

February 2018



# Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore of Long Island Chapter

## Meeting Location

Long Island Jewish Hearing & Speech Center is located on the grounds of the Long Island Jewish Medical Center.

Enter the grounds from LAKEVILLE ROAD and it is the first building on your left. Free parking is available behind the hearing and speech building: first entrance to parking lot after building. DO NOT go into the main parking building. Go to the Conference room on the Lower Level 270-05 76th Avenue New Hyde Park, NY 11040.

If you are in doubt as to whether there is a meeting, or if you'd like further information, please call Sal: 516-331-0231.

## Meeting News

**Wednesday, February 21, 2018**

**Refreshments and Social Time begins 6:00pm.**

**Meeting 6:30 - 7:30pm.**

### *Topic: Meeting in the Round*

Sometimes you just need someone to talk to. An opportunity where you can ask questions, share experiences, and gain insight from others on the day-to-day challenges of living with hearing loss.

Join us for a casual, interactive meeting that's all about you.

Come prepared with your questions and concerns. Our membership is here help one another.





# Hearing Loss Association of America

North Shore of Long Island Chapter

## Chapter Planning Committee

HLAA North Shore  
Chapter of L.I.

Sal Sturiale

Charlie Kantor

Rosemarie Mignogna

Trudie Walker

MaryAnn Weeks

Claudia Block

Voice: 516-331-0231  
<http://hearingloss-longisland.org>  
[hlaalongisland@gmail.com](mailto:hlaalongisland@gmail.com)

*HLAA of North Shore Long Island does not necessarily endorse the opinions of our speakers, goods & services.*

## Preventing a Form of Hereditary Hearing Loss

*By Science Daily*

A research advance co-led by Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine's Kumar Alagramam, PhD, may stop the progression of hearing loss and lead to significant preservation of hearing in people with Usher syndrome type III, a form of hereditary hearing loss linked to defects in the sensory "hair" cells in the inner ear. USH3 is caused by a mutation in the Clarin-1 gene.

The onset of sensory deficits in USH3, which also can result in loss of vision, is generally noticeable in childhood and is primarily found in people of Finnish background and Ashkenazi Jewish descent.

In a new study published in *Scientific Reports*, Alagramam, who is an associate professor of otolaryngology, genetics and genomic sciences, and neurosciences at CWRU School of Medicine, and Lawrence Lustig, MD, chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery at Columbia University Medical Center, found that loss of hearing can be curtailed in a mouse model for hearing loss in USH3 through gene therapy. In gene therapy, normal genes are transplanted into cells in place of malfunctioning or missing ones to repair genetic disorders.

The Clarin-1 gene provides information for making CLRN1, a protein found in hair cells, which help convey sound signals to the brain. "I think of hair cells as neatly arranged mini-microphones in the inner ear that are sensitive to different frequencies of sound entering the ear," said Alagramam. Previous work from the Alagramam lab showed that Clarin-1 is essential for maintaining the structural integrity of the hair cells.

"There are several 'firsts' in our paper," said Alagramam. "This is the first time researchers have been able to successfully mimic in any animal the progressive hearing loss observed in USH3 patients with a disabling

*Continued on Page 5*

# Laguardia to Install New Innovative Public Address System for People With Hearing Loss

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

January 19, 2018

Dear Mr. Kantor:

Thank you for your recent correspondence to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo regarding announcements at the new Terminal B.

The terminal's operator, LaGuardia Gateway Partners (LGP), is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide a public address system that is equally effective for all persons.

LGP currently plans to provide a public address system with "text to speech" functionality which can be heard in targeted zones or terminal wide. This function (text-to-speech) can also be displayed on all Flight Information Display monitors (FIDS). Text-to-speech software creates a consistent tone and eliminates problems caused by different vocal accents, improving passenger ability to understand public messages. In regards to customer service, check-in, and gate areas, LGP is exploring a tablet solution that enables an exchange between the passenger and agent.

