**Backstage at The Voice Foundation**

Kim Steinhauer, PhD
Editor, The Voice Foundation Newsletter

As promised, I present the Second Act of Back Stage at The Voice Foundation! In this issue discover insights from The Voice Foundation Chairman Robert T. Sataloff, President Leon Fassler, Scientific Advisory Board Chairman Michael Benninger, and Newsletter Editor Nadine Connor. I heard from many readers who enjoyed learning about The Voice Foundation leadership in our last issue, and I'm confident that you will appreciate the back stories of our current multi-faceted and talented cast.

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**Backstage with Robert T. Sataloff**

Robert T. Sataloff, MD, DMA, FACS
Chairman of the Board of Directors, The Voice Foundation

What is your contribution to The Voice Foundation cast?
My contribution to The Voice Foundation is Chairman of the Board. I’m responsible for leadership of the organization and editing *Journal of Voice*.

Who was/is your mentor?
I did not really have a mentor in the traditional sense, since voice was embryonic as a field when I first became involved, and I did not work on a daily basis with anybody who specialized in voice. However, my activities in voice and my vision of the evolving field were influenced greatly by Wilbur James Gould, Hans von Leden, Howell S. Zulich (my voice teacher), Friedrich Brodnitz and Joseph Sataloff.

What motivated you to enter your field?
My lifelong ambition was to be an otologist and my fellowship was in neurotology. However, I am a trained professional singer, singing teacher and choir conductor. As a result, my musician friends called me to ask how to take care of their voices. When I went to look up answers, there was almost nothing there. My fascination with the field, coupled with my reluctance to accept the fact that we knew so little about voice, motivated me to help develop the subspecialty.

What motivated you to serve for The Voice Foundation?
The Voice Foundation is the original and preeminent interdisciplinary voice organization in the world. Almost everything I do is interdisciplinary. The fit was natural.

What is your vision for the future of The Voice Foundation?
I believe that The Voice Foundation will continue to be a guiding light in voice research and education, and will find new ways to catalyze the advancement of voice understanding. Among other advances, I believe that The Voice Foundation will attract experts in other disciplines, not currently involved in voice research. New perspectives, insights and expertise should be valuable in shedding light upon areas of the field that are still dark.

Is there anything unique that the readers don’t know about you?
I suspect readers already know that I have a doctorate in music as well as in medicine, and that I sing and conduct. My undergraduate degree was in composition. In addition to writing, I remain active in clinical care, teaching and administration as Professor and Chairman of the Otolaryngology Department and Senior Associate Dean at Drexel University College of Medicine. I also teach at the Academy of Vocal Arts and publish extensively (more than 700 publications, including 39 books). I still teach voice, but rarely more than one or two students at a time.

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**Return to Backstage at The Voice Foundation**

Kim Steinhauer, PhD
Editor, The Voice Foundation Newsletter

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**Backstage with Leon Fassler**

Leon Fassler
President, The Voice Foundation

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**Backstage with Michael Benninger**

Michael Benninger
Scientific Advisory Board Chairman, The Voice Foundation

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**Backstage with Nadine Connor**

Nadine Connor
Newsletter Editor, The Voice Foundation

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**Backstage with Michael Benninger cont.**

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**Backstage with Nadine Connor**

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**Nancy S. Freedman, A First-time Symposium Attendee**

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**Thanks to Susan Miller, Lucille Rubin and Donna Snow**

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**Pictures from the 2010 Voices of Summer Gala**

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**The Voice Foundation partners with D. Atlas & Co.**

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**Voice Questions?**
Submit your question to office@voicefoundation.org to be answered by one of our resident specialists in the next newsletter issue.

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**THE VOICE FOUNDATION**

would like to thank our local chapters for their continued contributions and support of the voice care community.

If you are interested in starting a local chapter in your area, please contact The Voice Foundation at office@voicefoundation.org or (215) 735-7999.
Backstage with Leon Fassler
Leon Fassler

As President of The Voice Foundation, I am very much interested in the use of the voice. I passionately enjoy listening to singing, especially opera. In fact, I was the first president of the Opera Orchestra of New York. After I moved to Florida, I became involved with the Palm Beach Opera.

