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Message from the President



It is exciting to see the tasks that our member associations are carrying out, and being

able to share these synergies "in person" is the aim that we have set ourselves for the Valencia Workshop: Building bridges of communication.

We also want to learn from each other in order to enrich ourselves and raise awareness of how cochlear implants can change the lives of people of different ages.

The only way this can be accomplished is working on sharing realistic, updated and safe information. We must not forget the political impact that should govern the steps of leaders who must not forget the health of their citizens, as hearing care, prevention and aid must play a part in public policies.

In the last European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities which you can read about below, you will see how EURO-CIU keeps making Cochlear Implant Users visible and includes them on the Disability fight for a better quality of life at all ages and policy support from our administrations. In ESPCI we saw how the world of hearing loss is changing at a fast pace, starting to implant babies at 6-7 month of age.

Our technology is evolving.

Our “hearing” and their “listening” must evolve as well.

Teresa Amat, President EURO-CIU

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[Message from the Newsletter Editor](#)



Many thanks to those who have sent us articles - it's always good to hear what is happening in our member countries. Also thanks to the cochlear implant companies for keeping us up to date; and to those who have told us about forthcoming conferences.

Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to Members of Parliament, friends, colleagues and members of your own organisations. We are keen to increase the number of people who can read about the benefits of cochlear implantation. Let's get the message across, particularly as we develop our work, about which you can read in this newsletter.

The next edition of the EURO-CIU Newsletter will be due in September, so please let me have your articles and jpg photos by Monday 4 September 2023. Just e-mail them to me at newsletter@eurociu.eu

With every good wish - and have a good summer!

Brian Archbold (Editor)

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EURO-CIU NEWS – EURO-CIU Workshop and General Assembly - Valencia



EURO-CIU Workshop and General Assembly 2023 Valencia: Building Accessible Communication Bridges. Cochlear Implant Users Learning From One Another

Please make a note in your diaries that our EURO-CIU Workshop and General Assembly will take place in the beautiful Spanish city of Valencia on 3 & 4 November 2023.

All EURO-CIU members are invited to [register HERE](#).

If you would like to contact us about the Workshop and General Assembly, please [click this link](#).

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EURO-CIU NEWS – Opportunities to join and assist the board of EURO-CIU



We must elect a new President, 1st Vice-President and Treasurer at the General Assembly in Valencia on 4th November. Board members can only serve two four-year terms in the same role, so Henri-François Baiverlin and Teresa Amat are at the end of their terms. Consequently, these elections will signal the biggest change in the board line-up in over 15 years, with exciting times ahead.

Would YOU be a suitable candidate to fill one of these roles and support EURO-CIU? Perhaps there are people in your networks who you could encourage to stand? The roles are open to all adults, including young adults aged 18 or more, for example CI users or parents of CI users. All members of EURO-CIU board are voluntary and unpaid.

Each candidate gets a few minutes to present themselves at the General Assembly prior to the elections. You can stand for more than one role, but can only be elected to one. We would love to see several candidates standing for each role.

To apply, you must be a member of one of EURO-CIU's member associations for your country, and your application must be supported by your home association. Board members have the opportunity to gain an international perspective, advocate for cochlear implants, influence policy makers and help to steer EURO-CIU along the best path. The job descriptions and application forms are available from our Secretary, Pieter Bolle pieterbolle@gmail.com or pieter@vlok-ci.eu. Applications should be returned to Pieter by Wednesday 4th October 2023. For further information about any roles, please contact Pieter or any of the other board members.

We are also on the lookout for an Assistant Editor to help Brian Archbold with producing the EURO-CIU Newsletter, with a view to becoming Editor in the future. If this role appeals to you, please [contact Brian directly](#).

Robert Mandara
1st Vice President

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EURO-CIU NEWS – The 5th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities



Photo: Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö & Teresa Amat with an image of the EU Disability Card

The 5th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated on the 23rd May. More than seven hundred disability advocates, policymakers and other stakeholders were gathered so as to represent different needs of the collective. As a matter of fact, this reunion served as a platform to highlight and debate the right of persons with disabilities as well as to consider the demands of the European Disability Movement.

Moreover, the delegates that participated in this 5th European Parliament of Persons with Disability have unanimously approved the Manifesto for the 2024 European Elections. This Manifesto aims to be a practical guide for the political programmes of the candidates for the European Parliament considering the policies that are focused towards the future of persons with disabilities in Europe.

Teresa Amat – the President of EURO-CIU – took part in this European Parliament in order to represent the rights of persons with hearing impairment that use cochlear implants and to work towards ensuring full accessibility not only to information and to communication, but also to education and culture. She highlighted the importance of using on-screen transcription and magnetic loops – among others – as the main path to make accessibility

a reality.

Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö – the representative of EURO-CIU in the European Disability Forum (EDF) – placed value on the discussion among the different systems that countries have created to implement the European Disability Card – which not only provides a simple way to recognise the status of disability of a person when travelling around the European Union but also has several associated benefits.

Both members of EURO-CIU remarked on the importance of the Disability Card that has already been implemented in some countries for more than ten years, as the many benefits that it involves was emphasised during this 5th European Parliament. Teresa Amat and Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö hope that the 2024 European Elections are truly accessible for everyone.

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EURO-CIU at 16th European Symposium on Pediatric Cochlear Implantation (ESPCI) 2023



Photos: clockwise from top-left: The MASAICS early stage researchers who are supported by EURO-CIU and CIICA; Jessica van der Mast's exhibition on the promenade outside the railway station; Laia discussing with visitors to the EURO-CIU booth; Robert trying out electrode insertion using a robot; and Robert with Frances Gallimore.

The 16th ESPCI was held on 31st May – 3rd June, at the De Doelen convention centre in the beautiful Dutch city of Rotterdam.

Over 1,400 people attended, of whom most were CI professionals, including scientists, audiologists, speech therapists and surgeons. Amongst them, I counted around fifteen CI users – approximately 1% of the attendees.

The Symposium opened with an absolutely stunning musical performance by four very talented performers called Percossa. They entered the stage dressed as old men, stomping out a rhythm with Zimmer frames and walking sticks. Words cannot do it justice, but you can find them on YouTube!

This was followed by a very entertaining presentation from Frances Gallimore, a Dutch CI user, who shared excerpts from her novel about dating with CI “Zolang ik nog vrijgezel ben” (As long as I’m still single).

The themes of presentations was very varied. Many were extremely scientific and hard to understand, while others were accessible to the layman. On the CI user side, we heard a lot about remote care, digitalisation of care, and the importance of CI registries. On the product side, we heard exciting information about future technologies, for example about potentially using graphene in future electrodes or opto-genetic stimulation.

