



### Voice Foundation Newsletter Editors

Nadine Connor, PhD  
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### Voice Questions?

Submit your question to [office@voicefoundation.org](mailto:office@voicefoundation.org) to be answered by one of our resident specialists in the next newsletter issue.

# The Voice

**Member Newsletter of The Voice Foundation**

**Fall 2010**

**Volume 15, Issue 3**

## 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.



### News and Updates Submission

If you have an event or an update you would like to share in the quarterly newsletter, please email: [office@voicefoundation.org](mailto:office@voicefoundation.org).  
Submission deadline for the Winter issue: October 1, 2010.

## 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.

### 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](mailto: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 Plácido Domingo to ask who treats him when he is in New York. He told me Dr. Wilbur James Gould. I asked soprano Montserrat Caballé 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

(continued on Page 3)

## Backstage with Michael Benninger, cont.

resident research block and I was asked to spearhead and coordinate the efforts between the two institutions. This work led to three papers, two presentations at The Voice Foundation and one at The Aspen Music Festival. I was hooked.

### What motivated you to serve The Voice Foundation?

My first introduction to The Voice Foundation was through a couple of presentations as a resident while the meetings were still in New York. I am convinced that once a person attends one of these meetings, it is like a magnet to want to come back each year. A couple of years later I began serving on the Speech, Voice and Swallowing Committee of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and after a year was elected Chairman of that committee. This allowed me to interact with many of the highly regarded laryngologists in the US, most of whom were also very active in The Voice Foundation. Jim Gould and Bob Sataloff helped me get involved with The Voice Foundation and it was not long after that that Bob and the Board of Directors invited me to become Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board.

### What is your vision for the future of The Voice Foundation?

My vision is to further establish The Voice Foundation for the collaboration of the many diverse specialists who participate in the development, prevention and care of vocalists. I am concerned about the multiple competing organizations and meetings that have developed, which at times are a single specialty and which detract from the importance of this uniquely collaborative culture. I am also concerned that many young laryngologists have not been active in The Voice Foundation and are missing a unique opportunity to expand their breadth and understanding of all aspects of voice. It is my goal to encourage these people to become active both for their own growth and benefit and for the knowledge and perspectives that they can bring to all of us.

### Is there anything unique that the readers don't know about you?

Most people do not know that I was a college football player and coached college football for two years before considering attending medical school. I was a competitive triathlete for over 15 years and I collect comic books.

## Backstage with Nadine Connor

Nadine Connor, PhD

Editor, The Voice Foundation Newsletter

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

### What is your contribution to The Voice Foundation cast?

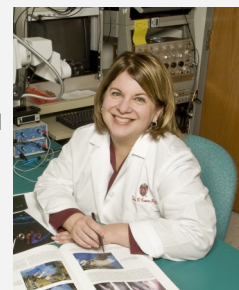
I share the position of newsletter editor with Kim Steinhauer.

### 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 vision, or 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.

## Nancy S. Freedman, MS, CCC/SLP - A First-time Symposium Attendee

*Doctoral student, Teachers College,  
Columbia University*

**A**s 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 beauty of the symposium was its interdisciplinary nature."**

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.



### Van L. Lawrence Fellowship Postmark Application Deadline is November 15, 2010

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](http://www.voicefoundation.org)

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.



The 39th Annual Symposium's presentation coaches: Susan Miller, Lucille Rubin and Donna Snow

### IMPORTANT DATES, UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

#### **October 31, 2011**

- Call for Papers Deadline  
([www.voicefoundation.org/abstracts](http://www.voicefoundation.org/abstracts))

#### **November 15, 2011**

- Van L. Lawrence Fellowship Application Deadline  
(NATS members only)

#### **January 31, 2011**

- Notification of Acceptance to the 40th Annual Symposium *Care of the Professional Voice* Program

#### **April 16, 2011**

- World Voice Day

#### **April 30, 2011**

- Discount Symposium Registration Deadline  
([www.voicefoundation.org/registration](http://www.voicefoundation.org/registration))
- Dormitory Housing Deadline  
(Space fills quickly - Reserve early)

#### **May 1, 2011**

- Volunteer Deadline for the 40th Annual Symposium: *Care of the Professional Voice*
- Discount Symposium Hotel Reservation Deadline

#### **June 1, 2011**

- Gratis Presentation Coaching Deadline (As Available)

#### **June 1-5, 2011**

- The Voice Foundation's 40th Annual Symposium (Philadelphia, PA)

#### **June 3, 2011**

- *Voices of Summer* Gala and Benefit  
(Tickets available now!)





Board members Dr. Michael Johns and Dr. Michael Benninger with Dr. Melissa Statham and President Leon Fassler



Voices of Summer Gala attendees Dr. Denis Lafreniere and Dr. Adam Rubin with Board of Directors member Dr. Michael Johns (center)



David Meyer, Singing Scientist and winner of the 2010 Van Lawrence Fellowship



Dr. Ronald Scherer serenading TVF supporter and soprano Kathryn Hill



2010 VERA Award winners Peter Nero and Dr. Richard Homan (outside left and right) with Gala Chair Justice Sandra Newman, Dr. Dahlia Sataloff, TVF Chairman Dr. Robert T. Sataloff and Mrs. Rita Homan



Chairman Dr. Robert T. Sataloff and 2010 Special VERA winner Richard Raub

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Pictures are available for purchase online at:  
**[www.poeticimagesbysonia.com](http://www.poeticimagesbysonia.com)**

Follow the Gallery tab to Client Login and enter *The Voice Foundation Gala 2010* gallery using the password: "song"

Proceeds from the sale of pictures are donated back to the Voice Foundation to support year-round programming.



The lovely ladies of the Voice Foundation support staff



Journal of Voice Editorial Board members Dr. Jean Aitbol and Dr. Nicolas E. Maragos

## The Voice Foundation Partners with D. Atlas & Co., Inc.



David Atlas and Steven Schiffman in a consultation with Voice Foundation supporter Edrie Means-Weekly

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.

Just like fine-tuning the voice, the selling of precious jewelry, diamonds and colored gems takes knowledge, experience and the right touch. D. Atlas & Co., Inc. has been a Philadelphia enterprise since 1898 and we believe David Atlas and Steven Schiffman are a good match for assisting our members to release unused assets and benefit voice research and education.



ROBERT T. SATALOFF, M.D., D.M.A, F.A.C.S., CHAIRMAN  
KATHRYN MURPHY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MARIA RUSSO, EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

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*DEDICATED TO THE CARE, TREATMENT, AND TRAINING OF  
THE HUMAN VOICE FOR OVER FOUR DECADES*

# THE VOICE FOUNDATION

## 40th Annual Symposium:

**CARE OF THE PROFESSIONAL VOICE**  
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA**  
**June 1 - 5, 2011**

### Call for Papers, Posters & Workshops

[www.VoiceFoundation.org/Abstracts](http://www.VoiceFoundation.org/Abstracts)