Welcome

by

A. SHULMAN, M.D.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Division of Otolaryngology, Center for Communication Sciences, Downstate Medical Center, SUNY, I wish to welcome you to the 'Second International Tinnitus Seminar'.

Our meeting is international in character and reflects a universal agreement of the significance to the patient of the symptom of tinnitus. All of us here today are professionals involved in this effort, as represented by the attendees and faculty. The international advisory board has formed a nucleus of professionals combining an experience which has been applied to the formulation of this program.

This is a time to review the professional efforts of the past and those now in progress for attempting to control the symptom of tinnitus. The meeting has as its primary goal an attempt to help the patient.

The various presentations have been organized to integrate the basic science(s) with clinical problems. The basic sciences are presented as a review and an attempt for correlation with the new applications of diagnosis and treatment. Guidelines for tinnitus evaluation and research will stress the psychophysical and psychoacoustical aspects of tinnitus; attempt objective evaluation. New information relating to tinnitus will be highlighted by presentations of vestibular evoked response; vestibular correlates of tinnitus; computer applications; auditory magnetic field responses; electrical stimulation and drug therapy—all in an attempt to control the symptom of tinnitus.

I believe that to attempt to understand tinnitus is to enter a world of the unknown. Our attempts to understand the symptom of tinnitus are leading to a clarification of what is hearing and its relationship to other sensory systems. It has and will continue to require diligent painstaking efforts of investigation; an ability to be flexible and open minded to suggestion(s); respect for the literature and historical background of tinnitus; and to share with the patient and our colleagues that which we know and to be frank to state what we do not know. We feel this is exemplified by our guest of honor, Professor Juergen Tonndorf.

Our meeting is a continuation of the efforts of the 'First International Tinnitus Seminar'. It is dedicated to the tinnitus patient and the professionals of the past, present and future, known and unknown. In this endeavor, we are fortunate to have the cooperation and support of the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Bernard M. Jaffe, M.D.; and the administration of the Downstate Medical Center, SUNY, Dr. Donald Scherl, President.

A special mention is of our benefactors—Audimax; Contraves-Goerz; Schering Corporation; Travelers' Insurance Company; Richards Manufacturing Company; E-A-R Division, Cabot Corporation. This meeting represents the efforts of many. Of special mention, our coordinator—Dr. Barbara Goldstein; Secretary—Susan Vento; assistants, Marian Cherry, Mayo Ramesh.

Lastly, the final program is in the loose leaf binder. Speakers will be strictly enforced to their allotted speaking time. We extend to all a cordial welcome to the 'Big Apple' and hopes for an enriching theoretical as well as practical experience to help the patient with the symptom of tinnitus.

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