In “Growing up with CI”, five young adults with CI were interviewed on the main stage by Rob Beenders, himself a CI user, about their experiences. It was really moving to hear their rich and diverse life experiences as well as heart-warming to observe their self-confidence.

I was delighted to learn that the official photographer, Jessica van der Mast, is also a CI user. Her huge posters of “Super HEARoes” young people with CI were proudly and prominently displayed upon the promenade outside Rotterdam station, gaining great visibility for CI.

There were few opportunities to ask questions, but this was the first conference where I have seen the “Catch box” in use. Rather than have someone passing a mic from person to person, people could just throw it to one another. I thought this was really cool and could be really useful in educational settings.

A few presentations really resonated with me, with quotes that have stuck in my mind. For example, “Standard speech-in-noise tests overestimate the performance of CI in the real world.” is well worth remembering. We need to move testing from the confines of the hospital, out into the noisy everyday world. Meanwhile “Welcome to school! Social inclusion of young CI users in their daily environments” clearly demonstrated that young CI users are not as included at school as their parents and teachers think they are. Sadly, we still have a very long way to go.

EURO-CIU and CIICA were the only non-governmental organisations to have stands at the event. Our stand featured the new EURO-CIU brochures for education professionals, originally created by our member association SUKI. Although EURO-CIU did not make any presentations, we were able to network and exchange many ideas. EURO-CIU supports four MOSAICS early stage researchers and it was great to finally meet and be photographed with them all at our stand.

The brands had the biggest stands, and Cochlear kindly permitted EURO-CIU to make a video interview with Lou Ferrigno (a.k.a. The Incredible Hulk) who has a cochlear implant. There were several smaller stands, featuring medical equipment such as microscopes and robots. I tried my hand at using a ROBOTOL to insert an electrode into a model cochlea. It was incredibly difficult, but great to gain better insight into the amazing work that our surgeons do.

On Friday evening a sold-out network event was held in the beautifully illuminated Laurenskerk.

The next ESPCI Symposia will be in Hannover, Germany 2025, then in Croatia in 2027.

Robert Mandara (Vice-President, EURO-CIU)

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[CIICA at 16th European Symposium on Pediatric Cochlear Implantation \(ESPCI\) 2023](#)



Photos: clockwise from top left: Qais Khan & Leo De Raeve with Artur Lorens; Qais & Sue at the CIICA Stand; Rihab Alkhalil, Brian Lamb, Sue Archbold, Stuart McNaughton; Brian presenting and Sue with the Catch Box

Lifelong, sustainable CI services? How? An interactive seminar by Rihab Alkhalil, Brian Lamb, Sue Archbold, Stuart McNaughton

An infant implanted today may need 100 years of CI support to enable them to communicate throughout their lives, wherever they find themselves. CI's are a huge benefit for individuals and over time save society money. But only if we ensure the right lifelong and sustainable services are in place for families and users. We showed that it is estimated that over 20% of those implanted as children are now over 20 and young adults striving for independence. What CI services do they need and want and what do they get? This is the first group growing up with CI – as they say in our Conversations:

- **We are the first group to be both deaf and hearing.....**
- **Am so used to it that without my CI I can't do anything.**

As an audiologist and CI service manager, CI user and psychotherapist, educator and researcher and public policy expert, we shared our collective experience in a joint session and explored the very real challenges that this entails for individuals, families, CI services and society. Whose responsibility is this and how do we deliver what is needed for the future? Videos of young people (Manu from Brazil and Qais from the UK) shared their challenges in everyday life, and what they would like from their CI centre. See their videos at www.ciicanet.org/news

Collectively we asked the audience: What percentage of those implanted as a child are wearing them when 20? When 40? The answer is that no one really knowswe think it's high but we need to know.

We asked what the biggest problem about sustainability for paediatric CI services was considered to be. **Funding? Staffing? Technology management? Education?**

Society? A lively discussion ensued – but we need more time to really address these issues – and in a multi-professional approach.

We had lively audience participation – thanks to all! And hopefully left people thinking about these issues and their responsibility.

The presentations will be on the [CIICA website](#).

CIICA would like to thank all who came to visit them at their Stand; and welcome to new CIICA members!

EURO-CIU is a founding member CIICA

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[EURO-CIU NEWS – The World Hearing Forum Newsletter](#)



A newsletter is sent out every four months by the World Hearing Forum, of which EURO-CIU is a Founding Member. It covers a lot of interesting topics, and if you would like to receive this, please [click on this link](#) and then complete your registration to subscribe

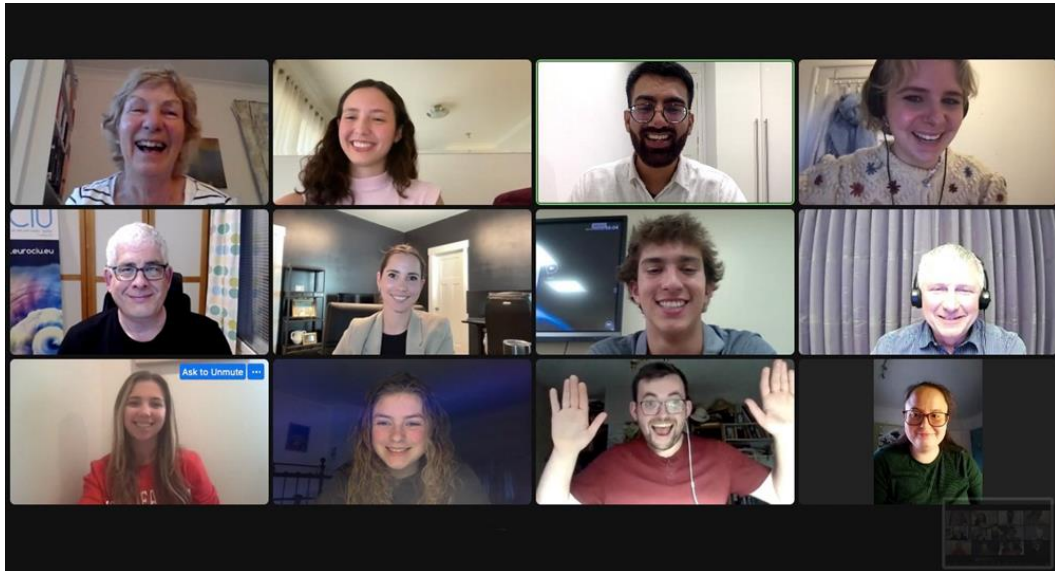
The World Hearing Forum is a global network of stakeholders promoting ear and hearing care worldwide. Members of this advocacy network will commit to facilitating implementation of World Health Assembly resolution [WHA70.13 on "Prevention of deafness and hearing loss"](#) and supporting Member States in this regard.

