Editorial

More than 60 years ago the first issue of volume 1 of *Folia Phoniatria et Logopaedica* was published on the ‘science of medical speech and voice correction of organic and other disorders’. According to the introduction of the first issue, the three founders aimed at bringing well-founded scientific results in the medical field of voice and speech. Aspects of voice and speech correction were of equal importance. In fact, *Folia Phoniatria et Logopaedica* was designed to be the successor of a number of periodicals that did not reappear after World War II: *Archiv für gesamte Phonetik*, subdivided into *Archiv für Sprach- und Stimmheilkunde und angewandte Phonetik* and *Archiv für vergleichende Phonetik*, and the *Periodical of Experimental Phonetics*, founded by Scripture. Simultaneously Tarneaud published his *Revue française de Phoniatrie* in France; the *Journal of Speech Disorders* appeared in the United States and *Archives Néerlandaises de Phonétique Expérimentelle* in The Netherlands. To cite from the introduction in the first issue:

It would therefore seem imperative to replace them by an international publication in Phoniatriy, to serve mutual exchange of the various stages in the development of research in all countries, and facilitate continuous cooperation of all branches of our scientific field. The object of *Folia Phoniatria et Logopaedica* consists in furthering the study, general instruction, and acquaintance with up-to-date scientific results in physiology and pathology of speech and voice everywhere, no matter which be the country of contributing authors.

Between the wars advances took place in the field of phoniatrics (also called in the introduction: phoniatriy)

by adopting equipment used in phonetic sciences. The need was felt for more research based on the medical approach of voice and speech problems. The results should be shared with colleagues all over the world to compensate also for the years of lack of contact during the years of war.

The phoniatriicians of that time had a big choice of topics to study and were not reluctant to do research on everything that they considered of importance. Knowledge of phoniatrics was still developing, although since the beginning of the 20th century a lot of progress was made. Gutzmann senior already published results and opinions in his *Medical-Educational Monthly* around 1895. In the following years new tools and new methods were developed to study voice and speech. The development of electronics in the second half of the century opened even more possibilities, to state it mildly.

Because the above-mentioned periodicals stopped appearing, there was no easy way to share results with colleagues. Prominent phoniatriicians of that time therefore decided to start *Folia Phoniatria et Logopaedica* together with the publisher Karger in Basel.

The three founders, Luchsinger, Seeman and Tarneaud, realized that it would be important to publish in three languages – English, German and French, with summaries in all three, to further the possibility that all colleagues could publish and read the scientific results.

The introduction in the German language differed somewhat in tone compared to the English and French ones. The French version stated simply: *Folia Phoniatria et Logopaedica* is a ‘journal de la phoniatrie internatio-

nale', while the goal was specified in more detail: 'After these many years of isolation, there is a most urgent need for surveys of the parallel results in the various countries, such as, e.g.: in neurological disorders of speech, the vast field of Aphasia (particularly in cases of war casualties) and all branches of applied phonetics.'

The first volume illustrates the wide range of topics and also the fact that the founders were prepared to fill volume 1 of about 256 pages. Luchsinger, e.g., wrote on objective sound analysis of nasality, on ventriloquism, and on tests for fine motor mechanisms in children in correlation with speech development.

The journal quickly got support from other colleagues from all over the world. In the first issue only 4 'collaborators' were mentioned, in the 4th issue already 8 'editores' were listed, including Emil Froeschels (New York). It is not a surprise that this cofounder of the International Association of Logopaedics and Phoniatics declared *Folia* to be the official organ, where reports were published, also of the New York Society for Speech and Voice Therapy, Inc. On the cover of the 4th issue of volume 1 also the name of IALP is written. *Folia* has also been the official scientific journal of IALP for more than 60 years!

What is the situation after 60 years?

Folia Phoniatica et Logopaedica is still being published by Karger, and the invited main reports of the triennial International Conference of the IALP are still published in *Folia*. The three Main Reports for the IALP Congress in Amsterdam in 1950 were published in volume 2 before the congress took place. The next three main reports of the IALP Conference in August 2010 will appear again in issue 4 of volume 62 in 2010.

Although there have been complaints that *Folia* was too much concentrated on the voice, a recent survey has shown that still a wide range of communication-related disorders is covered.

However, over the past 60 years the world has changed a lot. The number of researchers in the field has grown and many scientific journals were founded. Most of these journals aim at specific topics like stuttering, voice, language development, etc.

Folia Phoniatica et Logopaedica still continues to be a journal with a broad scope. The name of the journal was extended in 1994 to include logopaedics. This was done to make more apparent that not only medical aspects were covered, but also speech and language therapy, as was the case at the start of *Folia*. It was felt that this connection was getting loose. But still top researchers in diverse fields continue to publish in *Folia*.

The journal seeks new ways to spread scientific knowledge by publishing special issues on 'hot topics'. A guest editor invites colleagues with specific experience to write state-of-the-art articles. This appears to satisfy a need. In a single issue the reader gets an overview of a small part of the broad field of communication physiology and pathophysiology. Forthcoming are special issues on 'Occupation-Related Voice Disorders', the three main reports of the upcoming congress in Athens, on dysarthria, education and child language. There have been special issues on 'Modern Singing Voice Research', COST Action 2013 and 'The Cerebellum and Language'. In this way *Folia Phoniatica et Logopaedica* will certainly overcome the temporary reduction in impact factor. This was caused by too high a self-citation rate, but we are looking forward to receiving an even better impact factor once the ban is over.

I will conclude with the words of the editor(s) of the first issue of volume 1 (1947/1948), asking active participation from all colleagues who made a choice for doing research, refreshing and extending our knowledge from different disciplines to put in print in *Folia Phoniatica et Logopaedica*. So, continue submitting manuscripts!

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