
Letter to the Editor

Dear Drs. Claussen, Goldstein, and Shulman:

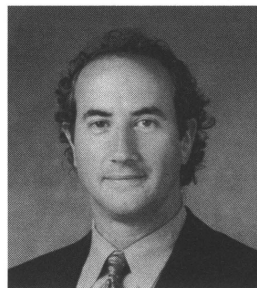
It is with great pleasure that I accept the responsibilities and demands associated with the honor of being a co-chief editor for the *International Tinnitus Journal*. This responsibility has been bestowed upon me by giants in the field of tinnitology, Dr. Abraham Shulman, Dr. Barbara Goldstein, and Dr. Claussen.

My interests in healing and, more importantly, the prevention of disease have led me to study the processes of aging in general and hearing loss in specific. We have a large otolaryngology research laboratory, of which I am the interim director. Our laboratory studies many aspects of otologic disorders. I have had the privilege of being the medical director of the Henry Ford Health System (HFHS) Tinnitus Center, a responsibility that I share with Dr. Gary Jacobson. Thus, over the 8 years of my affiliation with HFHS, I have had the opportunity to see patients from around the world with a diversity of otologic disorders, including tinnitus. While it is commonly known that there is no cure for tinnitus, this has not impeded the great people in our specialty in investigating with dogged determination methods to help patients with this difficult symptom. One of the greatest champions in the study of tinnitus is indisputably Dr. Shulman. It is indeed a great pleasure and honor for me to have the privilege to work with Drs. Shulman, Goldstein, and Claussen, as well as the outstanding group of clinicians and scientists that make up the editorial review board of this important journal.

One of the greatest disservices too often given to our patients is lack of hope or support. This is no different from delivering the bad news of a cancer or other terminal illness without providing the realm of

hospice, hope, pain-free existence, and care. Though it is our responsibility and moral obligation to be honest with our patients and not to provide irrational false hope, it also is immoral not to sympathize, care for, or provide support to our patients. We chose this profession with the ideal of helping people and, although we cannot always cure or eliminate suffering, we can listen and offer support to our patients. The American Tinnitus Association has provided an outstanding resource for patients and, with the Association's help, funding for the study of tinnitus has increased significantly. Likewise, the *International Tinnitus Journal* provides an avenue for investigators to disseminate important work—both preliminary and time-tested—in the field of tinnitus research. Together we can promote the study of tinnitology and provide a glimmer of hope to the millions of people who suffer with this symptom.

I believe that with increased awareness, increased funding, and teamwork, the future promises to provide answers to this symptom that affects so many people. It is in this spirit that I humbly accept the opportunity to serve in the capacity of co-chief editor with the outstanding team of physicians, audiologists and other allied health professionals whose desire is truly to enhance the lives of so many.



Warmest personal regards,

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