Over 430 million people require rehabilitation to address their hearing loss, of these, 34 million are children. In addition, 1.1 billion young people are at risk of hearing loss due to exposure to noise in recreational settings and through personal audio devices. It is expected that these numbers will rise considerably in the coming decades, unless action is taken to prevent and treat hearing loss.

The World Hearing Forum is filling a critical gap by bringing a collective vision to advocacy and collaboration in this field. Through networking and by sharing knowledge, skills and experiences from the field, the World Hearing Forum is galvanizing action towards a world in which no person experiences hearing loss due to preventable causes and those with hearing loss can achieve their full potential through early identification and appropriate management of their condition.

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CIICA CONVERSATIONS: 18-30's with cochlear implants



As part of CIICA's mission, we wanted to engage in meaningful conversations with adults and families from around the globe, allowing them to share their perspective on specific topics. We introduced **CIICA Conversations** as a way to hold small group discussions on specific topics for an hour each time.

The conversations are facilitated by a board member and co-ordinator of CIICA, captioned and the summary of the conversation agreed and published on the website as a resource for advocacy. We have had several conversations, but we realised that there is a "community" that was missing, and that was young adults with cochlear implants.

To address this gap, we launched CIICA Conversations 18-30's with the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People, specifically focussed on the needs of young adults. Since we launched, we have discussed various topics, including:

- Life with CI: Together we can shape our future.
- How does CI influence our human connections?
- What are your communication challenges: how do you manage them?
- What changes are needed to improve the lives of cochlear implant users in society?

Each conversation, we had between 15-20 young adults representing more than 10 countries. They have shared their experiences, challenges and raised their voices, offering valuable insights to all of us involved. We have produced summaries of these conversations, which can be used for advocacy resources for cochlear implant advocates. Go to [Events – CIICA \(ciicanet.org\)](#) to download the summaries so far. Here are some examples of what young adults have had to say from the previous conversations.

"Thank you for providing an open space where cochlear implant users can share their experiences!"

"This group inspires me: it's amazing to see everybody here. It gives me hope."

"It is like a hug. It feels like a massive hug when you, even though we are all kind of strangers we all have something in common and we all kind of can support each other and it is a special thing."

Connecting with young adults has been eye-opening and inspiring, as we realised that we can all relate to similar experiences and challenges. The CIICA Conversation 18-30's will continue every 2 months and our aim is to develop and agree a statement of the changes we want to see, that can be translated into action, serving as a powerful tool for cochlear implant advocates in their countries.

Qais Khan, June 2023

EURO-CIU is a founding member CIICA

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AUSTRIA – Cochlear Implant Austria – CIA aims to address CI youth directly



At the beginning of 2023 the Board of "Cochlear Implant Austria" CIA was enlarged, now including representatives of young adults with CI, and for children and adolescents with CI as well as their families.

At the general meeting at the end of last year CIA-chairman Hans Horak presented new board-members who will look after special areas. Among them Markus Fraisl, Stefan Obermaier and Katja Salumun, parents of CI children, who will look after the interests and needs of families with CI children. The twins Alexander and Matthias Pusker, both CI users since early childhood, will be the contact persons for young adults with CI. In addition, the areas of sports, senior citizens, authority efforts, music and culture now have their own specialist speakers. The new working groups have already been able to develop and partially implement a number of projects.

With this extension, the CIA is pleased to be able to specifically address the needs and interests of young CI users. Adolescents and young adults are important sources of inspiration for the association.

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AUSTRIA – Cochlear Implant Austria – Newborn Hearing Screening in Preparation in Austria



Newborn Hearing Screening has been recommended in Austria since 1995 and has been part of the official preventive medical check-up for infants since 2003. At long last, it will be mandatory soon.

The so-called mother-child passport has existed in Austria since 1974, which summarizes the recommended check-ups for pregnant women and newborns and makes these check-ups accessible to families free of charge. In these almost 50 years, the document has been continuously developed. From 2024 it will be renamed the parent-child pass, digitized by 2026 and its services expanded again.

The Austrian ENT Society had already formulated a recommendation for newborn hearing screening in 1995. The recommendation has been part of the mother-child passport since 2003. It is currently recommended to objectively test hearing on both sides within the first few days of life.

One of the announced changes from 2024 is to make this recommendation mandatory. If hearing screening is not carried out then, parents will lose some of the state's financial support for families. The announced digitization of the parent-child passport and networking of the caring professionals could also make the follow-up care easier for those children whose results at the NHS were conspicuous.

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[AUSTRIA – Cochlear Implant Austria CIA – Austrian Hearing Implant User on Spotify](#)



Moritz Scharf composes electronic music, and he hears with a hearing implant. His compositions are now on Spotify!

Electronic music is a broad field, including well-known names such as Jean-Michel Jarre, Mike Oldfield, Vangelis, Pink Floyd or Lake and Palmer as well as current artists: for example HVOB, Sentic Cycle, The Beuyce or the Austrian Moritz Scharf. Remarkable: Moritz Scharf not only composes and plays electronic music, he also listens to it electronically on one side – through his BONEBRIDGE bone conduction implant. And he is a member of Cochlear Implant Austria CIA.

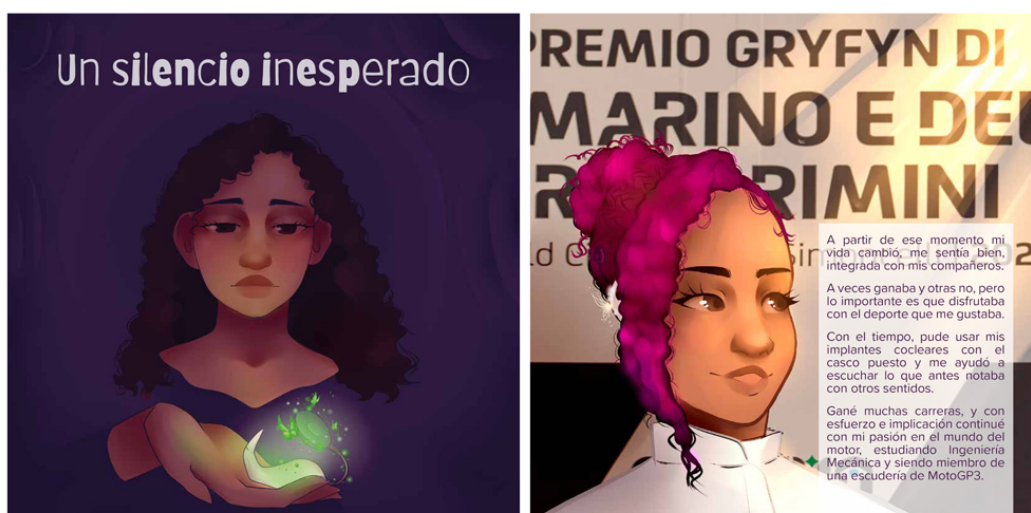
When arranging his music recordings, it is essential for him to be able to hear well in both ears. After a middle ear infection in his left ear, this was no longer possible without a

hearing implant: *"Since then, my BONEBRIDGE hearing implant has been one of the most important instruments in my production chain and certainly the most valuable studio equipment I own."*

The Viennese has created numerous compositions of electronic music that can be heard via various streaming services. His album "Z" can now also be found on Spotify, with more recordings to follow.

