

REPORT ON THE 13TH PAN-EUROPEAN VOICE CONFERENCE

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On 27–30 August 2019 I attended the 13th Pan-European Voice Conference (PEVOC) in Copenhagen, Denmark. PEVOC is a multi-disciplinary conference for professionals working with the human voice. The scientific program covered most aspects connected with phoniatics – voice, speech, language, and swallowing disorders.

The conference gathered eminent international experts and many other voice scientists, physicians, speech-language pathologists, voice teachers, acousticians, and students from all over the world to exchange knowledge. Many sessions were devoted to basic science: phonatory physiology, emotions in voice, voice aging, and perception of singing voice. World-renowned clinicians, scientists, and teachers like Johan Sundberg, Kristin Linklater, David Howard, and Per-Åke Lindestad shared their experiences.

Prof. Boris Kleber from the Center for Music in the Brain at Aarhus University, Denmark, delivered a lecture about the role of the brain in emotions and voice. Prof. Berit Schneider-Stickler and her team from Vienna gave presentations and a workshop about laryngeal electromyography. They presented interesting results of surface electrostimulation in early unilateral vocal fold paralysis.

Prof. Markus Hess from Hamburg organized a workshop on office-based phonosurgery in which the techniques of phonosurgery and videos of typical surgical procedures were demonstrated. Dr Dirk Murbe from

Berlin described a new diagnostic tool in laryngeal disorders – 3D videolaryngostroboscopy, which offers enhanced visualization of the detailed vibration pattern of the vocal folds and supports a more precise indication of phonosurgical interventions and an increased accuracy of surgical planning.

Jacob Liberman, an osteopath from Israel, spoke of the application of osteopathic principles in functional voice disorders and presented good results of his therapy. He showed and criticised instructional videos of manual therapy of the larynx and neck available on You Tube which could potentially harm patients.

One session was devoted to spasmodic dysphonia (SD), in which different treatment options were discussed. The presenters underlined holistic treatment for SD: botox injection and psychosocial profiling, stress management, breathing, voice exercises, and body work.

The team from the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing delivered a paper in the session on Dysphonia and Voice Therapy called “Voice aspects in sulcus vocalis with coexisting benign lesions of the vocal folds” (by B. Miaskiewicz, A. Panasiewicz, E. Gos, A. Szkielkowska, P.H. Skarzynski, and E. Włodarczyk).

This year’s PEVOC was a very interesting meeting and it covered many cutting-edge topics in modern phoniatics.