

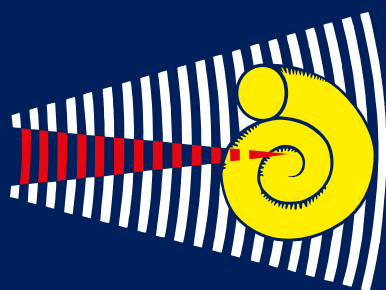
"CochlearCenter" 1993
World Hearing Center of the IPPH 2018

25 years

of our organizational identity

*on the centenary of regaining
our national independence*

editor prof. Henryk Skarżyński



COCHLEAR CENTER



WORLD HEARING CENTER

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The monograph was published on the occasion of the of 25 years of our organizational identity anniversary. From the “Cochlear Center” (1993) to the World Hearing Center of the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing (2018) and as a part of the celebration of 100 years of Polish independence.

Medicine is my passion, but I am also fascinated by history. Therefore, we always celebrate anniversaries and jubilees that are important to us at the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing. This way, we preserve our history and identity. The memory of our family, team and national roots is priceless. It makes a great sense to look back at the past, as the perspective we have allows us to realize where we stay today and sets the course for the future. – prof. Henryk Skarżyński wrote in the introduction to the monograph issued on the 25th anniversary of the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing

Henryk Skarżyński

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25 years
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From the “CochlearCenter” 1993
to the World Hearing Center
of the IPPH 2018

The Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing was established based on the first in Poland and the second in Europe Cochlear Implant Center “Cochlear Center”, opened in 1993, after the first in Poland cochlear implantation of a deaf person, carried out by prof. Henryk Skarżyński in 1992. In the history of Polish medicine, there are no medical units that have developed so quickly and achieved the highest global scientific position in such a short time.

The World Hearing Center is the primary unit of the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing. It is a highly specialized hospital that performs the biggest in the world, the number of hearing improving surgeries daily. The patients have access to the latest medical technologies, and as the first or one of the first in the world can count on care meeting and exceeding global standards.

25 years of work of prof. Henryk Skarżyński resulted in numerous pioneering surgeries after the first cochlear implantation in Poland; development and implementation of the new medical procedures, thanks to which it was possible to identify and treat subsequent groups of patients with various hearing disorders.

The World Hearing Center is also an extensive research and teaching center. On the initiative of prof. Henryk Skarżyński, the world’s first National Teleaudiology Network, was developed and launched here. The network enables teleconsultations with the patients and specialists from several centers at the same time, remote rehabilitation and telefitting, i.e. remote setting of speech processors in patients with hearing implants, especially cochlear ones. The World Hearing Center also has a state-of-the-art educational center – the best for surgical practice. The unique laboratory is equipped with 28 surgical stations, modern equipment for exercises on anatomical specimens and computer simulators. Since 2009 the Bioimaging Research Center has been operating at WHC. It is one of the most modern centers in Poland and in the world engaged in functional studies of the brain applying various combined methods of imaging techniques.

Our contribution
to the development
of medicine
and science in the
world

This is a chapter listing the pioneering operations of prof. Henryk Skarżyński, as well as groundbreaking scientific programs, innovative clinical procedures, global organizational and teaching initiatives in the subsequent years. These include the first surgery to restore hearing conducted in Poland (1992), the world's first program of hearing and inner ear structure preservation (1997), the first brainstem surgery in Poland (1998), the first in the world cochlear implantation in an adult with partial deafness (2002) and a child with such a hearing impairment (2004), the world's first development of a new method of round window direct stimulation with the middle ear implant (2006), the world's first scale for assessing the results of treatment of congenital external ear defects (2007), the world's first bilateral brainstem implant surgery (2008), the world's first implantation of an implant electrode (SRA CI422), designed by prof. H. Skarżyński to preserve the structure of the inner ear, residual hearing and partially normal hearing (2009), launching the world's first telemedical network in audiology and otolaryngology (2010), the world's first scale assessing the results of partial deafness treatment according to Skarżyński et al. (2012), the first use of a passive middle ear prosthesis „KURZ Skarżyński” (2013), the first results in the world of using electric-natural hearing in adults (2014) and in children (2015), the world's first, middle ear implantation of the Vibrant Soudbridge system with LP-Coupler carried out by prof. H. Skarżyński (2017), the world's first implantation of the Cochlear OSIA OSI 100 implant carried out by prof. P.H. Skarżyński (simultaneously Germany, USA, the Netherlands and Australia).