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SPAIN – Federación AICE – Bullying of people with deafness



In times of economic and social crisis, an increasing discrimination for those who are different can be clearly noticed. Children and teenagers grow up receiving messages that may seem innocuous, but intolerance finds a breeding ground in which it spreads regardless of whether these messages are true or not. This is particularly noticeable in their immediate environment, where they spend most of their time, which is none other than the school and/or their playgrounds.

Bauman and Pero (2010) point out that people with deafness are more at risk of being victims of bullying because of the social difficulties linked to hearing loss, which may even lead victims not to seek help in the educational or familiar environment. However, there is not a single study concerning this issue carried out in Spain.

Consequently, **Federación AICE** – the Spanish Association of Persons with Cochlear Implants – together with the University of Santiago de Compostela and the **Asociación no al acoso escolar**, carried out a study entitled 'School Bullying In Persons With Cochlear Implant', which found out that the percentage of persons with cochlear implants who suffer bullying doubled, or even tripled, when compared with the general population.

Therefore, **Federación AICE** has developed several prevention strategies capable of mitigating and bringing visibility to a growing problem by providing information to students in general about bullying behaviours, the impacts that they may have on victims and tools available to avoid these situations. Since the end of 2022 and so far this year, our professionals have been working together with voluntary young people – who are users of cochlear implants – on the elaboration of a story entitled '*Un Silencio Inesperado*' – '*An Unexpected Silence*'. This story is the key through which children are invited to reflect on the previously-mentioned ideas.

This story – written by a Social Worker of **Federación AICE**, Javier Granero, illustrated by Antonio Mir and developed thanks to the collaboration of many professionals and young people with cochlear implants – tells the story of Anna, a young girl with a cochlear implant whose passion is riding motorbikes and who suffers discrimination for being a deaf

“foreign” woman that competes in the “male” world of motorbikes. Throughout the story, she faces different experiences and has to deal with many different ways of dealing with bullying.

The presentation of the story took place in schools all over Spain on 2nd May, as it was the International Day Against Bullying. Around 600 students took part in the presentation and it was nationally covered by the media – including the report broadcasted on RTVE2 by the programme *‘En Lengua de Signos’* – *‘In Sign Language’*. The impact of the campaign is estimated at around 260,000 people and we hope that it will contribute to eradicate this social scourge that affects the youngest members of society.

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[LEHNHARDT FOUNDATION – How we can help uprooted families with hearing impaired children](#)





Mothers with children or whole families leave their home country for very different reasons. Some simply because they hope for a better life, some because they are fleeing reprisals or even war. What they all have in common is a more-or-less long phase of feeling foreign in the new country.

A lack of knowledge of the language of the new "home country" makes integration difficult.

Ignorance of the local conditions and the responsible institutions for support have a particularly negative effect when help is required for children with hearing impairments or even children with multiple disabilities.

For a year now we have been seeing more and more such families in Germany, but also in Austria, Poland and Switzerland. They come from Moldova, Afghanistan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia and especially from Ukraine.

The most common problems for families with hearing impaired children or for people with hearing aids or cochlear implants are broken parts of the hearing devices, a required upgrade, an appointment with a hearing care professional (acoustician), at a clinic's ENT department or with a therapist.

There are many volunteers who want to help, but often they lack expertise. We, the Lehnhardt Foundation, have a small online advice centre that can make a significant difference. After a request, we organize a quick contact to ENT doctors (fortunately, we have two on our board with Doz. Dr. Astrid Magele and Prof. Dr. Tino Just), to paediatric acousticians, experts in early intervention, CIC centres (fortunately, we have Yvonne Seebens from CIC in Friedberg on our board) kindergartens and schools.

Sometimes we also help with translation over the phone or online with filling out forms.

If children with older speech processor models that are no longer supported in Germany have to wait weeks for spare parts, we can help with products from our donation pool. With the help of professionally trained acousticians, we ensure that the parts are fully functional. They all do this work for free.

Rehabilitation or aftercare must also be organized. For example, we were able to help a young woman who has had a CI for a year. She couldn't understand the translation on the phone. Liubov Wolowik (also on the board) translated for her in writing in WhatsApp and, after all the necessary examinations, she was able to start rehabilitation.

Another project is planned: a sign language course (German) for adults who only know Russian sign language.

We would like to thank all organizations, therapists, acousticians, employees at CI centres and doctors who are very flexible and put a lot of effort into helping the affected families.

We all have a common goal: Hearing-impaired children and adults with hearing aids should have the opportunity to be fully integrated socially and this without unnecessary journeys, loss of time and frustration!

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[RELATED CONGRESS – Management of the Tinnitus & Hyperacusis Patient](#)



30th International Conference: In-person and Virtual

August 10th & 11th, 2023

This conference is intended for otologists, audiologists, psychologists, hearing aid specialists and nurses who provide clinical management services for patients with tinnitus. The conference will also provide information to patients who have tinnitus, their family and friends, but it will NOT include individual diagnosis and treatment. The purpose of this conference is to provide a review of current evaluation and management strategies for the treatment of tinnitus. Upon completion of the program, the participant will be able to discuss the management of tinnitus and the tinnitus patient.

Of interest will be lectures by Kelly Assouly, MSc on "Cochlear Implants for Tinnitus" and Fatima Hussain, PhD on "Cochlear Tinnitus and the Brain"

All lectures will be held in Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center, 250 Hawkins Dr, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA.

