

REPORT OF THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MENIERE'S DISEASE AND INNER EAR DISORDERS, 25–28 APRIL 2024, SHANGHAI, CHINA

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The 8th International Symposium on Meniere's Disease and Inner Ear Disorders was held in Shanghai from 25 to 28 April 2024. The last such event was held in Italy in 2015. The Shanghai symposium was scheduled for 2020, but unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the congress was postponed until this year so that we could finally meet face to face.

For more than 40 years, the International Symposium on Meniere's Disease and Inner Ear Disorders has brought together specialists from around the world to share experiences and establish collaborations in the field of neurotology. The program of this year's meeting focused on the latest research on Meniere's disease and innovative techniques for its treatment. The Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing was represented by Aleksandra Kolodziejak, MSc.

At the opening ceremony Professor Jun Yang welcomed us and gave a brief history of Shanghai. Later, he presented a consensus on the administration of oligodynamic drugs for treating Meniere's disease. He highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of administering gentamicin, glucocorticosteroids, and other drugs. On the first day, Dr Yiali Shu presented an interesting paper on AAV-hOTOF gene therapy in children with autosomal recessive deafness 9 (DFNB9), describing some impressive results. After just 6 weeks, his little patients started to respond to their names and after 3 months some of them started to say their first words.

On the second day, Professor Yang presented the results of a pilot study demonstrating the importance of screening vestibular function in neonates and young children referred for cochlear implantation. Dr Daniel Brown presented the results of preliminary work on a fully implantable biosensor for patients with Meniere's disease, although at present testing is in the early stage in guinea pigs. His presentation generated considerable interest and there was a lengthy discussion among the audience.

In the poster session, Aleksandra Kolodziejak presented the results of her work on "Vestibular preservation after cochlear implantation in partial deafness treatment", co-authored by Dr Magdalena Sosna-Duranowska, Prof. Piotr Skarżyński, Dr Grażyna Tacikowska, Dr Elżbieta Gos, Ewa Tomanek, and Prof. Henryk Skarżyński.

Conference participants were able to attend workshops held by various companies. Various methods of testing the vestibular organ were demonstrated, one of which included the possibility of using standard audiological equipment (an impedance bridge and an audiometer) to diagnose patients with Meniere's disease.

The Symposium was a unique event that provided opportunities for gaining new knowledge, exchanging experiences, and presenting results and achievements in the field. The event provided an opportunity to learn about new research directions and the needs of patients.