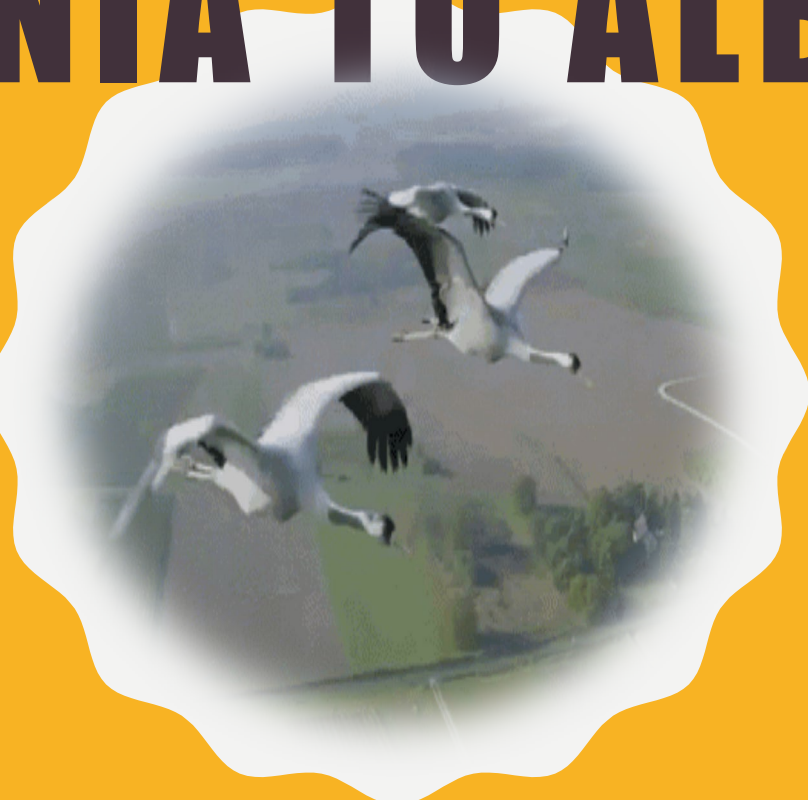


ROMANIA TO ALBANIA



**DR. TRICIA TOWLE, AUDIOLOGIST
CLUJ-NAPOCA TO TIRANA**

**MIKE WEBB, AN AZ
AUDIOLOGIST,**

**MOVED TO CLUJ
FROM 1993-1996**

THANKS, MIKE!!





