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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Addendum to the history of cochlear implants in Brazil**☆



**Reparo na história dos implantes cocleares no Brasil**

Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate BJORL for the excellent editorial published in issue 81, number 2, by Prof. Dr. Pedro Mangabeira Albarnaz on the history of cochlear implants in Brazil.<sup>1</sup>

Professor Pedro Mangabeira was the pioneer in this technique in our country, having been honored at the last Ibero-American Congress of Cochlear Implants.

It so happens that in the Editorial, I do not know whether due to lack of space, something of extreme historical importance was omitted: the initiative, in 1990, to manufacture in Brazil the first national cochlear implant, developed entirely in the Bioengineering Department of Instituto do Coração (the Heart Institute) of HCFMUSP, with the cooperation of the FMUSP Otorhinolaryngology Discipline, which won an award at the time from the Inter-American Development Bank as the best scientific project of 1989. The first work about it was published in this respected journal, the Brazilian Journal of Otorhinolaryngology.<sup>2</sup>

Two patents were generated based on these works and several patients were successfully implanted (Patent INPI no. 910.5546-6; on 12/16/1991).<sup>3</sup>

The researchers involved in this project were Ricardo Ferreira Bento, Aroldo Miniti, Adolpho Leiner, Carlos Alberto Nunes, Milton Oshiro, Maria Valéria Goffi Gomes.

Only five countries have developed cochlear implant devices, including Brazil with this device. The latter is cited in more than 1000 publications on CI around the world as a pioneer in its concepts.

**Conflicts of interest**

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

**References**

1. Albarnaz PL. History of cochlear implants. *Braz J Otorhinolaryngol.* 2015;81:124-5.
2. Bento RF, Miniti A, Leiner A, Sanchez TG, Oshiro MS, Campos MIM, et al. O implante coclear FMUSP-1: apresentação de um programa brasileiro e seus resultados preliminares. *Rev Bras Otorrinolaringol.* 1994;60:1-16.
3. Bento R.F. Implante Coclear com transmissão ótica através da membrana timpânica. Brasil patente BR 910.5546-6; 1991, December 16.

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