A million of Polish
children tested
in the pioneering
hearing screening
program

The activities of our center go beyond the walls, which is reflected by hearing screening tests in school children conducted on the unprecedented scale described in the chapter “A million of Polish children tested in pioneering hearing screening program”. Currently, Poland is one of the few countries where hearing screening at schools is performed on a large scale. In over 20 years, the hearing screening tests conducted by the team of the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing were performed in over one million children.

The results of the conducted research have shown that every fifth-sixth child may have a hearing problem. Such a situation may adversely affect the pace of a child’s development and impede learning. Statistically, a child with significant hearing loss is performing three times worse than his normally hearing peers. The early detection of hearing impairment in children is of the utmost importance to implement an early intervention program and improve communication skills.

Polish system of early detection of hearing impairments became an example for Europe. Proposed and coordinated by prof. Henryk Skarżyński, in collaboration with the Department of Mother and Child in the Ministry of Health, the project titled “Equal opportunities for children with communication impairments” was adopted as a priority from in the public health during the Polish Presidency in the Council of the European Union.

As a result of the work of the IPPH team and negotiations conducted during the presidency, the health ministers of all European Union countries, during the EPSCO Council meeting on December 2, 2011, in Brussels, adopted the “Conclusions of the EU Council on the early detection and treatment of communication disorders in children, including the application of e-Health tools and innovative solutions” (2011/C 361/04). The conclusion encourages government representatives in the EU Member States and relevant institutions to take measures to detect and treat hearing, vision and speech disorders in children, including through effective and economically viable screening programs and the use of opportunities offered by modern technologies and e-health tools.

Currently, the Institute promotes the implemented hearing screening programs on four continents (Europe, Asia, South America, Africa). It is the first such undertaking in world medicine.

Patients are
the ambassadors
of our success

Prof. Henryk Skarżyński has always emphasized that the best ambassadors of the clinical and scientific successes of the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing are patients who, after treatment, regain not only the ability to hear, but also get a chance for normal development, active professional life, and realization of their passions and talents. Patients with hearing implants will need the specialists' care throughout their lives. Prof. Skarżyński made the Institute a friendly homelike place. His idea was to create a big supportive family. The family that is so large that it has twice set the Guinness record in the category "Meeting in one place and time for the largest number of people with hearing implants". This great family is continuously joined by new members, such as participants of the organized by prof. Henryk Skarżyński world's first International Music Festival "Beats of Cochlea".

For various groups of patients and their families, we organize scientific and musical concerts and conferences with the participation of outstanding specialists in Kajetany. During these meetings, the people with hearing impairments and their relatives may broaden their knowledge about modern methods of treatment and rehabilitation of hearing disorders. These events have been very popular for years. The chapter contains an extensive report of the events.

Media as a partner
disseminating
knowledge on
hearing disorders
and new treatment
options

For over 25 years the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing was enjoying popularity in mass media, among journalists who understood the ideas of prof. Skarżyński and shared his point of view. They were reliable, competent, always prepared for meetings and interviews. The active cooperation with the mass media provides the society information about the latest methods of treatment of hearing, voice, speech and balance disorders, their detection and the units ready to deliver effective help. Journalists also help to challenge the stereotypes about the deaf and hard of hearing. The plaque placed on the wall of the World Hearing Center “For supporting the ideas of interpersonal communication” is an expression of our gratitude to the people of the mass media.



Our guests

For the past 25 years, the results of the work of prof. Henryk Skarżyński and his team in the area of hearing and speech disorders have been followed not only by eminent scientists from Poland and abroad but also by representatives of other fields – artists, athletes, politicians. The World Hearing Center – as a unique on a global scale center – has been visited by representatives of the highest authorities of Poland, marshals of the Sejm and Senate, ministers and parliamentarians as well as numerous foreign delegates. We had the honour of hosting the first ladies of the Republic of Poland and other countries. The chapter is illustrated with photos from these visits to the Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing.