



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA  
Faculty of Humanities

Datum/Date: 02-09-2013

**Professor Bart Vinck**  
**Professor en Hoof: Departement Kommunikasiepatologie**

Nooi u vriendelik uit na sy intreerede

**Titel: “The Future is HEAR”**

Datum: 2 September 2013  
Tyd: 17:30 vir 18:00  
Plek: Senaatsaal, Universiteit van Pretoria  
RSVP Voor of op 26 Augustus 2013 aan me Ria Viljoen by (012) 420 2355 of [ria.viljoen@up.ac.za](mailto:ria.viljoen@up.ac.za)

*Opsomming van intreerede aangete*

**Professor Bart Vinck**  
**Professor and Head: Department of Communication Pathology**

Cordially invites you to his inaugural address

**Title “The Future is HEAR”**

Date: 2 September 2013  
Time: 17:30 for 18:00  
Venue: Senate Hall, University of Pretoria  
RSVP No later than 26 August 2013 to Ms Ria Viljoen at (012) 420 2355 or [ria.viljoen@up.ac.za](mailto:ria.viljoen@up.ac.za)

*Abstract of inaugural address attached*

## **'The future is HEAR '**

### **Opsomming**

Hierdie intreerede bied 'n oorsig van die spesifieke wetenskaplike en kliniese uitdagings waarvoor beroepe op die gebied van oudiologie en spraak-taalpatologie tans te staan kom, asook dié waaraan hulle in die nabye toekoms die hoof sal moet bied, en bespreek moontlike toekomstige stappe in dié verband. 'n Geskiedkundige beskouing van die ontwikkeling van die dissipline oudiologie toon dat die voorkoms van gehoorprobleme en tinnitus (oorsuising) en die eerste pogings om hierdie patologieë te behandel en te remedieer na voor 1500 vC terugdateer, soos in die 'Papyrus Ebers' opgeteken is. Alhoewel die oorsprong van gehoorprobleme baie oud is, is die beroep nog baie jonk. Die vakgebied oudiologie het eers in 1946, ná afloop van die Tweede Wêreldoorlog, tot stand gekom. Aanvanklik was dit 'n oorwegend kliniese beroep vanweë die behoefte aan rehabilitasiedienste vir oorlogsveterane wat aan doofheid gely het.

Terwyl die beroep 'n geruime tyd lank daarop toegespits was om voortreflike diagnostiese metodes en prostetiese behandelings te ontwikkel en toe te pas, was voorkoming en identifisering nie 'n prioriteit nie. Ons moderne samelewing word egter toenemend by die werkplek en by ontspanningsgeriewe aan hoë geraasvlakke blootgestel, wat grootskaalse gehoorprobleme en dus ook kommunikasiepatologieë in die gemeenskap tot gevolg kan hê.

In hierdie intreerede, waarin ek 'n oorsig sal bied van my vorige navorsing en 'n huidige navorsingsprojek wat ten doel het om aandag aan hierdie kwessies te skenk, sal ek ook verdere stappe bespreek wat, vanuit 'n akademiese oogpunt beskou, noodsaaklik is om ons doelwit te bereik. Daar sal ook na die visie en missie van die Departement gekyk word.

## **'The future is HEAR '**

### **Summary**

This inaugural lecture presents an overview of and a way forward for the specific scientific and clinical challenges that professions in the field of audiology and speech-language pathology are encountering today and will have to face in the near future. A historical perspective on the development of the discipline of audiology reveals that the occurrence of hearing problems and tinnitus (ringing in the ears) and the first attempts to treat and remediate these pathologies date back to before 1500 BC, as recorded in the 'Papyrus Ebers'. Although the origins of hearing problems are very old, the profession itself is still very young. The study field of audiology was born in 1946, after the Second World War. At that time it was a mainly clinical profession because of the need for transdisciplinary rehabilitation services for war veterans suffering from deafness.

While, for a long time, the profession aimed to develop and apply excellent diagnostic methods and prosthetic treatments, prevention and early identification were not a priority. However, today's society is faced with increasing exposure to high noise levels, both at work and in recreational facilities, which could result in large-scale hearing problems and therefore communication pathologies in the community.

In this inaugural lecture I will present an overview of my previous research and a current scientific project designed to address these issues. Further steps that, from an academic perspective, are necessary to achieve our goal will also be discussed, as well as the vision and mission of the Department.