March 31th, 2018, KURUME University, Memorial Party organized by the bereaved family of Professor Minoru HIRANO (Dec. 10\textsuperscript{th}, 1932 - Dec.19\textsuperscript{th}, 2017).
as a member of the bereaved family of our very talented friend Prof Minoru HIRANO, it's a pleasure to be reminded how his smile was always beaming...
Commemoration of Minoru HIRANO....

We are all members of our friend’s international family and we are profoundly saddened by his loss to us. Still, we have the pleasure of recognizing the enormous contributions that he made —changing our professions forever— coupled with his abiding concern for each of us individually...


Videostroboscopic Examination of the Larynx, Minoru Hirano, Diane M.Bless, Singular Publishing Group, Inc. 1993

Vibrato, P.H. Dejonckere, Minoru Hirano, J. Sundberg, Singular Publishing Group, Inc. 1993


The Committee for Phonatory Function Tests of the Japan Society of Logopedics and Phoniatriecs proposed the “GRBAS” scale for evaluating hoarseness. It consists of five scales: grade (G), rough (R), breathy (B), asthenic (A), and strained (S).

The first scale G represents the degree of hoarseness or voice abnormality. It corresponds to the factor of evaluative nature obtained by the semantic differential technique. The remaining four scales represent different aspects of voice abnormality. Scale R represents a psycho-acoustic impression of the irregularity of vocal fold vibrations. It corresponds to the irregular fluctuations in the fundamental frequency and/or the amplitude of the glottal source sound. Scale B represents a psycho-acoustic impression of the extent of air leakage through the glottis. It is related to turbulence. Scale A denotes weakness or lack of power in the voice. It is related to a weak intensity of the glottal source sound and/or a lack of higher har-
monics. Scale S represents a psycho-acoustic impression of a hyperfunctional state of phonation. It is related to an abnormally high fundamental frequency, noise in the high frequency range, and/or richness in high frequency harmonics.

Hoarse voices can be evaluated with the use of these five scales. A four-point grading is used for each scale: “0” non-hoarse or normal, “1” slight, “2” moderate, and “3” extreme. The results of the evaluation are, therefore, described as $G_1 R_1 B_1 A_0 S_0$, $G_3 R_3 B_3 A_0 S_3$, $G_2 R_1 B_3 A_2 S_0$, and so on.

Since the evaluation with the use of GRBAS scale is subjective, the examiner must possess a trained ear. For this purpose, the Committee for Phonatory Function Tests of the Japan Society of Logopedics and Phoniatriecs has made a standard tape which has typical voice samples represented by GRBAS scale. The Committee feels that the psycho-acoustic evaluation using the GRBAS scale is not an absolute method but needs to be improved upon.

We all follow his « psycho-acoustic evaluation », when we treat voice disorders....
His significant artistic talent added luminosity to his extraordinary skills as a surgeon, a singer and a researcher…

1987, I-Padova, COMET
Prof. Minoru Hirano, seen here as a singer during professional meetings in the 90s.
1991, S- Vadstena, COMET
and here with another of our international “stars”,
Paul Bocuse, the master CHEF of French
gastronomy, who passed away some days later

1999, F-Lyon,
International
Phono-Surgery
Course, by M.
Bouchayer
& G. Cornut,
his guests in
KURUME in 1978.
Prof Minoru HIRANO remains a « GUIDING LIGHT » of Voice Care ...
It gives me great pleasure to share with you his own words about phoniatricians and surgeons...

...The trained voice skills and techniques for phoniatricians are equivalent to the skillful and well-trained hands and fingers for surgeons.

...the advanced voice skills for phoniatricians are as important as the advanced hand skills for surgeons. Surgeons can not perform surgeries with injured hands.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention.

Minoru Hirano, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.S.(Hon)
President
Kurume University
Former Chairman of Voice Committee,
International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics
We will never forget Prof Minoru Hirano for the extraordinary impact he had on us as a professional and as a kind, caring, and artistic individual...

By Marie-Agnes FAURE, phoniatrician... CoMeT in Paris, 1997, July 10-12, hosted by Opera National de Paris
Many thanks to all the friends who allowed me to make this contribution to the memorial recognition of our dear friend, Pr Minoru Hirano: Pr Virginie Woisard, Dr. Keiko Hisatomi (our colleague in Fukuoka), Pr Hirano’s secretary, Drs. Marc Bouchayer & Guy Cornut, Pr Ron J Baken, Pr Markus Hess, Pr Antoine Giovanni, Pr Aude Lagier and all of our colleagues in the CoMeT family...