

Mexico

Development of Phoniatics in Mexico

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Since 1950 Mexico was interested in Phoniatics as a medical specialty, when in the National Institute of Audiology Dr. Andres Bustamante showed that human communication pathologies needed the development of audiology and phoniatics. This plan was completed by Prof. Hernandez Orozco in 1972 with the beginning of the Human Communication Medicine specialty, approved by the Health Ministry.

Dr. Pedro Berruecos Tellez , Mexican ENT, began working intensively in the field of Phoniatics and Audiology in 1950 leaving ENT practice. He created the Mexican Institute of Hearing and Language, a private institution in 1951. Due to Dr. Berruecos interest in developing Phoniatics, Prof Dr. Jean Tarneud from the National Music Conservatory of Paris was invited and organized the first phoniatics course in Mexico. Dr. Berruecos had interest in supporting the phoniatics development in Latin America and he founded the Hispanoamerican College for problems of the voice, hearing and language. In 1963 he organized the first hospital department of audiology and phoniatics totally independent from ENT in the General Hospital of Mexico.

Dr. Severino Tarasco Camino has achieved a long and fruitful development of Phoniatics in Mexico. He began his training in 1951 in Mexico with Dr. Pedro Berruecos Tellez. After staying from 1952 to 1953 in Hospital L' Enfant Maladie and Institute Gustav Roussy in France, he practiced at the Mexican Institute for Language and Hearing and at the National Institute for Audiology .from 1956 to 1961. From 1961 to 1987 he was in charge of phoniatics and logopedics service in the General Hospital "20 November". From 1987 to 1993 he organized the diagnosis support services department at the same hospital. At present he is working in his private office. He contributed to national and international magazines with 23 medical publications. Psycogenic dysphonia and Consonants scales on Hispanoamericans were important international contributions. He has trained many generations of medical doctors and speech pathologists in Mexico and different countries of Central and South America. He founded different Mexican ENT and phoniatics societies. He is a founding member of CoMeT and belonged to many international societies in Europe, Latin America and U.S.A. He and his team made the first fluoroscopy studies in the phonation mechanism and in cleft palate patients in Latin America.

Prof. Francisco Hernandez Orozco made one of the most important contributions to the development of the Phoniatics in Mexico He founded the Human Communication Medicine as a medical specialty, a career of three years after general medicine studies. This medical specialty began in 1972 and Mexico has now 227 medical doctors with specialty in Human Communication Medicine working all over the country and some in Central and South America. Prof. Hernandez Orozco has been ENT since 1957 but at the same time he has been always active and very interested in hearing and language pathologies. He has written several chapters in ENT and Human Communication books and his publications are about 80 in international and national magazines. He developed research projects in the field of Audiology and some in relation with Phoniatics.

He has been since 1970 director of the National Institute for Human Communication and has made many personal efforts to fulfil all the expectations for a development in the different areas of the Human Communication in the medical, therapeutical, research and teaching areas. He was General Secretary of IFOS and was founder of the Mexican Council for Audiology, Otoneurology and Phoniatics among many others . He is honorary member of many Mexican and international ENT and Phoniatics societies. He has been a member of the National Academy of Medicine since many years. He organized several international and national congresses. He is the director of the Center for prevention of Hearing problems and Latin American Center of Phoniatics both organizations are in close relation with IFOS.

Dr. Fernando Romero Fernandez born in Mexico city, ENT in 1967. Phoniatical training with Dr. Tarasco during 1967-68. He is the founder of Phoniatics department in the Pemex hospitals and worked from 1968 to 1995 and has had an intense academical contribution in Phoniatics of ENT specialty training, and since 1971 until now has given many lectures and courses in national, Latin American and American congresses. President of Audiology and Phoniatics Association. Member of all the national societies of ENT and Phoniatics in Mexico and Professor of many ENT generations. He received the Excellence Prize of the Hospital Pemex. He wrote chapters on phoniatics in books for General Practitioners and about Phoniatics and Laryngology in the book Human Communication.

Dr. Pedro Berruecos Villalobos born in Mexico City made his clinical training in Phoniatics and Audiology with Dr.Berruecos Tellez in the General Hospital 1966 and 67. He studied in Ferrara Italy and Bourdeaux France from 1968 to 1970. He participated in many national and international courses. He made contributions to the approval of the speciality as a university degree in 1985. His teaching activities have been very intensive with medical doctors and speech pathologists in Mexico and some countries in Latin America. He made several translations of Phoniatics and Audiology books and wrote several publications for international and national magazines. He was founder and president of Council and Association of Phoniatics and Audiology. He is member of the National Academy of Medicine. He is member of different International Phoniatics and Audiology societies. Editor consultant of different specialized magazines. Organizer of national and international congresses.

Professional state

Phoniatics is an official part of the Human Communication Medicine speciality. There are 2 official institutions where this speciality can be studied: since 1972 National Institute of Human Comunication and since 1983 General Hospital.

Human Communication Medicine speciality has the recognition of the National University of Mexico, since 1993 as a post medical speciality.