The following is a scenario of how I became associated with The Voice Foundation. Many years ago I developed a chronic cough and I was seen by an eminent laryngologist with a large performing arts practice. After examining my throat he told me I lived in too dry an environment and to get a room humidifier. It didn’t help. I saw another laryngologist who told me I lived in too humid an environment and to get a room dehumidifier. It occurred to me that their advice was useless. I called Placido Domingo to ask who treats him when he is in New York. He told me Dr. Wilbur James Gould. I asked soprano Montserrat Caballe the same question. The answer again was Dr. Wilbur James Gould. I waited no longer to book an appointment with this eminent doctor who treated these eminent voices. On the day of my visit, I was kept in the waiting room for two and a half hours before being moved to an examination room. When the medical assistant asked me how I felt, I told her I was in a rage for being kept waiting so long. She responded by advising me that Dr. Gould was saving lives. My response was, “Nonsense! Dr. Gould is saving voices.”

When Dr. Gould entered, he asked how I felt and I repeated my discussion with his assistant. He was very sympathetic. He examined my throat and told me that everything looked normal to him and asked me to see a radiologist down the street and come back with the prints of my head. When he looked at the prints he told me I had an infected sphenoid sinus cavity, which he irrigated. I felt the pop and that was the cure.

After several follow-up visits, Dr. Gould invited me to come on the board of The Voice Foundation. At that point I had no knowledge of The Voice Foundation’s existence nor mission. I learned very quickly about The Voice Foundation’s commitment to enhancing vocal communication by supporting interdisciplinary research, education, and medical initiatives. Now I know that saving voices is saving lives!

When Jim Gould died, Bob Sataloff assumed the Foundation’s leadership. Subsequently, Dr. Sataloff asked me if I could identify an appropriate President. I approached Tony Randall, who accepted. After we lost Tony, Dr. Sataloff invited me to assume the Presidency and I happily did so. I hope to continue to serve The Voice Foundation in every way I can.

Backstage with Michael Benninger
Michael Benninger, MD
Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board
Chairman, Head and Neck Institute
The Cleveland Clinic, OH

What is your contribution to The Voice Foundation cast?
I have been the Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of The Voice Foundation since 1995 and on the Board of Directors since 1996. I have been actively engaged in a number of strategic planning activities as well as helping to put together the scientific program for many years. I am very passionate about the activities of The Voice Foundation, in the education of physicians, scientists, speech-language pathologists (voice pathologists) and teachers of music and singing. It was not only the first, but also the most important venue for the exchange of ideas from diverse disciplines.

Who was/is your mentor?
I had a number of mentors who have led to my interest in voice and laryngology. The first and most important person was Dr. Harvey Tucker, who was the Chairman of my department during my training. His great interests in voice laryngology precipitated my interest. It is through Harvey that I met Richard Miller, and was able to do my first research projects with Richard at Oberlin College. Early in my developing career, there were a number of individuals who went out of their way to encourage and support a young laryngologist and who continue to be great mentors and supporters to me. These include, but by no means are limited to, Drs. James Gould, Robert Sataloff, Jean Abitbol and Robert Ossoff. I truly have been fortunate to also have worked with remarkable speech-language pathologists including Drs. Barbara Jacobson and Alex Johnson and now Drs. Doug Hicks and Claudio Milstein. I also owe much of my success to my work in Michigan with Dr. Glendon Gardner.

What motivated you to enter your field?
Even though I am not a vocalist, I have been closely connected to music since late high school. Over my late high school and college years I worked at three different music venues in Cleveland and Boston where I was exposed to hundreds of artists. My direct interest in laryngology was more or less a quirk of fate. I had an interest in voice through my association with Harvey Tucker, but probably the major impetus to pursue laryngology as the major part of my career was more or less accidental. Richard Miller had been in discussion with Harvey and Howard Levine at the Cleveland Clinic about collaborative research between Oberlin Conservatory and the Cleveland Clinic. I was preparing for my third year

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Backstage with Nadine Connor

Nadine Connor, PhD
Associate Professor of Communicative Disorders and Surgery, University of Wisconsin-Madison

What is your contribution to The Voice Foundation cast?
I share the position of newsletter editor with Kim Steinhauer.

