

Editorial

Why a new journal in the field of Audiology and Phoniatrics?

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The Italian scientific societies of Audiology and Phoniatrics that have followed one another over the years since 1950 have always stimulated and disseminated the scientific research activity with numerous publishing activities.

In the late 60s, the audiological and phoniatric component of the society separated and then merged again in 2004 in the Società Italiana di Audiologia e Foniatría (SIAF) at the Italian national congress in Rome.

In 2016, SIAF decided to resume the publication of a journal that was mainly dedicated to the contributions presented in the SIAF-related meetings and to the minutes of board meetings.

Many changes in audiology have also taken place in Europe and in the USA in the last decades. At the beginning of 2000, the two historic European audiology journals (British Journal of Audiology, published since 1967, and Scandinavian Audiology, published since 1972) merged with the "American" journal (Audiology, published since 1971, the heir of International Audiology, published from 1962 to 1970) to create the International Journal of Audiology (IJA).

At that point, the "medical" component of audiology, which already published its own journal (the Journal of Audiological Medicine published by Whurr from 1992 to 2002) posed the problem of whether merge with the IJA or to dedicate to the clinical/medical aspects of audiology. The invitation of Taylor & Francis, who already published IJA, to re-found their journal was accepted, giving birth to Audiological Medicine. The great development of the discipline outside Europe (particularly in Egypt and India, but especially in China) also led to greater attention being paid to both vestibular and communication aspects. In 2013, after the IAPA congress in Beijing, Audiological Medicine changed its name into Hearing, Balance & Communication.

The question now is the following: do we need a "new" Italian journal that simultaneously considers matters of hearing, balance and phoniatrics?

Although there are many scientific journals dedicated to audiological and phoniatric topics, there is a high prevalence of pathological events affecting children, adults and, in particular, elderly patients that involve at the same time hearing, balance and communication issues.

Two Nobel prize winners fundamentally revolutionised our fields; Robert Bárány (1914) "for his work on the physiology and pathology of the vestibular apparatus" and Georg von Békésy (1961), "for discovering traveling waves in the cochlea", but this was a long time ago.

A dramatic change in hospital and community healthcare medicine in the past century has been the rise of the medical specialties. But what is the situation today? What type of specialist is needed today in the field of Audiology and Phoniatrics?

Technologies have changed how audio-vestibular medicine is practiced today. Thanks to pioneers like William House, MD, cochlear implants have now restored partial hearing to more than 500,000 deaf people worldwide and we are close to achieving similar results in severe vestibular impairment through the use of "vestibular implants". Audiological diagnostic processes have increasingly improved over the last 50 years, both with objective measures and through imaging, resulting in the early detection and accurate classification of auditory and vestibular disorders from the ear to the brain. Telemedicine and personalized medicine will be cheaper, more convenient and perhaps provide a better service than that of the present model.

There is a clear need for a shared forum for discussing the medical and scientific rehabilitative aspects of hearing, balance, swallow-

ing, voice, speech and communication disorders in Italy, with attention to what happens in the world.

The Italian Journal of Audiology & Phoniatics will be structured in 2 regular issues in the English language and a special issue in the Italian language. The structure of the editorial board has been reorganized, and an international Advisory Board has been established to support the society's editorial board.

The new graphic layout and the new publisher (Padova University Press) responds to the Society's desire to strengthen its presence in the national and international field.

We are confident that Italian Journal of Audiology & Phoniatics will become a must in departments and clinics of audio-vestibular medicine, otology, hearing and speech, human communication rehabilitation centers, research institutes and libraries

We encourage you to submit contributions.

Previous scientific Italian journals in Audiology and Phoniatics

Bollettino della Società italiana di fonetica sperimentale, fonetica biologica, foniatria, audiologia (1950-1958), Milano, edited by: Società italiana di fonetica sperimentale, fonetica biologica, foniatria, audiologia

Bollettino della Società italiana di fonetica, foniatria e audiologia (1958-1969), Milano, edited by: Società italiana di fonetica, foniatria e audiologia

Bollettino di Audiologia e Foniatria (1969-1977), Milano, edited by: Società Italiana di Audiologia e Foniatria

Rivista italiana di audiologia pratica, edited by: Centro audiologico Maico (1951- ?) Milano

Acta Phoniatica latina (1979-2012), La Garangola Padova, edited by: Società Italiana di Foniatria e Logopedia

Rivista italiana di otorinolaringologia, audiologia e foniatria. CIC, Roma, 1981-?

I Care (1976-2012) Rivista Trimestrale di Fisiopatologia della Comunicazione, edited by: CRO Firenze
Audiologia Newsletter, Organo ufficiale della Società di Audiologia e Foniatria (1996-2004) and then Audiologia e Foniatria (2005-2008)

Audiologia e Foniatria, Organo ufficiale della Società di Audiologia e Foniatria, CIC, Roma (2016-today)