Delta is planning to include hearing loop technology in the New Terminal C.

The LaGuardia Airport community continuously strives to improve the experience of our customers, and we thank you for your correspondence.

Sincerely,



Richard Smyth  
Project Executive, LGA Redevelopment

# If You're New, This is for You!

More than 48 million people in the US have a hearing loss, which can hinder daily communication. By age 65, one in three Americans has a hearing loss. This invisible condition affects the quality of life of the individuals with hearing loss, as well as family, friends, coworkers and everyone with whom they interact. HLAA believes people with hearing loss can participate successfully in today's world.

Founded in 1979, the mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy.

HLAA is the nation's foremost membership and advocacy organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA publishes the bimonthly *Hearing Loss Magazine*, holds annual conventions, a Walk4Hearing, and more. Check out: [www.HearingLoss.org](http://www.HearingLoss.org)

The North Shore Chapter is a dynamic group of individuals working together as a team. To join, please fill out the Membership Form in this newsletter. Welcome!



## *Parkside* *Memorial Chapels, Inc.*

To reach all branches – **(718) 896-9000** – 24 hours a day

Toll Free – **(1-888) – 860-8616**

**Queens:** 98-60 Queens Boulevard

**Brooklyn:** 1895 Flatbush Avenue

**Long Island:** 1236 Wellwood Avenue

In Florida Call:

**Dade County:** (305) 864-3774

**Broward County:** (954) 472-2821

**Palm Beach County:** (561) 655-6844



mutation in the Clarin-1 gene.” Previous research showed that there was already deterioration in the hair cells of mice with USH3 two or three days after birth, which explained why conducting gene therapy that early, even before the ear had fully developed, was already a lost cause. This precluded treating the cells before the onset of symptoms.

Seeking to address this problem, the authors surmised that inducing gradual hearing loss in mice would parallel the progression of hearing loss in humans with USH3, paving the way to investigate therapies for eventual human benefit. As reported in the new study, the researchers were able to postpone the onset of hearing loss and associated hair cell degeneration by about a month, providing enough time to inject normal copies of the Clarin-1 gene into the ear before the onset of hearing loss to see if the treatment was effective.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2ieGi2y>

---

*Deaf Children With Cochlear Implant Learn Words Faster Than Hearing Children, Continued from Page 8*

children get their implants, they learn words faster than those with normal hearing. Consequently, they build up certain word pools faster,” says Niki Vavatzanidis, first author of the underlying study and scientist at MPI CBS and the University Medical Centre Dresden. Normally, children need fourteen months to reliably recognise that known objects are named incorrectly. Children with an artificial cochlea were already able to do so after twelve months.

The reason for this finding could be that children with cochlear implants are older when they are first exposed to spoken language. Those with normal hearing learn aspects of language, such as the rhythm and melody of their mother tongue, from birth and even in the womb. In deaf children, this only starts at the time of their cochlear replacement, at the age of around one to four years. By this time certain brain structures necessary for language acquisition are already well developed. “It is not just the memory, but also the broader knowledge about their surroundings that is more formed. They already know about objects in their environment and have accumulated non-linguistic semantic categories,” states Vavatzanidis. For example, they already know that objects such as cups or meals could be hot and that heat could be something harmful without knowing the word “hot.”

The neuroscientists examined these relations with the help of thirty-two children with cochlear implant in both ears. They carried out a test after twelve, eighteen and twenty-four months after implantation that tested their ability to recognise words: The young study participants were shown pictures of objects which were named either correctly or incorrectly. In parallel to this, the scientist analysed the brain activities of the little ones using electroencephalography (EEG). If the researchers detected an effect in the EEG known as N400, they knew that the child registered the incorrect word. This means they had established a stable connection between objects and their names. They had learnt the word.

