

AMERICAN HEARING RESEARCH FOUNDATION

IN MEMORY OF *George E. Shambaugh, Jr., M.D.* 1903-1999

On February 7, 1999 George E. Shambaugh, Jr., M.D., Founder of the American Hearing Research Foundation and its President for 23 years, died peacefully at his home in Sandwich, Illinois at the age of 95. This is the first issue of our Newsletter in which we have had the opportunity to properly recognize Dr. Shambaugh's many accomplishments and virtues. His mentor, longtime associate in



medicine and friend, Eugene L. Derlacki, M.D., President (1977-1988) and current President Emeritus, composed this historical vignette of Dr. Shambaugh for the Archives Otolaryngology Head-Neck Surgery Journal's issue of June, 1996. Dr. Derlacki used much of the material that appears in this vignette in the eulogy that he delivered at Dr. Shambaugh's memorial services.

George E. Shambaugh, Jr., born in Chicago, Illinois, on June 29, 1903, was predestined to an otologic career as the son of George, Sr., a founder of the American Board of Otolaryngology. His education at University High School of the University of Chicago and his college training at Amherst College in Massachusetts prepared him for his medical degree, which he received from Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass., in 1928. An internship at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, from July 1928 through June 1930 preceded his residency training at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston, from July 1930 through June 1932 and at Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago from July 1932 through June 1933.

In 1933, during the Great Depression, George started a private practice with his father, a rather inauspicious time for a new undertaking! However, the 1930s proved to be among the most important years in George's continuing education: his instruction in allergy from French Hansel and his training in endaural and fenestration surgery with Julius Lempert were most influential steps in his development as a well-rounded otologist:

My long association with George began in July 1940, when my then mentor, Thomas Galloway, urged me to start my postgraduate training in otolaryngology at the Central Free Dispensary of Rush Medical College in Chicago. In Galloway's opinion, the opportunity to study with a brilliant young otologic surgeon who was applying his recent training to the development of fenestration surgery for otosclerosis would be invaluable. Thus began my otologic career, with 6 months of operating room observation and hands-on temporal bone dissections using an early version of the otomicroscope under George's watchful guidance. I was only the first of many otolaryngologists worldwide whose choice of a career in otologic surgery would be influenced by George. That 6-month experience of rewarding and stimulating training was followed by the completion of my residency and 3 years of service in the US Navy. On my return from the South Pacific in 1946, I joined George and Arthur Juers as a junior associate. My close relationship in practice with George for the next 28 years gave me a ringside seat from which to observe one of the most productive

teaching careers our specialty has ever known.

The 1940s comprised a most productive decade, during which George's numerous presentations and papers on fenestration culminated in his historic monograph entitled "Fenestration Operation for Otosclerosis," published by *Acta Otolaryngologica* in 1949. All the improvements and major modifications in the techniques of fenestration surgery, beginning with continuous irrigation and the otomicroscope in 1940 and resulting in the improved Northwestern University technique, were documented in the monograph.

In 1946, George and Raymond Carhart, often referred to as the grandfather of audiology, developed the Otolologic/Audiologic Diagnostic Clinic at Northwestern University Medical School. This unique weekly collaboration between otology and audiology was a marvelous training forum for master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral candidates in audiology and for a few otolaryngology residents as well. My own 27 years (1946-1973) in this cooperative teaching effort with George and audiologists Raymond Carhart, John Gaeth, James Jerger, Helmer Myklebust,

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1903-1999

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Earl Harford, and Noel Matkin provided a background in medical audiology for a goodly number of Ph.D. program graduates who helped develop similar programs nationwide.

Another major educational undertaking in the late 1940s and early 1950s was a month-long course in endaural otologic surgery for qualified otolaryngologists. We selected the most promising and dedicated of the students for a 3- or 6-month surgical fellowship. Several of the trainees involved became outstanding otologic surgeons in Mexico, Cuba, South America, Spain, India, and Japan, as well as in our own country. In turn, several of the individuals who had gone through the program developed productive training programs of their own.

1959 must be considered a landmark year in George's illustrious otologic career. The field of otology was enriched, both here and abroad, by 2 outstanding teaching forums, which were launched in less than 1 year. One was the first edition of *Surgery of the Ear*, which became one of the most widely read and quoted otologic surgical source books of the time. The subsequent editions, published in 1967, 1980, and 1990, have maintained their important role as teaching text books. The third and fourth editions were greatly enhanced by the increasing collaboration of Michael E. Glasscock III.