There are several Phoniatics departments in Children Hospital and in National Institute for Pediatrics and also in some other cities, but the necessity is not yet completed.

There are approximately 227 medical doctors as Human Communication specialists (Audiology, Otoneurology and Phoniatics) working all over the country and from these about 8 are working only in Phoniatics.

Mexico

Education and training

The academical program is for 3 years after having the medical degree of general practitioner.

Candidates have to pass an examination to be approved to become resident in the speciality.

The program includes lectures and clinical work in Aphasiology, Audiology, Otoneurology and Phoniatics.

There is a final examination for the specialty ,moreover they are examined by the Audiology, Otoneurology and Phoniatics council to get the speciality medical license.

Phoniatics in Mexico has never belonged to ENT, only to Human Communication Medicine.

Associations

Mexican Audiology and Phoniatics Association.

Mexican Council for Audiology, Phoniatics, Otoneurology and Human Communication.

Medical Association of the National Institute of Human Communication.

Web link: www.centrodefoniatria.com

Addendum

Dr. José Luiz Casillas Medina – president of FESORMEX

Phoniatics in Mexico is an independent specialty in the field of voice, speech and language. It is not an official subspecialty to ENT. We have only one university department and 5 doctors working in the field. The main personality in the field is

Dr. Severino Tarasco, who is the phoniatician who has developed the most expressive work in both clinic and research.

Contact

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The Latin American Regional Center for Phoniatics and Voice Care

Taken from IFOS Newsletter August/September 1990

This report is compiled from various communications from Hans von Leden, former Chairman of the IFOS Standing Committee on Phoniatics and Voice Care, from Francisco Hernandez Orozco, former IFOS General Secretary and Chairman of the IFOS Standing Committee on Continuing Education, Director of the National Human Communication Institute in Mexico City, and from Severino Tarasco, Head of the Latin American Center for Phoniatics and Voice Care.

The Center was officially inaugurated on November 30, 1988 at its Headquarters in the National Institute of Human Communication "Dr. Andrés Bustamante Gurria" in Mexico City, by the Minister of Health Dr. Jesus Kumate and in the presence of Dr. Hans von Leden, then Chairman of the IFOS Standing Committee on Phoniatics and Voice Care.

It has been established on instigation of the World Health Organization, the PanAmerican Health Organization and IFOS.

The objectives of this Center are to maintain communication with delegates of all Latin American countries, to organize and promote diffusion and training of this discipline at different levels, and to reinforce the activities of the Phoniatics Department of the National Human Communication Institute (NHCI).

Those training levels will be based on the interest of residents in ORL and Phoniatics in furthering their knowledge in different aspects of our specialty. These training programs will be developed with the official support and help of scientific organizations such as the American Academy of ORL, H & N Surgery, etc..

Depending on the specialization of the resident, the program will have different degrees, both in the basic sciences and in clinical practice : for Phoniaticians the existing program of the NHCI will be followed; for graduated Otolaryngologists and Phoniaticians, seminars will be held with topics on Phoniatic basic sciences as a form of continued medical education.

Further, an introductory course will be organized for Phoniaticians selected for an extensive course in functional laryngeal surgery. This course will require the participation of a foreign faculty and will take one to two weeks. When a resident has passed the exam finalizing this introductory course, he will be eligible to be accepted in a one-year Phonosurgical residency at the NHCI. The same course can also be taken as a Master degree.

For Otolaryngologists and Laryngologists, there will be short courses prior to the annual congresses of the Mexican Society of ORL and' of the Federation of ORL Societies of the Mexican Republic. There will also be conferences at the meetings of these associations and one annual general course, mainly . directed to residents in ORL, on topics of diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and prevention of general phoniatic diseases.

The Center had not been possible without the support of the National Human Communication Institute's Director and staff. Any further development in order to fulfill the goals set for the Latin American Center for Phoniatics and Voice Care requires increase of personnel and equipment.

In April 1989, Dr. von Leden through the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem donated material for Surgery and for Medical Examination. In June, medical equipment and furniture for installing two offices for the Phoniatics Center were also donated through the above Order of Chivalry. Both donations have been inventoried, classified and incorporated in the NHC Institute's patrimony

At the national congress of ORL in Mexico in May 1989, a special lecture on Phoniatics and Voice Care was given to make the Center known to the audience.

A presentation was also given at the session on Phoniatics during the XIV World Congress of ORL in Madrid in September 1989. The Center further promotes its activities through Middle and South America and the Carribean.

At present, the Center has begun the clinical training in ORL of the undergraduate medical students.

The courses, at different levels, given in Otolaryngology, Medicine of Communicative Disorders, Phoniatics and Audiology, will be intensified.

For further information, contact
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Mexico

Research

1. Center for Phoniatics and Audiology: Effects of air pollution on the voice. Artistic voice pathology and its rehabilitation.
2. National Institute of Human Communication: different projects in research of language , hearing and language pathology through department of Phoniatics.