



Sanford E. Gerber, Ph.D.



SENTAC: Sanford E. Gerber, Ph.D.

I am professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of California in Santa Barbara. I have been at UCSB since 1965, so maybe I have learned something. I came to UCSB after five years as head of speech and hearing research at the Hughes Aircraft Co.: a rather different venue and career. When I came to Santa Barbara, there was an infant hearing screening clinic operating in town, and its operators promptly gave it to me. So, I quickly learned about babies, and now I suppose I know nothing else. In recent years, my interests are no longer limited to hearing in infants, but to infants in general and the things we do them. This is realized in my last book, Prevention.

I was present at SENTAC's birth in Toronto, but not at its conception. I was elected to the executive committee at that time; and, a few years later, became the fourth president. I was the first president of SENTAC who is not an MD; I'm proud of that.

I have said from the start that SENTAC is the best meeting there is. This is true personally as well as scientifically. The level and quality of science we accomplish at SENTAC is not achieved at any other meeting, and I think this is due largely to our regard for each other as professionals and friends. The personal part is evident to anyone who attends. We are a family. It is this, I believe, that makes our science so good. We are, after all, the best in the business; we have nothing to prove; we have nothing to hide; we respect each other. It is not necessary that we agree; probably it is better if we don't. I would not want SENTAC to change very much in the future. I do hope that we can attract more colleagues from relevant professions besides audiology and otolaryngology. I would like for us to have more speech pathologists, more pediatricians, more geneticists, more radiologists, among others. Above all, I want to be there to see and hear them.