

REPORT ON THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL PEDIATRIC AUDIOLOGY CONGRESS (IPAC), 4–6 APRIL 2025, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

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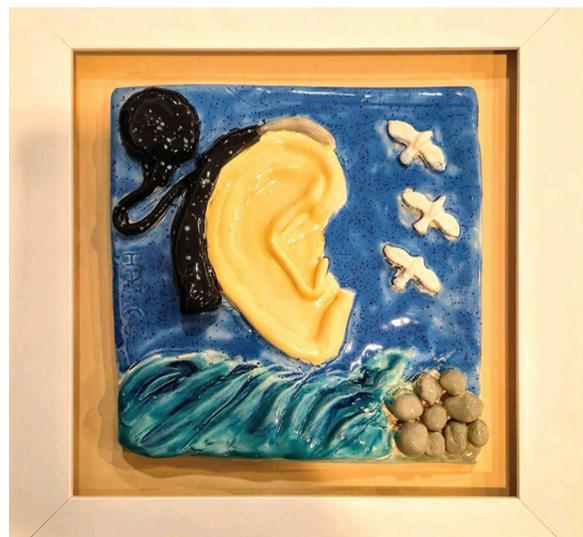
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The 2nd International Pediatric Audiology Congress took place in Istanbul on 4–6 April 2025. As it happened, the inaugural congress was also held also in Istanbul in April last year. This year's congress focused on bridging gaps in pediatric audiology and exploring the latest advances in the field. A consistent hallmark was collaboration of specialists from around the world to provide a unified state of the art.

During the opening session, participants listened to keynote lectures delivered by Onur İpek (secretary-general of Cochlear Implant Derneği – CID), Betül Mutluç (CI user and vice-president of CID), and Robert Mandara (president of European Association of Cochlear Implant Users – EURO CIU). Hüseyin Deniz presented a study on facial nerve stimulation of a child 10 years after cochlear implantation. He highlighted a unique situation where stimulation occurred both with the processor turned on and off. Dr Chryssoula Thodi showcased research on speech disorders accompanying auditory processing disorders. Her study focused on children with single-sided deafness (SSD). She identified significant differences in how children with SSD function in noisy environments, including weaker phoneme identification, less rhyme recognition, and lower behavioral performance indicators.

The second day began with an opening ceremony hosted by Prof. Şule Cekic and Prof. Patricia Mancini. Honorary presidents received awards recognising their scientific contributions. Prof. Christine Yoshinaga-Itano presented an intriguing study on early diagnostics, vaccines, and genetic treatments, with her research focusing on hearing loss caused by congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV). She emphasized the necessity of conducting newborn screening before discharge from neonatal units. She also highlighted ongoing research into a CMV vaccine, which could significantly reduce the number of newborns affected by the virus. Prof. Hesham Kozou raised the possibility of gene therapy for children with congenital genetic hearing loss. He shared preliminary results from his team's research and underscored the importance of genetic testing when a child with profound congenital hearing loss presents with no confirmed cause. Prof. Kozou emphasised the crucial role of differential diagnosis in identifying syndromic conditions such as Usher syndrome, Alport syndrome, and CHARGE syndrome.



Award to the authors of the presentation *Prevalence of tinnitus in a sample of 43,064 children in Warsaw, Poland* for winning second place in the "Oral Presentations" category at IPAC 2025

In a "Hearing Screening" session, Dr Theresa Byrne (Ireland) and Dr Chryssoula Thodi (Cyprus) presented studies on the development and effectiveness of current screening programs in their countries, beginning as early as the 1980s. However, these programs were only fully developed and implemented at the beginning of the 21st century.

In an "Oral Presentations" session, Aleksandra Kołodziejak, MSc, presented three studies from the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing, Poland.

1. *Symptoms of auditory processing disorder (APD) in children with tinnitus*, by Piotr H. Skarzynski, Natalia Czajka, Aleksandra Kołodziejak, Elżbieta Gos, and Danuta Raj-Koziak.
2. *Prevalence of tinnitus in a sample of 43,064 children in Warsaw, Poland*, by Piotr H. Skarzynski, Danuta Raj-Koziak, Aleksandra Kołodziejak, Natalia Czajka, and Henryk Skarzynski.
3. *Children's Tinnitus Questionnaire: a novel tool for assessing the impact of tinnitus on a child's everyday life*,

by Danuta Raj-Koziak, Elżbieta Gos, Marek Porowski, Aleksandra Kołodziejak, Piotr H. Skarzynski, and Henryk Skarzynski.

These studies sparked interest due to their focus on tinnitus in children, therapeutic possibilities, and the need for developing methods for diagnosis and rehabilitation of children with the condition. Moreover, paper two won second place in the “Oral Presentations” category.

On the third day, Aleksandra Kołodziejak presented three posters based on studies by the IFPS team.

1. *Facial nerve palsy in children as a complication after otitis media*, by Aleksandra Kołodziejak, Natalia Czajka, Piotr H. Skarzynski, and Henryk Skarzynski.
2. *Evaluation of auditory outcomes after CI in children with CHARGE syndrome*, by Piotr H. Skarzynski, Aleksandra Kołodziejak, Emilia Czaplicka, Artur Lorens, Adam Walkowiak, and Henryk Skarzynski.
3. *Cochlear implantation in children with congenital herpes virus*, by Aleksandra Kołodziejak, Piotr H. Skarzynski, Natalia Czajka, and Henryk Skarzynski.

Dr Eualia Juan Pastor presented an interesting study on cochlear implantation in children with congenital single-sided deafness (SSD). She described the diagnostic process followed in her clinic and the outcomes of implanted patients. She emphasized the importance of presenting all possible therapeutic options to parents and raising awareness of how bilateral hearing can significantly impact a child’s development and functioning. Prof. Merve Batuk presented a study on the challenges of cochlear implantation in children with additional disabilities. She discussed syndromes and disabilities associated with hearing loss (e.g., Down syndrome, cerebral palsy). She pointed out that hearing loss is not the only issue faced by such children, often leading to delays in diagnosing hearing loss. Prof. Batuk emphasised the need to adjust diagnostic and rehabilitative methods to suit children with disabilities.

The congress was an excellent opportunity to exchange knowledge with specialists from around the world. The issues addressed provided participants with insights into future research directions. The next congress will take place in April 2027, again in Istanbul.