Rich Tyler PhD (Professor of Otolaryngology, University of Iowa)

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[RELATED CONFERENCE – The 17th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Technologies](#)



21 to 24 February 2024

The 17th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Technologies will gather in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Canary Islands, Spain) with prominent global experts in the field, including basic scientists, clinical specialists, and researchers. There will be very thorough clinical debates on various topics related to all fields in Cochlear Implantation and other Implantable Devices, as well as a special focus on Basic Sciences, including the most important research groups in the world.

The deadline for Abstracts is 1 October 2023.

For further details, please click on the [conference website](#).

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RELATED CONGRESS – BATOD, FEAPDA & NCSE – Exploring the diversity of deaf learners in their many lives: implications for our knowledge and practice



BATOD is pleased to announce a joint Congress with **FEAPDA** (The European federation of national associations and organisations of professionals working with deaf children and young people) and with **NCSE** (National Council For Special Education in the Republic of Ireland). The Congress will take place on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th April 2024 in Dublin.

The theme is 'Exploring the diversity of deaf learners in their many lives: implications for our knowledge and practice.' Each deaf child or young person brings a unique experience to their education. The combination of their varying home cultures, their additional needs and their perspectives on their own lived experience raises questions about how to shape practice and monitor outcomes.

Visit our [website page](#) for further information and a call for contributions.

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RELATED CONGRESS – HeAL 2024 – Hearing Across the Lifespan



The next international **HeAL 2024 conference** (live) will be held from **6 to 8 June 2024** at our historic venue, the gorgeous Villa Erba Conference Center, on Lake Como in Cernobbio. This peaceful, elegant, cosy and little frequented town with all its charm will once again host our meeting.

HeAL meetings, a.k.a. the Como Conferences, have closely monitored – and contributed to – the progress of modern Audiology and Hearing Science, also influencing the development of clinical studies and practical protocols. HeAL meetings bring together experts from across disciplines and offer delegates a unique opportunity to discuss their latest research in a truly international forum.

The Scientific Program is usually composed of several parallel sessions and enriched by Satellite Events dedicated to a great variety of topical issues as well as Special Sessions and Mini-Symposia proposed and coordinated by many Organizations and Institutions active in the wide area of hearing research and hearing care.

Save-the-date. Come and join us for another exciting conference in Cernobbio in 2024!

Ferdi Grandori (Chair)

National Research Council of Italy – CNR-IEIT – Institute of Electronics, Information Engineering and Telecommunications, Milan Unit based at the Dept. of Electronics, Information and Bioengineering, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy

Scientific Committee

Sophia E. Kramer, PhD at the Amsterdam UMC – location VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Alessia Paglialonga, PhD National Research Council of Italy – CNR-IEIT – Institute of

Electronics, Information Engineering and Telecommunications, Milan Unit based at the
Dept. of Electronics, Information and Bioengineering, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy

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[RELATED CONGRESS – CI2024 International](#)



Save the Date! [CI2024 International – July 10-13, 2024](#)

Abstract submissions will open in August 2023

Anticipated session topics:

- Global challenges relative to cochlear implant provision
- Impact on early implantation of children born during the COVID pandemic
- What can be done to improve CI access to underserved populations around the world
- Working with challenging cases through teamwork
- Promoting cochlear implantation through hearing health
- CI provision at both ends of the age spectrum: Under 6 months and over 90

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[WORLD NEWS – Qais Khan at the United Nations](#)



My name is Qais Khan, and I am a public speaker, model and cochlear implant advocate. I had the honour of representing the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) and speaking at the United Nations in New York City in April 2023.

The Youth Forum addressed the theme of the Economic and Social Council and the 2023 UN High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development, “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.”

During the three days of United Nations Youth Forum, I had a great experience discussing with youth leaders from around the world to voice our opinions, share ideas, and think together about what should be done to achieve the 2030 Agenda. We also discussed how to address the challenges we face as young people and the contributions we can make to achieve the youth specific SDG targets. With over 1,000 in-person attendees and 20,000+ attendees online, this was the largest ever in its eleven-year history.

During my speech, I delivered a powerful message, urging action for creating accessible, sustainable, and inclusive cities for all. As we work towards the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, it is important for the World leaders to understand the struggles and barriers faced by the deaf and hard of hearing communities in their daily lives. By spreading the word and raising awareness, we can ensure that the voices in every community are heard, and their rights are protected.

Throughout the Youth Forum, I attended various events and was personally invited to a few events that had a limited number of participants. One of them was the United Nations Foundation lunch event, where I was selected to join 17 young leaders from around the world. Additionally, I was personally invited to attend the ECOSOC Youth Forum – Be Seen, Be Heard, which was a successful collaboration between the United Nations and The Body Shop. This campaign is about young people who are missing from politics and public life. They need to be seen and heard! It was a fantastic opportunity to network with young leaders and make lifelong connections. This is what we need more cochlear implant advocates to do – advocate, attend events and conferences to share their experiences and challenges, and be seen!

It was one of my biggest achievements and I am so grateful to have had this once in a lifetime opportunity. I would like to express my thanks to the President of IFHOHYP, Bowen Tang who nominated me to represent the organisation at the United Nations.

Qais Khan

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WORLD NEWS – The World Health Organisation – Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems



WHO is very pleased to announce to the global rehabilitation community that a **landmark resolution on “Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems”** was adopted by 194 Member States at the 76th World Health Assembly. The resolution responds to the large global need for rehabilitation and the significant gap in availability of services, especially in low- and middle-income countries, with as much as 50% of people not receiving the rehabilitation they require. The resolution highlights:

- the importance of raising awareness of rehabilitation among policy- and decision-makers when setting health priorities;
- the need to better equip countries in responding to rehabilitation needs, including assistive technology, in the context of health emergencies;
- common challenges faced in accessing affordable, quality and appropriate rehabilitation services, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable populations; and
- the current lack of rehabilitation workforce that urgently needs to be addressed.

The resolution calls for key actions to be taken by Member States, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen rehabilitation in health systems. It also requests for the WHO Secretariat to support the implementation of **Rehabilitation 2030** through the development of technical guidance and resources, the development of feasible targets and indicators, and by integrating rehabilitation and assistive technology in its emergency medical teams, among other requests.

The successful implementation of this resolution is critical to ensure the enjoyment of human rights, including the best possible physical and mental health.

The WHO Secretariat will report on their progress in the implementation of this resolution to the World Health Assembly in 2026, 2028 and 2030.

On 10-11 July 2023, WHO will be hosting the **3rd Global Rehabilitation 2030 meeting** where we will discuss the adoption of this landmark resolution and the actions requested, and will launch key WHO technical products that will facilitate the implementation of the resolution in countries. More information on this meeting and the technical products will be shared in the coming weeks.

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WORLD NEWS – What is FEAPDA and what can it do for you?