Who was/is your mentor?
I have had many wonderful, strong mentors throughout my career, and I still have these people on call for advice 24/7. In the field of voice, there are two very positive, female role models and mentors who stand out: Christy Ludlow and Diane Bless.

What motivated you to enter your field?
My motivation was a quest for knowledge and understanding of how things work and the challenge of being a scientist. I worked in Christy Ludlow’s lab as an undergraduate and graduate student and became very interested in communication disorders and their biological mechanisms. However, I needed further education and experience to build upon this interest. I needed to learn about how to do research and more about basic science. This prompted me to pursue the PhD in neurophysiology, and I met Diane Bless at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who has been an inspiring mentor for me, especially through the post-doc and junior faculty years.

What motivated you to serve The Voice Foundation?
Dr. Sataloff called me and asked me to serve as co-editor of the newsletter. I agreed because, first of all, I can’t say no to Dr. Sataloff, and second because it is completely different from anything else that I do and I thought it would be interesting and challenging.

What is your vision for the future of The Voice Foundation?
The mission of The Voice Foundation that resonates with me the most is the unified, collaborative pursuit of voice research via the interaction of all of our disciplines. This potential for scientific exchange is a real strength of our organization.

Is there anything unique that the readers don’t know about you?
Most readers of the newsletter know very little about me. Thus, there are a number of things I could write here that would be illuminating. However, I am stuck a little bit on “unique.” I am certain that the only unique thing about me is that I have the best students in the USA working with me at the UW-Madison.
The Voice Foundation would like to extend grateful thanks to Susan Miller, Lucille Rubin and Donna Snow for providing gratis presentation coaching to the faculty of the 39th Annual Symposium Care of the Professional Voice held in Philadelphia, PA June 2-6, 2010.

As a first time attendee of the Voice Symposium, I knew I was in for a special experience as I scanned the program ahead of time and tentatively planned which of the concurrent sessions and workshops I should attend. As a speech pathologist, I am trained to think about disorders and the restoration of function. My goal in attending the conference was to reach beyond my area of expertise and broaden my understanding of voice production from the perspectives of professionals in other areas. The symposium proved to be inspirational, refreshing and exciting, as it offered an opportunity to think about vocal excellence in both scientific and artistic terms.

"...as it offered an opportunity to think about vocal excellence in both scientific and artistic terms."

The beauty of the symposium was its interdisciplinary nature. Professionals from the fields of medicine, vocal science, speech pathology, and voice training for singers, actors and speakers have an opportunity to interact and share knowledge informally during the coffee hour breaks and the Gala dinner dance. Many of the attendees are performers themselves and it was great pleasure to see them perform during the Gala event.

The mentoring program, started by Ms. Jeannie LoVetri, for first-time attendees is a wonderful program in which volunteers answer questions and help newcomers, such as myself, feel comfortable. I learned about the symposium from a respected colleague, Dr. Lucille S. Rubin, who suggested that I attend. I am so glad she encouraged me. Perhaps you may know someone who would be excited to attend next year’s program.

"The beauty of the symposium was its interdisciplinary nature."

The Van L. Lawrence Fellowship was created to honor Van L. Lawrence, MD for his outstanding contribution to voice. It is awarded jointly by the Voice Foundation and the National Teachers of Singing Foundation.

www.voicefoundation.org
The Voice Foundation Partners with D. Atlas & Co., Inc.

During the 2010 Gala a pair of Tiffany & Co earrings, currently retailing for $6,500, were raffled off to benefit The Voice Foundation. The earrings were donated by D. Atlas & Co., Inc, Estate Buyers, which has formalized a beneficial arrangement with The Voice Foundation so that when members sell jewelry to D. Atlas & Co., Inc or donate items to The Voice Foundation for sale, a commission will be paid out of the profits to the TVF or a small commission will be retained by D. Atlas on donated items after liquidation and the balance of funds given to the TVF for their designated use.

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