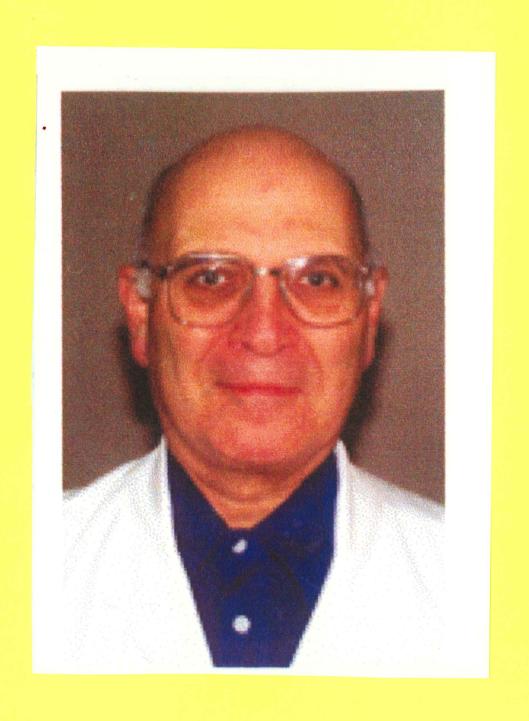
JACOB FRIEDBERG, M.D. 1998



Dear Sylvan:

Re: SENTAC

There was meeting of otolaryngologists to be held at The Hospital for Sick Children (HSC) in 1973 and some very prominent otolaryngologists would be attending. Dave Mitchell, the otolaryngologist-in-chief announced that Sylvan Stool, Charlie Bluestone and Robert Ruben among others would be coming. All of the HSC staff would be involved including the new member, me.

Wow!

All these distinguished and certainly very old otolaryngologists were coming to Toronto. Well, surprisingly they were not quite as ancient as I had expected.

I do not recall what or who was on the program but I had the pleasure and extreme good fortune to meet some of the brightest and finest otolaryngologists in the world (who happened to do a lot of paediatric work).

I learned that a new medical society was being established which would reflect not only the medical and surgical aspects of paediatric otolaryngology but also those disciplines involved in the communicative skills of speech, language, hearing and learning, serving the child as a whole individual.

I understood that there was a lot required in my chosen specialty of otolaryngology for which I had been little prepared in medical school or during my specialty training. This society might become a forum to make up for these shortcomings.

The net result of that meeting was The Society for Ear, Nose and Throat Advances in Children, SENTAC. I became a charter member.

SENTAC turned out to be much more than a learning resource for me. It set a course for my entire career. I gradually evolved into a "paediatric otolaryngologist". This sub-specialty had been for all practical purposes non-existent when I graduated just a few years before.

The tone of SENTAC has from the outset been unique. It has encouraged academic excellence and intellectual inquiry while supporting and providing a platform for the novice. It has been comfortable while still being critical and critical without being cutthroat.

Since those early days I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with a host of remarkable people. Otolaryngologists, speech and language pathologists, audiologists, paediatricians, geneticists, educators, and radiologists, community practitioners and academics, urban and rural, from all over North America and beyond.

They have become not only colleagues, but also Lilly and I regard them to be among our nearest and dearest friends. We look forward to continuing this association for many years to come.

Sincerely

Jack and Lilly Friedberg