The other unique undertaking in 1959 was the first of the Shambaugh International Workshops on Otomicrosurgery, which had an attendance of approximately 250 participants. The size of the audience was limited only by the space allotted for the meeting, which took place in the Furniture Mart adjacent to the Northwestern Medical School. The exciting and detailed presentations on tympanoplasty by Horst Wullstein and Fritz Zollner, as well as many lectures by American otosurgeons on the exploding experiences in stapes surgery, sparked a truly amazing discourse between workshop faculty and attendees. By the third workshop, in 1967, the 800-plus seats of Thorne Hall at Northwestern University Medical School were filled to capacity. The workshops had a truly international flavor, with participants from all over noncommunist Europe, South America, Australia, and the Pacific

Rim, as well as from North America.

An interesting aspect to the development and successful production of the first 5 workshops was the financial backing and organizational work of the staff of the American Hearing Research Foundation, Chicago, which was founded by George and supported by his and his associates' patient donors. Serendipity also played a role in providing a publishing forum for the workshop presentations through George's position as chief editor of the ARCHIVES from 1960 to 1970.

That the workshops were able to continue at 4-year intervals, through the ninth meeting in 1992, can be attributed to the joining of forces with an already successful Shea Fluctuant Hearing Loss Symposium. This infusion of new energy sustained the Shambaugh workshops until their vigorous and dignified conclusion in 1992. Those individuals who attended the ninth workshop will long remember that George Shambaugh missed the meeting because of emergency surgery and that, "against doctor's orders," he left his hospital bed to come to the final luncheon to speak to his cherished colleagues.

When one reviews George's major scientific accomplishments, which began during the 1940s and went on through the 1960s and into the 1970s, and realizes that he published approximately 400 articles and editorials in medical journals as well, one cannot be surprised that he was honored in so many ways, from being named the president of many professional societies to being given honorary awards by the world's most prestigious societies. Among the organizations of which George was president, the Otosclerosis Study Group, the American Society of Ophthalmologic and Otolaryngologic Allergy, and the American Otological Society particularly reflected George's specialty interests in otology and allergy. However, his presidential leadership was also appreciated by societies with broader-based interests, such as the Triological Society and the Chicago Laryngological and Otological Society.

George's honorary awards are too numerous to list in their entirety. However, I do know that the following 3 awards were particularly gratifying to George: Honorary Doctor's Degree,

University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany, June 27, 1967; Award of Merit of the American Otological Society, Palm Beach, Florida, April 21, 1974; and Honorary Doctorate, University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France, June 1980.

When one contemplates the roster of extracurricular activities previously enumerated, one finds it difficult to realize that George carried a heavy load in a private group otologic practice during the heyday of otosclerosis and mastoid and tympanoplasty surgery and still found time for the chairmanship of the Department of Otolaryngology of the Northwestern University Medical School from 1951 to 1964.

The usual events in a medical career that signal consideration of retirement have had no meaning to George Shambaugh. Reaching the status of professor emeritus in 1972 in no way altered his otologic surgical practice or his otology practice in general. His voluntary cessation of otologic surgery in 1982 did not reduce his involvement in his office practice. It merely changed his medical orientation from otology to otolaryngologic allergy but did not alter his lifelong thirst for new ideas and new avenues of medical exploration.



TO HEAR AGAIN

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National Advisory Board of the American Hearing Research Foundation and the Boca Raton Advisory Board for the Physically and Mentally Challenged.

These days Chertok is busy trying to catch up on all she missed. She goes to the opera and the theater. "Now I can sit in the last row and pick up the sounds on stage." She listens to the car radio. "I wondered at first if I would ever recognize one song and now I do." She watches television without captions by plugging a long auxiliary microphone into her sound processor. She attends lectures and takes college classes. Best of all, the music has come back into her life. Frank Sinatra. Nelson Eddy. Ella Fitzgerald. And some she had never heard before like Billy Joel.

"I walk into a music store and I feel like a kid in the candy store. I see all these tapes and I want to buy them all. I'm trying to relive all the music that I remembered." The first tape she played after her surgery was Nat King Cole: *Unforgettable*.

"I had the biggest smile on my face," she says. "His voice came flooding back to me."

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Barbara Chertok watches television without captions by plugging a long auxiliary microphone into her sound processor.



The speech processor converts sounds into a code. The speech processor can be put in a pocket or worn on a belt. A behind-the-ear processor is also available.

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