

By Brenda Battat

# Living Well with Hearing Loss

*Come to the HLAA Convention this June and tell us what that means to you.*

I was given the opportunity to participate in the twelfth seminar of the Ida Institute during March 2011, in the beautiful seaside resort town of Skodsborg, north of Copenhagen, Denmark. It was particularly appropriate that I be at this seminar as the topic was Living Well with Hearing Loss—which is basically what HLAA aims for all people with hearing loss to achieve.

The Ida Institute was established as a nonprofit organization in 2007 with funding from the Oticon Foundation. It was named Ida, after Ida Emilie Demant, the wife of the founder of Oticon, a hearing aid manufacturer.

The Institute's purpose is to foster better understanding of the human dynamics associated with hearing loss and to uncover unmet needs of both the person with hearing loss and their main communication partner. One of the most important activities that the Ida Institute conducts are seminars. These are a series of educational seminars for hearing care professionals focusing on key issues related to the physical, anthropological, psychological and social aspects of hearing loss.

An important function of the seminars is to create networking opportunities with hearing care professionals, organizations, academic institutions and professional groups that increase Ida Institute's ability to further its mission and advance its goals. The outcomes are tools to use in the clinical setting to assist the hearing care professional to take a holistic approach to working with the person with hearing loss.

The 25 participants at the March seminar were from eight countries and the four faculty were from Australia, Canada, United Kingdom and the United States. One member of the Institute's advisory board is Joseph Montano, Ed.D., associate professor of audiology in clinical otolaryngology, Weill Cornell Medical College, who is also a member of the HLAA Board of Trustees.

Sam Trychin, Ph.D., psychologist, who many of you know from his workshops at HLAA Conventions and throughout the country, has been a presenter at the Ida Institute and also was a participant at this seminar. Sam's article on Tools from the Ida Institute is on page 32.

You will have a chance to meet and work with the staff of the Ida Institute at the HLAA Convention this June. They will be there to get input from consumers with hearing loss about what it means to live well with hearing loss and to test the tools created at the seminar. ■■■

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Right: Participants at the Ida Institute, March 7-8, 2011, in Copenhagen

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