FEAPDA is the European Federation of Associations of Teachers of the Deaf (Fédération Européenne des Associations de Professeurs de Déficients Auditifs).

It was established in 1971 to promote outcomes for children and young people who are deaf and hard of hearing through:

- continuing professional development and training for all professionals working with deaf children, young people and their families
- supporting and disseminating research into deafness and effective models of support
- representing the interests of these children and young people.

From 2020, membership requirements for FEAPDA have been revised to reflect the changing nature of deaf education in Europe and to welcome new members. Membership of FEAPDA is now open to Organisations, Institutions, Federations and Associations across Europe involved in the academic education and broader development of deaf and hard of hearing children and young people (including schools and centres of excellence and supporting networks for deaf education or working in related fields including universities and higher education institutions).

Applications for membership can be submitted via our website <http://feapda.eu>. A contact form can be found on our website. On completion, the form will be forwarded to the council members for approval.

Further information about FEAPDA can be found on the FEAPDA website: <http://feapda.eu>. Please inform the organisations in your country related to the education and rehabilitation of deaf students (in mainstream and special education) about this unique opportunity to become a member of FEAPDA.

Leo De Raeve
Chair of FEAPDA

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[WORLD NEWS – AUSTRIA – HEARRING Group – Excellence dedicated to Hearing Implants](#)



Photo: Prof Wolf-Dieter Baumgartner

The HEARRING Group is an independent network of world-leading experts and centres concerned with all aspects of hearing restoration and implantable hearing devices. Through being comprehensive, co-active, innovative, and educational they are committed to making progress every day. Detailed information on the HEARRING clinics, their goals, and members can be found on the HEARRING website (<https://www.hearring.com/>).

Age-related hearing loss

Why is this topic important?

Hearing loss affects 1.57 billion people worldwide to various degrees. 62% of the people with hearing loss are older than 50 years and mainly suffer from age-related hearing loss (ARHL), referred to as presbycusis by professionals (GBD 2019). Prevalence data on ARHL considerably vary because of the different methods used to assess hearing loss, ranging from audiometric measurement to subjective self-assessment.

Age-related hearing loss manifests itself in everyday life in numerous ways. The people affected:

- often ask people to repeat what they have said
- turn up the volume of the radio or television
- have difficulty following conversations in noisy places
- have difficulty understanding what is said over the phone
- have difficulty participating in group conversations
- have a ringing sensation in the ear (tinnitus)
- have difficulty hearing sounds like doorbell, alarm, or telephone ringing
- tend to speak loudly

Hearing Aids and Cochlear Implants

The most common way to treat ARHL are hearing aids. In the case of bilateral hearing loss, which is the most common situation in ARHL, bilateral hearing aid provision is considered the standard treatment (Hoppe & Hesse 2017).

Several studies have shown that cochlear implantation is also an effective treatment option in people affected by ARHL, especially if the hearing loss is severe to profound. Cochlear implantation is safe and well-tolerated by elderly people and considerably enhances speech perception and quality of life (Amin et al., 2021)

Prof Wolf-Dieter Baumgartner

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WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – Advocating for deaf children and young people with Malala Yousafzai



Photos: (left) AVUK children with Malala - thumbs up! (right) Summit team at AVUK

Graduates from Auditory Verbal UK, who learnt to listen and talk on their Auditory Verbal therapy family programme, met international activist Malala Yousafzai in May at a global summit in London advocating for deaf children and young people.

Ava, Hope, Orson and Noli met Malala – UN Messenger of Peace and the youngest person ever awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, who also has a cochlear implant – as part of Cochlear Foundation’s Achieve Anything Global Summit. They discussed the importance of advocacy and calling on world leaders to address hearing loss and prioritise better access to hearing healthcare and support for millions of children around the globe.

One of the lucky four was Hope Dennis, aged 10, who was diagnosed as profoundly deaf

at just three weeks old and became one of the youngest babies to undergo bilateral cochlear implant surgery at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, aged just nine months in July 2011. Hope then began Auditory Verbal therapy at AVUK and by 14 months old Hope's spoken language and listening skills were on a par with hearing children of the same age.

She said: *"This has been an unforgettable experience. I can't believe I've met someone who has won the Nobel Peace Prize and she is such an inspiration. I really hope this summit can help more deaf children get the kind of support I had which for me has also meant I can do everything my hearing friends can."*

During the summit, the international ambassadors from the UK, Brazil, France, India and the US, who were chosen because they have overcome barriers and achieved so much in life, while inspiring others with hearing loss to fulfil their dreams, shared their stories and worked with hearing advocacy network CIICA (Cochlear Implant International Community of Action) to launch a consultation process for the development of a global declaration on hearing loss for children and young people.

Anita Grover, CEO of Auditory Verbal UK, who is profoundly deaf and has a cochlear implant, said: *"These inspirational young people show that deaf children and young adults can achieve anything, and they should have the same opportunities in life as their hearing peers. They are leading the way and we are proud to be supporting their efforts to challenge governments to prioritise better access to hearing healthcare and support for millions of children around the globe. We look forward to supporting their efforts, as they join others around the work to advocate for early and effective support. Together we can raise expectations and outcomes for all deaf children and young people."*

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[WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – New research shows lack of awareness of what deaf children can achieve](#)



New public research commissioned and released by AVUK has revealed the knowledge gap of what deaf children can achieve.

The research showed that only 2 in 5 (41%) UK adults believe a child born profoundly deaf can learn to speak as well as a child without hearing loss*. This figure indicates that in the UK public perceptions and understanding of what deaf children can achieve isn't what it should be. We know that deaf children can learn to speak just like their hearing peers with early and effective support.

The research also found that 80% of UK adults believe Auditory Verbal therapy should be available to all deaf children via publicly funded services (ie, the National Health Service), while only 3% think it should be paid for privately.*

This supports AVUK's [#HearUsNow](#) campaign, which is calling on the UK Government to make an investment of just over £2 million a year, for the next 10 years, so that every family who wants their child to learn to listen and talk will be able to access an Auditory Verbal programme through publicly funded services in their local area and unlock economic benefits of £152m, rising to £11.7billion over 50 years. By supporting and investing in Auditory Verbal therapy, the UK can maximise the investment already being made in early diagnosis and hearing technology, including cochlear implants, and improve outcomes for deaf children so they have the same opportunities in life as their hearing

peers.

** YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2078 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 30th – 31st March 2023. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all UK adults (aged 18+).*

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[WORLD NEWS – UK – British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People – BATOD Audiology Refreshers resource](#)



BATOD is delighted to announce the soft launch of the Audiology Refreshers digital open-access resource on the 21st June, 1:30 to 3:00 pm.