“Children with cochlear implants could help us understand the general processes of language acquisition and determine which single steps are age-dependent,” Angela D. Friederici explains, study leader and head of MPI CBS. “We now know that age does not affect how fast children learn words. On the contrary, they seem to catch up even if they were previously disadvantaged.” Upcoming studies should now focus on why some of the affected children, despite these findings, struggle to reach the level of their contemporaries with normal hearing.



7910 Woodmont Avenue, Ste. 1200  
Bethesda, MD 20814-7022  
Phone: 301.657.2248 • Fax: 301.913.9413  
Email: [membership@hearingloss.org](mailto:membership@hearingloss.org)  
Website: [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)



**HLAA opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support, and advocacy. HLAA is a 501(c)(3) organization.**

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

**I'd like to:** ☐ Become a member of HLAA ☐ Renew my membership ☐ Give a gift membership

### My Membership/Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter I belong to: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about HLAA? \_\_\_\_\_

### Gift Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

	Annual USA Membership Fees	Annual Non-USA Membership Fees
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 (1 year) <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 (3 years) <input type="checkbox"/> \$140 (5 years)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)
Couple/Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55 (1 year)
Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)
Library/Nonprofit	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 (1 year)
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (1 year)	N/A
Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300 (1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325 (1 year)

My membership fee is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Plus I'm adding a tax  
deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My total is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Ways to Join, Renew or Give a Gift Membership

1. Return this form to your chapter with your check made payable to HLAA.
2. Mail or fax this form to the HLAA office at the address above with your credit card information.
3. Visit [www.hearingloss.org/content/join](http://www.hearingloss.org/content/join) and use your credit card online. (this is a secure website)

Credit Card Payment Information: ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (as it appears on card)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Include your billing address if different than membership address above.)



**Fact:** Over 5,000 Hearing Care Clinics referred CaptionCall to their patients last year!

**Learn why.**



Get CaptionCall absolutely FREE!\*

[www.captioncall.com](http://www.captioncall.com) | 1-877-557-2227 | Use promo code **MS1124**

\*Certification of hearing loss by a hearing-care or healthcare professional is required to participate.



## Donating Hearing Aids to the Lions Club

*By Michelle Gross*

If you have used hearing aids to donate, please address the package to:

John McNamara, Au.D., Ontario Hearing  
2210 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14618

**Put on the lower left corner of the package:**  
"Finger Lakes Region Lions Club"

(Cleaning tools, cases, most accessories, etc. have virtually no value and are discarded.) Aids that are usable are cleaned and checked and made ready for sending to the Lions Club for qualified recipients.

You can obtain a receipt for your donation (for tax purposes) but **you must request it**. And, thanks for considering donating your used aids.

*Trudie Katz Walker*

*Attorney at Law*

225 Old Country Rd.  
Melville, N.Y. 11747

[twalker@walkerlegaloffices.com](mailto:twalker@walkerlegaloffices.com)

Tel. (631) 361-8737  
Fax (631) 361-8792



North Shore of Long Island Chapter

<http://hearingloss-longisland.org>

Sal Sturiale  
80-38 212 Street  
Hollis Hills, NY 11427

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

---

# Deaf Children With Cochlear Implant Learn Words Faster Than Hearing Children

*By Science Daily*

For many years scientists tinkered to find a perfect replacement for the damaged or dysplastic inner ear. Cochlear implants receive a sound, convert it into electrical stimuli and send these impulses directly to the auditory nerve, thereby giving hearing impaired children the chance to connect to the world of sounds and noises.

It has so far been assumed that these children reach the language level of children with normal hearing much later. Previous studies showed that from the moment of having the device implanted, children need longer to attain the important steps of learning their mother tongue—for instance, being able to distinguish the rhythm of their mother tongue from that of another language. This could imply that developmental milestones necessary to start school are also delayed, although they reach all the other developmental stages needed.

A current study at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences (MPI CBS) in Leipzig and the University Medical Centre Dresden has now revealed something different: “We observed that when deaf

*Continued on Page 5*