

Stichting PACT Foundation

Annual report 1999



Introduction

The Stichting PACT Foundation can look back on a successful year. Whilst 1998 was above all a year of preparations (establishment, preparing regulations, creating the infrastructure), and a cautious start, in 1999, we really got down to work. Two projects were concluded, two more were initiated and preparations were made for a fifth.

Also satisfying was the considerable interest shown by (potential) clients. In this light, initial discussions are underway with a number of parties, so that for the coming years, too, we can expect many more interesting projects.

About the PACT Foundation

In 1999, the Audiological Centres joined forces through the establishment of the PACT Foundation. PACT is an abbreviation for 'Platform for Audiological Clinical Testing', and the foundation aims to be a platform for practically-oriented studies relating to hearing aids. The English title is an indication that our intention is to carry out research of international interest. In principle, our work will be aimed at the following subjects:

- Field studies using already introduced hearing aids, or more experimental prototypes
- Investigations into methods of prescription
- Evaluation studies relating to specific questions about the provision of hearing aids in the participating centres

In most cases, studies will be carried out on behalf of a manufacturer or importer, with an interest in the study, or a willingness to act as sponsor for a particular research programme. It is expected that PACT will deal more regularly with (international) development departments, than the (local) representatives of the different brands. However, questions posed by other parties, such as the Consumers' Association, the Netherlands Association for the Hard of Hearing (NVVS) or the medical expenses insurers, can also result in specific studies. Finally, the participating centres can also initiate study programmes.

The foundation was formally established on 25 June 1998, and entered in the register of the Chamber of Trade and Industry in Amsterdam on 7 July 1998. The Audiological Centres participating in the PACT foundation (currently a total of 17) all have a seat on the Supervisory Board. To date, articles and memorandum of association, operating regulations for the Governing Board and the Supervisory Board, and study regulations have been formally laid down.

The secretariat is based at Derkinderenstraat 1, 1062 BE Amsterdam, and can be contacted by e-mail at the following address: info@pact.cc.

Governing Board, Supervisory Board, working groups in 1999

The Governing Board met on five occasions (on 24-3-99, 22-4-99, 18-5-99, 26-8-99 and 25-11-99). The Board is made up of the following persons:

Name	Position	Due to stand down on
J.P.L. Brokx	Member	1 September 2002
W.A. Dreschler	Chair	1 September 2001
M.J. Maré	Secretary	1 March 2000
L. Mens	Member	1 September 2000
J. Taalman	Treasurer	1 March 2001

The Supervisory Board met on two occasions (on 18-5-99 and 25-11-99). The members of the Supervisory Board and the representatives in 1999 were:

Audiological Centre	Representative
AZR-Dijkzigt	J. Verschuure
AC Hoensbroeck	J.J.T. Hendriks
AC Rotterdam - Amman stichting	T.T. Prinzen
AC Tilburg	R. Nieuwenhuys
AC Twente	W.P.M. Graef
AC Zwolle	J.S.M. Kuijper
AMC-Univ. of Amsterdam	A. Maat
AZ Groningen	W.M. van Huffelen
AZ Leiden	J.A.P.M. de Laat
AZ Nijmegen	A.F.M. Snik
AZ Vrije Universiteit	S.T. Goverts
Haags AC Effatha	F.N. van Dijkhuizen
Inst. Voor Doven (Institute for the Deaf)	H. Knoors
Noord-Holland Noord	P. Brienesse
Prof. J.J. Groen Stichting	J.H.A.M. de Wit-Fleer
Samenwerkende Audiologische Centra Amsterdam	T. Zuidema
Samenwerkende Audiologische Centra Eindhoven	C.E. ter Huurne

The working groups to which each participating audiological centre sent one or more representative held joint meetings on two occasions (on 22-4-99 and 26-8-99). During these meetings, attention was focused on current PACT projects and the development of research equipment and test materials.

Administration

In 1999, active efforts were made to professionalise the financial administration. The Board intends to instruct BAMZ BV (Office for Administration and Management for Care Institutions) based in Zwolle to carry out the administration on behalf of the Stichting PACT Foundation, and to draw up the balance sheet and/or profit and loss accounts for 1999.

Internal and external communication

Besides the above mentioned meetings, internal communication takes place in the form of mailing lists (one for the Board and one for all PACT members).

The PACT website (<http://www.pact.cc>) serves as a virtual library with generally-accessible information and specific (protected) sections for the members, the Governing Board, the Supervisory Board and the working groups involved in carrying out the various projects.

For external partners, our website should become our most important calling card. In 1999, a modest start was made on making available public information. In 2000, some information about each project should also be placed on the site.

In addition, greater attention was drawn to the establishment of PACT in articles in the magazines Horen (The Netherlands Association for the Hard of Hearing) and Oorzaken (periodical produced by Siemens Netherlands).

Substantive developments

Harmonisation of material and procedures

Given the large number of participating centres, particular focus is placed on uniform instrumentation and working methods. In order to come up with a "PACT measuring station" (for carrying out speech tests and loudness scale tests, in a uniform manner), market research was carried out during the year, into high-end sound cards. The system finally selected was the Darla 24 sound card of the make Echo. Seventeen of these cards have now been purchased, and a start has been made on developing software which will operate this hardware.

Attention will now be focused on finding a suitable PC which meets all the PACT requirements (including very silent operation).

Projects

In 1999, the Stichting PACT Foundation was involved in the following projects:

Project number	Project name	Client	Number of ACs	Number of persons	Status as at 31-12-99
98-01	D-72	Philips	1	6	Pilot study concluded
99-01	Danalogic	GN Danavox	2	24	Measurements carried out
99-02	Microzoom	Phonak	1	20	Concluded
99-03	D-71	Beltone/Philips	5	38	Current
99-04	Stereo-project	CvZ	10	> 1000	Preparation completed

The projects are described on the next pages.