This BATOD project is funded by the William Demant Foundation, working in partnership with [DeafKidz International \(DKI\)](#) who are co-ordinating the project, along with the [British Society of Audiology](#), the lead partner.

Six working groups made up of dedicated chairs, co-chairs and experts working in deaf education, audiology and technology across the UK have been developing new and updated content on:

1. Anatomy and physiology
2. Aetiology and types of deafness
3. Auditory perception and hearing testing
4. Acoustics and physics of sound
5. Listening skills and functional hearing
6. Hearing technologies and assistive listening devices

The Audiology Refresher resource was originally conceived by Margaret Glasgow and were published as a series over several years in issues of the BATOD Magazine. The mandatory qualification training for Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People includes basic audiology. The audiological knowledge required to support deaf children and young people is wide ranging. Margaret, and colleagues, authored a series of articles to give Qualified Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People (QToDs), students, and other professionals working with deaf children quick access to refresh their memory of basic audiological knowledge and practices. The resource was last updated in 2009 and this project has offered the opportunity to seek the views of students, QToDs and associated professionals to help shape and lead this vital update.

Join us to hear from the working group leads on progress made to date on the Audiology Refreshers resource, how you can make use of the resource developed and how we will intend to review the project through a follow up survey later this year.

[Free – reserve your place via this link](#)

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WORLD NEWS – UK – BCIG Conference 2023



Photos: The Cambridge team and Julie Arenberg

The Annual BCIG Conference was held in the historic city of Cambridge this year – and it was a fabulous occasion! With a record number of delegates there were plenty of opportunities to network and the wide variety of presentations meant that there truly was something for everyone. The Cambridge Team put together a programme including sessions involving the CI Champions – these were well supported and introduced many new people to the concept and the potential for increased referrals to CI units for adults.

Professor Manohar Bance was welcomed as the new Chair of the BCIG – and he has already set his mark by initiating a PPIE Group and by inviting several members to take part in a panel discussion as part of the conference programme. Feedback was extremely positive from this – CI users and parents will be invited to contribute to future BCIG meetings.

The Graham Fraser Memorial Lecture was, again, a highlight of the Conference: Julie Arenberg, currently the Director of Research and Education in Clinical Audiology at Massachusetts Eye and Ear and an Associate Professor of Harvard Medical School, presented “The influence of the electrode-neurone interface on cochlear implant outcomes”. Her engaging manner of presentation was inspirational and her interest in improving the understanding of the development of spectral resolution in children with cochlear implants was thought-provoking for the packed hall.

Thanks, as usual, to the CI manufacturers and other exhibitors who sponsored the event: **see you next year in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, 30th April – 1st May 2024.**

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WORLD NEWS – UK – BCIG Other News

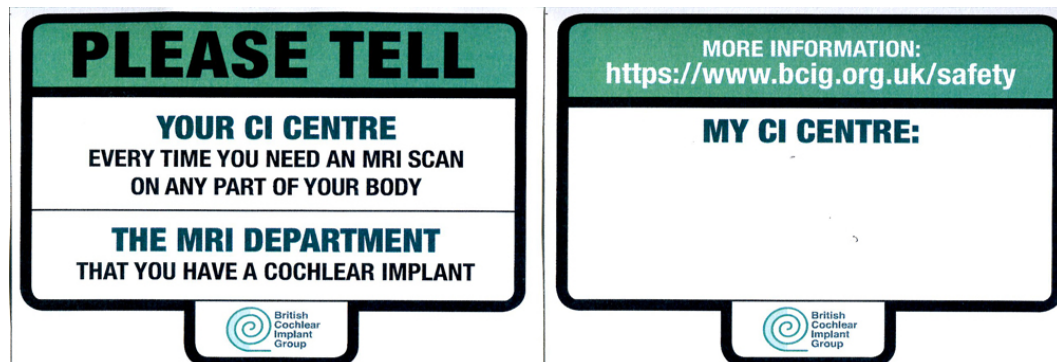


Photo: front and back of MRI reminder card

MRI reminder cards launched

Helen Cullington, the out-going Chair of BCIG, announced another resource from the MRI Special Interest Group: a handy card that reinforces the message that CI users need to tell the radiologist and their CI unit if they are needing to have an MRI scan. It also reminds radiologists to check about current Good Practice for CI users. The aim is to ensure every new CI user is issued with one of these cards before they leave hospital after implantation. The cards have been flying out to CI units across the country – please contact info@bcig.org.uk if you would like some for your hospital.

Quality Standard published

The latest BCIG Quality Standard has been updated and revised with reference to many NHS documents and resources that highlight themes for the future of sustainable and quality healthcare. It has been published as a supplement in the [Cochlear Implants International Journal](#) and is a free-to-access document which is also available on the [BCIG](#)

[website.](#)

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WORLD NEWS – USA – American Cochlear Implant Alliance awarded Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Peter Roland



The American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACI Alliance) awarded the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Peter Roland. The award is given annually to an individual with an exemplary body of work in service to advancing cochlear implants. It was given at the CI2023 conference at the Opening Session on June 8, 2023.

Dr. Roland was a cochlear implant pioneer involved in provision of the device to patients from the time it was first approved by the FDA in 1984. He advanced interest and experience in use of electro-acoustic hearing, bilateral use of cochlear implants, and CI benefits for people of all ages. Prior to his retirement, he was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and Professor of Neurological Surgery at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, and the Chief of Paediatric Otology at Children's Medical Center.

He received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and did his otolaryngology residency training at Penn State University. Dr. Roland spent four years in the United States Navy stationed at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland. During his tour in the Navy, he was on the faculty of the Uniform Services, the University of Health Sciences and served as a consultant to the National Institutes of Health. He authored over 150 publications on ear surgery, cochlear implants, hearing loss, balance disturbance, facial nerve injury, acoustic neuroma and tumours of the skull base. Beyond his impressive contributions to clinical care and research in hearing care, Dr. Roland is known for his boundless sense of humour and breadth of knowledge of art history, literacy and philosophy. He is also an accomplished skier.

*For more on the Lifetime Achievement Award visit: www.acialliance.org/page/LifetimeAchievementAward

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[WORLD NEWS – USA – American Cochlear Implant Alliance update](#)



AMERICAN
COCHLEAR
IMPLANT
ALLIANCE

Tuesday Talks are a free, captioned webinar series hosted by ACI Alliance. The content is designed for adults, parents, and others seeking information on cochlear implantation and related topics. Members of the CI CAN consumer network play a pivotal role in each presentation by bringing their own experience with CI to the discussion. All sessions are free and captioned. The recorded library is located here: <https://www.acialliance.org/page/TuesdayTalks>

Listening @ ACI Alliance

To expand awareness about cochlear implants and our own research and advocacy activities, ACI Alliance launched a monthly free online publication — [Listening @ ACI Alliance](#). Listening is intended for a broad audience and is suitable for your patient community and professionals who are interested in cochlear implants but not intensively involved. Please encourage those who may benefit to [sign up here](#).

