



Quarterly Newsletter of the Vestibular Disorders Society of Australia Inc. (VEDSA)
web site <http://www.vestibular.com.au>

Patron's Page

This year in June I attended the 24th Barany Society Meeting in Uppsala, Sweden.

In 1960, Dr CS Hallpike and Professor CO Nysten founded the Barany Society to honour the memory of the late Robert Barany, who was Professor of Otorhinolaryngology at Uppsala University from 1926 to 1936. The aims of the Barany Society are to:

- Increase contact between scientists engaged in vestibular research, and
- Stimulate otoneurological (inner ear) research.

Two hundred people from all parts of the globe attended the meeting. There were six Australians at the Meeting – five from Sydney and myself from Adelaide. I learnt I was the only physiotherapist from Australia, too!

It was a wonderful opportunity to see “old” faces and meet new people, some of who were therapists (there were six of us at the Meeting) from Europe and the United States who have been working with vestibular patients for many years.

The oral and poster presentations were excellent, provoking vigorous discussion and debate throughout the duration of the Meeting. The intellectual and social interaction was second to none.

Ground breaking research done by Professors Ian Curthoys and Michael Halmagyi, and their respective research teams at the University of Sydney, received outstanding praise. I felt very proud to be an Australian.

Some highlights of the Barany Meeting were:

- The establishment of an Ad Hoc Vestibular Rehabilitation Standards Committee (of which I am a member and the Regional Coordinator for Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Pacific) under the auspices of the Barany Society.
- Learning new and practical diagnostic techniques for vestibular patients. These have already been incorporated into patient evaluation and vestibular rehabilitation programs at the Centre.
- Confirmation that *Ears Have Bones* – there is a relationship between women with osteoporosis or osteopenia and recurrent Benign Paroxysmal Positioning Vertigo (BPPV).
- The opportunity to interact with the world's leading vestibular researchers.
- A supportive, open, enthusiastic and positive milieu that enabled the interchange of ideas.



from Professor Dr Margie Sharpe

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Reminders

The next public meeting on 23rd September is on a different day, time and location than usual. Check the program on page 2 for details.

A new initiative! See page 6 for the notice of our inaugural Film Day – and please bring your family and friends.

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