

XXVth Ordinary Scientific Congress of the International Neurootological and Equilibrimetric Society (NES), Precongress Symposium on Tinnitus as a Homage and Award Procedure in Honour of Prof. Dr. Abraham Shulman, New York, SUNY, Martha Entenmann Tinnitus Research Center.

Opening Ceremony: Address of the President of the NES, March 19th, 1998.

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It has been a long tradition among the worldwide community of the neurootologists of the International Neurootological and Equilibrimetric Society (NES), convened here today in Bad Kissingen, to devote one of its meetings to the specific life-long work and achievements of one of their outstanding members. The members of the NES elected for this award are chosen by the general assembly two years prior to the event. They are awarded the NES Bowl, which is a replica of an old Bohemian royal glass wine bowl on which the name of the honoree and the date of the event are engraved.

Prof. Dr. Abraham Shulman, born on February 24, 1929, is an academician and formerly Director of Otolaryngology and presently Prof. Emeritus of Clinical Otolaryngology of the Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn (HSCB/SUNY), New York. He developed an intense and special interest in the symptom of tinnitus. He identified a new discipline called Tinnitology. He has become over the last two decades and still is one of the top specialists in the field of Tinnitology worldwide.

As a physician and neurotologist he was stimulated to investigate the epidemiology of tinnitus with respect to its clinical course, incidence of occurrence by time, place and populations. He showed us that subjective tinnitus or tinnitus aurium has a high incidence of occurrence in our populations, is common and idiopathic, and has a medical significance. Until recently the diagnosis and treatment of subjective tinnitus has been unsatisfactory. Objective or vibratory tinnitus with the exception of the vascular type is uncommon. Its etiology is usually apparent. The application and modification of protocols for definition, classification, diagnosis and treatment, developed as a team effort by Dr. Shulman and his collaborator Prof. Barbara Goldstein, have provided us, as neurotologists, with a means to attempt to

relate the tinnitus symptom to a specific etiology and treatment.

His main interest has focused on subjective idiopathic tinnitus as a symptom of neurotologic disease. His efforts have attempted to differentiate between the so-called "normal" phenomenon of tinnitus from the tinnitus of the severe disabling type. This is reflected in tinnitus definitions: classification systems; identification of tinnitus not to be a unitary symptom but to include clinical types and subtypes of tinnitus which have components.

It was Dr. Shulman, who with his associate Prof. Arnold M. Strashun, Director of Nuclear Medicine, first reported in 1990 with Single Photon Computerized Tomography (SPECT) the most recent and modern pathomorphological findings in the brain of tinnitus patients and identified to have a central type tinnitus. These findings have been the basis of the hypothesis of "A Final Common Pathway for Tinnitus" in the medial temporal lobe. Hyperactive states have been observed in the acoustic end-projection areas of the temporal lobe. It has led to protocols for treatment.

Our group in Wuerzburg, Germany, has been able to identify in tinnitus patients, with vestibular evoked potentials, electrophysiological areas of hyperactivity in the same topographic area of the temporal lobe. We conclude that an important epiphenomenon of tinnitus is the hyperactivity of the temporal lobe in many tinnitus patients.

Thirteen international collaborations for tinnitus research, both in basic science and clinical neurotology, reflect the activities of the Martha Entenmann Tinnitus Research Center (METRC) at the HSCB/SUNY since 1995, where he is medical director. Together with his coworker, Dr. Barbara Goldstein, director of audiology at the METRC and the 4-GF the "International Tinnitus Journal" (ITJ) has been published as well as the internet

homepage <http://www.tinnitus.com>. The ITJ is the official journal of the NES.

Now, Abe is standing in the center of tinnitological research as well as of the community of tinnitologists worldwide.

Therefore this day, March 19, 1998, is especially devoted to Tinnitology and to the enzymatic work of Prof. Dr. Abraham Shulman, of New York. The honourer of Prof. Dr. Shulman will be Prof. Dr. Barbara Goldstein, New York, who will introduce the Guest of Honor.

The neurootologists of the NES are proud and very thankful that they are allowed to reflect on the achievements in modern Tinnitology and to share this day together with the honoree the outcome of this day is

promising and a step forward in an attempt to identify the different clinical types of tinnitus. In vertigo, to date, we have learned that about 300 different diseases are bound to the symptom of vertigo and dizziness. We are expecting similar developments in the field of Tinnitology.

Herewith the special pregress symposium of tinnitus is opened by the award ceremony for Prof. Dr. Abraham Shulman.

Prof. Dr. C.-F. Claussen
*Bad Kissengen
Kleiner Kursaal
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