



**Robert Shprintzen, Ph.D.**



## BIOGRAPHY

Robert J. Shprintzen, Ph.D. is currently Director of the Center for Craniofacial Disorders of Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY, and is Professor of Plastic Surgery and Professor of Otolaryngology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He has the distinction of being one of the youngest faculty members ever to reach the academic rank of Full Professor at the medical college. Dr. Shprintzen has been actively involved in clinical research at the Center for Craniofacial Disorders since 1974 and has authored or coauthored over 100 articles, chapters, and monographs in the areas of craniofacial anomalies, genetics, dysmorphology, velopharyngeal physiology, radiography, and fiber optic endoscopy. He has published a text for the March of Dimes. He is a member or Fellow of eight professional societies. He served as Editor of **The Cleft Palate Journal** from 1988 until 1991. He served as President of the Society of Craniofacial Genetics from 1983 through 1984 and also served as Editor for that Society from 1980 through 1982. He was President of the Society of Ear, Nose, and Throat Advances in Children (SENTAC) from 1986 through 1987. He has served on the Board of Directors of that Society from 1981 through 1989. He served as Vice President of that Society from 1985 to 1986, and as Program Chairman in 1988. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology in 1989. He has been actively involved in the American Cleft Palate Association and supervised the publication of that Association's first monograph. He has advised the American Cleft Palate Association in the development of policy as a member of the Long Range Planning Committee. He has served as an editorial consultant to **The Journal of Craniofacial Genetics and Developmental Biology**, **The Cleft Palate Journal**, **The Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders**, **The American Journal of Medical Genetics**, and **Clinical Dysmorphology**. Dr. Shprintzen has traveled extensively at the invitation of foreign hospitals and governments in Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, and Sweden. He has made over 600 presentations at the annual meetings of over 30 professional societies. He has been an invited speaker at over 200 hospitals around the world. Dr. Shprintzen served on the task force advising the newly formed National Institute of Deafness and Communication Disorders (NIDCD) of NIH on the future direction of research activities. He serves as a Consultant to the New York City Department of Health and has been on the Advisory Board to the Bureau of Families with Special Needs and the Bureau for Handicapped Children. In September of 1990, Dr. Shprintzen appeared as an expert witness before a Congressional Committee to provide testimony on the care of children with craniofacial disorders.

## **SENTAC: SOME PERSONAL THOUGHTS**

Robert J. Shprintzen, Ph.D.  
Past President, 1986-1987

Like most members of SENTAC, I belong to a large number of professional societies. I am obligated to join some to keep my professional credentials intact, I feel compelled to belong to others to maintain visibility among my peers, and must join others to maintain professional credibility at my place of employment. I belong to only one Society for the sheer enjoyment and intellectual challenge provided; SENTAC. Other societies, while professing to be organizations of camaraderie and good will, are usually competitive and often cut-throat. The politics of "who got there first" is played to the hilt and supercedes academic curiosity. Only in SENTAC have I experienced true "esprit de corps" without enmity which should be the hallmark of a professional organization. While I certainly feel good about achievements made by myself and my institutional colleagues, I also feel pride in the achievements of my SENTAC comrades. I respect fellow members of SENTAC enormously, and I feel that respect returned many times over. Other societies preach interdisciplinary interaction, but only SENTAC really practices this ideal state. Collegial respect virtually oozes from the meeting room at our annual gatherings. Perhaps the most common quote heard is "SENTAC is my favorite meeting." I know that people in my presence have heard this phrase often.