

Celebrating 60 Years of Innovation

1946-2006

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOUSE EAR INSTITUTE



1946 Los Angeles Foundation of Otolaryngology is founded by Howard P. House, M.D.

1960

1961 William F. House, M.D., brother of Howard P. House, M.D., implants two patients with single gold electrodes for short-term stimulation of hearing. A third patient receives a multi-electrode implant.

1970 First Temporal Bone Dissection Course offered to physicians from around the world who wish to learn innovative ear procedures.

1970

1977 The Foundation launches the first international cochlear implant training program.

1980

1981 Name is changed to House Ear Institute in honor of founder Howard P. House, M.D.

1989 HEI is the first center in the U.S. to implant a young child (age 5) with a multi-channel cochlear implant.

1984 FDA approves the first cochlear implant, the 3M/House device for adults.

1946 Dr. Howard P. House directs sound exposure study that leads to federal regulations (through OSHA) on safe sound exposure guidelines in the workplace.

1960 One of the largest documented temporal bone banks for scientific research is established by the Foundation.

1965 Dr. William House teams up with engineer Jack Urban to develop the first cochlear implant system for long-term use.



1973 Dr. William House begins clinical trials for the single-channel cochlear implant with five adult patients.

1972 Dr. William House implants the first single-channel platinum electrode induction coil system, which becomes the prototype for the cochlear implant device.

1981 The Institute becomes the first center in the world to implant a pre-school-aged child with a single-channel cochlear implant.



1988 Children's Auditory Research & Evaluation (CARE) Center is established, for the research and evaluation of pediatric hearing loss.

Hearing loss is one of the most prevalent health problems in the world, affecting more people than blindness, diabetes, heart, kidney and liver disease combined. Approximately 30 million Americans suffer some type of hearing loss, and 15 out of every 1,000 children under the age of 18 have a hearing loss. Nearly 90% of people over age 80 have a hearing loss, and it occurs more often in men than women. These statistics were not readily available to Howard P. House, M.D., when he founded the House Ear Institute 60 years ago, but he was keenly aware of how devastating hearing loss can be, and how this “unseen” disease can affect every aspect of a person’s life, causing frustration, isolation, loneliness and discrimination.

Since 1946, the House Ear Institute has led the way in defining the causes of hearing loss and balance disorders, improving medical treatments, surgical procedures and prosthetic devices. The Institute’s scientific discoveries and breakthroughs have helped millions of people receive successful treatment. ❖



BREAKTHROUGHS



1990 Grand opening of House Ear Institute’s five-story research and education facility.

1995 The Institute discovers how temporal cues (timing) are critical in speech recognition, leading to improved speech-processing strategies for cochlear implants and hearing aids.

1990

1994 The Institute receives its first patent for hearing aid development.

1995 The Institute develops the HINT (Hearing In Noise Test) – the first standardized, functional hearing test that measures directional hearing in noise.

2000

Institute develops the ABaer™, a hearing screening device for newborns and infants.

Establishes a Hearing Coordination Center to help implement state-mandated hearing tests of newborns at hospitals in California.



2000

2000 Institute receives FDA approval for the world’s first auditory brainstem implant (ABI), which benefits patients deafened as a result of Neurofibromatosis Type II (NF2).



2003 Clinical trials begin at House Ear Institute for the first penetrating electrode auditory brainstem implant (PABI).

2003 Analysis technique for Meniere’s disease and cochlear hydrops is submitted for patent by Electrophysiology Department.

2006

2006 Investigations

Music recognition studies for cochlear implant users

Regeneration of inner ear “hair” cells for restoration of hearing

New treatment approaches for ear infections

Genetic hearing research

2006 Construction begins on the Wallis Annenberg Research Center at the Institute.