LANGUAGE LEARNING



AUDIOLOGY SUITE COMPLETED



WORKED WITH 2 ENT DOCTORS



HA PATIENTS IN MY HOME

2003
TO
2005

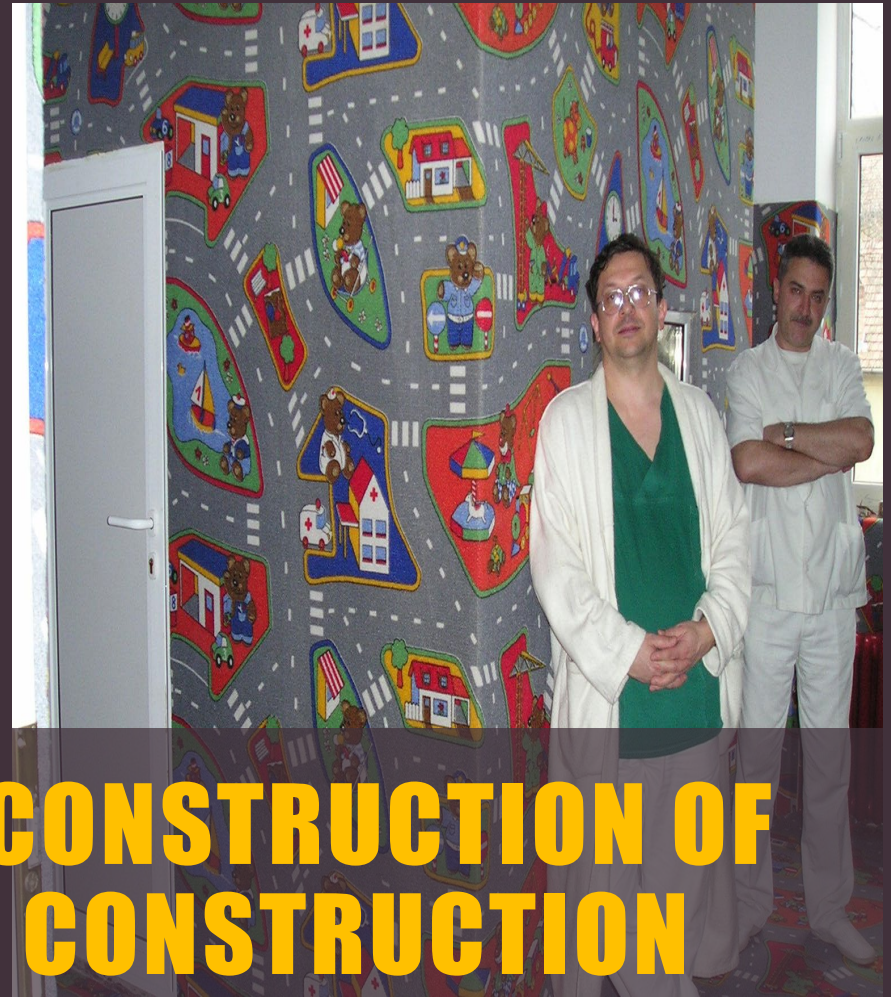


PATIENTS I SAW IN MY APARTMENT





PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL & ENT CLINIC



**BEFORE AND AFTER CONSTRUCTION OF
AUDIOLOGY SUITE CONSTRUCTION**

A woman with glasses and a brown jacket is seated at a desk, looking at a computer monitor. The monitor displays a software interface with a line graph. The room has colorful wallpaper featuring teddy bears and a road. A large window in the background shows a reflection of the room. A red office chair is visible behind the desk. On the desk, there is a keyboard, a mouse, and a control panel with buttons and a dial. A blue and red headset is hanging from the desk. The text "BEAUTIFUL FINISHED PRODUCT" is overlaid in large white letters.

BEAUTIFUL FINISHED PRODUCT



**BEAUTIFUL SUITE EVEN
HAD AN UPSTAIRS**

2007-2009 – PETROS CLINIC

- Finished AuD!!
- Asociația “PRO
AUDIOLOGIE”



2010 – BECAME PATIENT ADVOCATE FOR CI PATIENTS

- ❑ In 2008, Romanian Health Ministry started paying for 70 Cochlear Implants a year.
- ❑ I became an information disseminator, informer, hand-holder and connector for families with the ENT medical community for implantation.





- A WILD MONKEY BEFORE CI!
- NOW SPEAKS TO ME IN ENGLISH.

2010

**SILVIU
WAS 1ST –
7 ½ YEARS
OLD!**



- **A LITTLE MOUSE!**

- **GRADUATED TOP OF HIS ENGINEERING CLASS IN 2018.**

- **WHAT'S THAT CLIPPED TO HIS CLOTHES?**

2010

**MIHAI –
IMPLANTED**

@11



- NOT ALL CHILDREN ARE SUCCESS STORIES



- HER PROGRESS WAS NOT AS STELLAR

2010

ANCA -
IMPLANTED

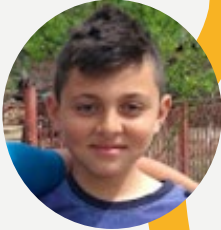
@ 6



2011

**ABIGEL -
IMPLANTED**

@ 2 ½



- HAD A 5-WORD VOCABULARY

- NOW... A VERY INTELLIGIBLE CHATTERBOX

2012

VLAD -

IMPLANTED

@5



- FROM A GYPSY FAMILY OF 7 KIDS

2013



- LIVES WITH FOSTER PARENTS

GABI –



- VERY LIMITED VOCABULARY PRE-CI

@9



**ALL MY
ROMANIAN KIDS
WERE LATE-
IMPLANTED**

2017 - 2018

- Gradually had fewer and fewer patients in Romania
- Do I retire? Go back to the US?
- Or, what?

Happy Retirement



**THEN...
IN APRIL
2018**



ARMELA HAPPENED



COMPARISON OF ROMANIA AND ALBANIA

ROMANIA

HEARING AID PROGRAM
FOR KIDS

DISABILITY ALLOTMENTS

BILATERAL COCHLEAR
IMPLANTATION

PROCESSOR REPLACEMENT

ALBANIA

NO PROVISION FOR HEARING
AIDS

NO DISABILITY AFTER 7 YEARS
OLD

NO CI PROGRAM PAID FOR BY
THE STATE – ONLY PRIVATE FOR
29,000 EUROS

COMPARISON OF ROMANIA AND ALBANIA CONT'D

ROMANIA

HEARING AID REPAIRS
ACCESSIBLE

ALL HEARING AID TYPES
AVAILABLE

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
AVAILABLE

ALBANIA

CAN'T FIND REPAIR SITES FOR
ANY OF THE MAJOR HEARING
AID COMPANIES

ABR EQUIPMENT IN MAJOR
PUBLIC HOSPITAL BROKEN FOR
3 YEARS

**SO, I GOT THE
POINT...**

**...AND MOVED
THERE!
ARRIVED JUNE
2019**



WHY DO I SHOW YOU THIS?

FUTURE PLANS

- ❑ Continued language study
- ❑ Applying for license to practice
- ❑ Working with the ABC Health Clinic,
a Christian Health Center
- ❑ Finding a team of hearing health
professionals to collaborate with for ear-
molds, hearing aid repairs, batteries, etc.



**ARE THERE
PARENTS IN
ALBANIA IN
NEED OF
ADVOCACY?**

I believe there are

**Some might even
be implanted in
Romania**

We will see ...



THANK YOU!