new web site of ITJ will become a valuable resource of information and "bookmark" to which readers and patients will return again and again.

CONCLUSIONS

The Internet ITJ homepage web site <www.tinnitus.com> has been established. It provides a resource of state of the art tinnitus information to one and all. The ITJ web site on the Internet presents an important innovation in the availability and exchange of information in the field of Tinnitology. It is an initial effort and part of plans, now in progress, for the future establishment of an electronic format of ITJ. The Editors-in-Chief and Editorial Board of ITJ are committed to providing state of the art information in the discipline of Tinnitology to both professionals and tinnitus patients. The presence of the web site for ITJ is in line with our goals of presenting quality information and innovative ideas for tinnitus.

The goal of the ITJ homepage web site is first and foremost to provide the early and immediate dissemination of information of current efforts and developments, on an international basis, by basic science and

clinical researchers for attempting to understand, diagnose and treat tinnitus. The involvement of all interested groups, both patients and professionals, in the activities of ITJ insures that all viewpoints are ex-

pressed and that a wider appreciation is learned of ongoing efforts in the field of Tinnitology. The Editors-in-Chief, Editorial Board and staff of ITJ look forward to your visit to our web site <www.tinnitus.com>.