

**Nu-Voices Club of Mt Sinai Hosp, Inc**  
Member of IAL  
July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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Dear Members and Friends,

President Saul Silver called the meeting to order at 1:40. In attendance were 9 members and friends as shown and named below.



**Standing L - R: Leslie G. McDonagh, Dave Barry, Frank Deppolder, Don McDonagh, Saul Silver**  
**Seated: Cecilia Wennerstrom, Leola Glover, Jay Hauben**



**Ace photographer Gerry Silver**

We missed Clarissa Bushman, but she was enjoying the New York City Ballet in their summer home in Saratoga, NY. She emailed that her experimental drug trial did not increase the uptake of radioactive iodine, as hoped. However, several of her lesions had shrunk! “At last”, she said – “a GOOD side effect”.

Got an email from Bert and Bunny Bell, reacting to the new email newsletter. They are happy and busy visiting family in California, going to graduations, etc. We are happy to hear from them and that they are doing well.

We skipped “The Prayer for Laryngectomees” this time. We led off with the round table. The round table was expanded with more detail for the benefit of our guest, ATOS Medical’s North East sales manager Dave Barry. The members talked about their experiences as laryngectomies to educate our guest.

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We spent a lot of our meeting getting acquainted with Dave, our special guest. He is new on this ATOS job, but has always enjoyed working with small companies and had had several jobs in sales and social work for other medical companies. This was his first visit to the New York area and he has been busy meeting medical personnel in the many NYC hospitals. His territory encompasses NY State and all of New England.

Dave is a big guy who played basketball at the University of Massachusetts, but he used to be considerably bigger. He found out that he had diabetes and took charge of his health and lost some weight. He now needs much less medication to manage his condition. The members understood and sympathized. Thanks to Dave for taking the time to come to our meeting. We all wish him well and hope to see him again when he visits NYC.

Dave spoke about the new ATOS FlexiVoice hands-free device and explained that it has light, medium and strong membranes and is easy to use as demonstrated by Cecilia. Cecilia had just gotten her new ATOS FlexiVoice and tried it for the first time at the meeting. It worked just fine for her and she told us that she had been speaking hands-free from her first days as a laryngectomy in 1998. Dave had a lot of free samples and ATOS catalogs to give out and the members greatly appreciated them. His cell phone number is: 508.930.8345 and his email is: dave.barry @ atosmedical.com. He said if we had any questions, we should not hesitate to contact him.

Jay told us that when he was at the IAL meeting, the medical director, Dr. Mitchell suggested he get a swallow test. The test revealed a non-cancerous growth, which might be causing the short life expectancy of his prostheses. Dave suggested that the ATOS Vega prosthesis might last longer. Jay will discuss all this with his SLP, Tamar Kotz at his next visit.

Cheskel Jacobowitz , the SLP student who attended our June meeting has sent his laryngectomy research paper to Saul. Anyone wishing a copy can contact Saul.

Saul has received an interesting request to participate in a survey about quality of life for laryngectomys. See the last page of this newsletter for complete information.

We ended the meeting at 2:45 after our usual silent prayer.

We do not have a special guest lined up (so far) for our August meeting. Kelly Boyd, SLP at the Columbia University Medical Center will be at our September meeting and David DiToro, the regional rep for InHealth is coming in October.

The next meeting will be on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in Hess Seminar Room B, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at 1470 Madison, between 101<sup>st</sup> and 102<sup>nd</sup>.

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Saul Silver, President  
390 First Avenue, #8F  
New York, NY 10010  
(212) 677-6392  
[argentum@nyc.rr.com](mailto:argentum@nyc.rr.com)

Leslie McDonagh, Treasurer  
150 Claremont Avenue, #2C  
New York, NY 10027  
(212) 662-6515

Dear Sir/Madam,

This announcement is to request the participation of you and your club members in a study we are running at the Communication Disorders Treatment & Research Clinic (CDTRC) of the University of Sydney.

This study will evaluate the value of an existing quality of life questionnaire which has been widely used to assess the physical and social effects of having a laryngectomy. Determining the appropriateness and accuracy of this questionnaire will allow health professionals to better understand the needs of the laryngectomized population in order to provide appropriate care and support. Therefore, we are looking for participants over the age of 18 who have undergone a laryngectomy.

All potential participants will be invited to go to the questionnaire's website. Upon opening the website, the participant will be asked to read a Participation Information Statement and to provide consent to proceed with the questionnaire. This will take 10 to 15 minutes. The information gathered will be used to evaluate the appropriateness and accuracy of the questionnaire.

If the participant leaves their email address, we will contact them after two weeks and will ask them to complete a shorter questionnaire again with fewer questions. This will take them about another 5 minutes to complete. Please find the Participant Information Statement with more information about this study attached.

Participants have the opportunity to win one of two 50 dollars gift vouchers if they complete the two questionnaires.

The questionnaire can be found on: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/laryngectomy>

We hope that you are able to assist us in this study. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Hans Bogaardt PhD  
Speech Pathologist / Clinical Epidemiologist  
Lecturer Speech Pathology  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY  
75 East Street | Lidcombe | NSW | 2141  
Tel: +61 2 9351 9334  
Tw: @hbogaardt  
Skype: hansbogaardt

Lydia Sum Chung  
Honours Student Speech Pathology