Adult Rehabilitation Blog

American Cochlear Implant Alliance offers an auditory rehabilitation resource, [ACI Alliance Blog: Cochlear Implant Rehabilitation for Adults](#).

Cochlear Implant Rehabilitation for Adults, a blog offered by American Cochlear Implant Alliance, was launched in January 2016. It was initiated because of the scarcity of high-quality rehab guidance materials and direct rehab services available for adult CI recipients. Although adults comprise at least two-thirds of US cochlear implant users, the focus of (re)habilitation post CI surgery, has traditionally been on children.

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ADVANCED BIONICS – Taking on Hollywood with my Cochlear Implant



J.P. Giuliotti is an accomplished American actor who also happens to be a cochlear implant recipient. His most recent role was on HBO's hit show **Room 104**, where his CI was prominently visible, making him one of the first representatives of CI recipients on popular television.

J.P. shared [his story](#) with us: the dream of becoming an actor, the sense of despair following an undiagnosed sudden sensorineural hearing loss, and his way back to hearing

thanks to the CI. The hard work and persistence that led him to success, with the implant activation just two weeks before being casted for his first role in an episode of **Criminal Minds**.

"My hearing loss started just as I got to Hollywood to pursue acting professionally in 2010. Since hearing is so important to good acting, it was tough from the start. Hearing loss adds a huge obstacle when competing with the best actors in the country for very few roles [...] To illustrate the difficulty, I use the analogy of being an excellent college swimmer trying out for the Olympics. But before you jump in the pool, you have to wear a 15-pound weight around your waist."

You can also watch J.P. and his wife Jade talking about their journey in one of the episodes of our The Moment campaign. Follow the stories of seven incredible journeys and feel what it's like to restore and renew life's connection to the people and the moments we love.

You can watch the entire series at AdvancedBionics.com/TheMoment

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ADVANCED BIONICS – How Innovations in Cochlear Implant Technology Come to Life



Have you ever wondered how new cochlear implant features and functionalities are created? Do scientists and engineers sit together in a room every Monday morning and brainstorm potential improvements to work on that week? **How does the idea turn into a tangible product or feature? And how do we ensure that this new idea works and is safe?**

Unlike typical hearing aids, cochlear implants are complex medical devices that work differently, employing an external device and a surgically placed implant. Developing and obtaining regulatory approval for an innovative cochlear implant is not a fast process and **can take many years from ideation to the implant being available on the market.**

In this article, Tojo Meier, Advanced Bionics Product Manager of Surgical Portfolio takes us through the steps of how an idea becomes an innovation:

1. Ideation
2. Concept and Feasibility
3. Design and Development
4. Regulatory Approval

5. Post-market Surveillance

If you want to learn more about the phases CI technology goes through to make its way from inception to being brought to the market, read the full article on [CONNECTIONS](#) and watch [this video](#) on our YouTube channel.

Make sure to visit our blog regularly: explore it to find the powerful stories CI experts, CI recipients, or parents of children with CIs are sharing with us about their hearing journey and other helpful articles on hearing loss and cochlear implant technology.

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[COCHLEAR FOUNDATION – Young deaf people call on world leaders to address hearing loss at global summit](#)



A group of deaf young people joined forces at a special global summit in London last month to urge world leaders to prioritise better access to hearing healthcare and support for millions of children around the world.

A young doctor, a model, and a gold medal winning athlete were amongst those who convened in London to help address these challenges. Cochlear Foundation selected these young people to attend the summit, as part of its *Achieve anything* program. They were chosen because they have overcome barriers and achieved so much in life, while inspiring others with hearing loss to fulfil their dreams.

At the summit, the young attendees worked with hearing advocacy network CIICA (Cochlear Implant International Community of Action) to launch a consultation process for the development of a global declaration on hearing loss for children and young people.

Based on the views of children and young people with hearing loss, the declaration will challenge governments and health providers worldwide to ensure young people have

access to hearing healthcare as early as possible. This will build on the recommendations of the World Health Organization's World Report on Hearing, which underlines the urgency of hearing health needing to be prioritised by governments and society.

While in London, the group met inspiring role models who have helped to create social change, including Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani education activist, UN Messenger of Peace and the youngest person ever awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Malala encouraged the children and young people to share their stories through Cochlear Foundation's *Achieve anything program*. The program aims to help young people with hearing loss to realise their full potential by raising awareness about the barriers keeping millions of young people with hearing loss from accessing a quality education.

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COCHLEAR - Three surprising benefits of getting a new sound processor



What if you could have the confidence to pursue your goals at work or in your studies, or to try a new hobby? Would hearing more clearly help you feel included in your favorite activities or give you more independence? Three recipients share their experiences about what has surprised them most about having a new sound processor.

For teenager, Jack, 'new' means being included

Sasha and Meredith have noticed the difference two new off-the-ear sound processors have made to their teenage son, Jack's confidence in social situations. Like many young people, Jack loves to play games online with friends. With audio streaming directly to his two new sound processors, Jack is not only enjoying a better sound experience, but he's also able to talk with his fellow players in real time.

"The sound is clear and consistent, straight into his processors, providing invaluable social interaction – it's great to hear him laughing and chatting," says Sasha.

For Anna, 'new' means more joy in competing in sports

For triathlete, Anna, being able to hear throughout the race has made competing more enjoyable. It's the improved clarity as well as having optional accessories for her new devices that has made the difference.

"I enjoy being able to hear people cheering, other swimmers encouraging me and having that feeling of safety," says Anna. Now, with Aqua+ waterproof silicone sleeves for her two new sound processors, Anna no longer needs to remove her devices before hitting the water, and she can hear boats, jet skis and other competitors during the swim stage of the race.

For Soli, 'new' means hearing more clearly

For Soli, being able to better hear her classmates and teachers has made a real difference to life at school.

"Immediately I could start hearing differences in sounds – the tiniest little whisper from the air conditioning or talking in conversations in other rooms," says Soli about the clarity of her new sound processor. "And no matter where I'm seated in the room or wherever I may be in the school, I can just hear conversations so much better."

[Click here to learn more about what a new sound processor could mean for you.](#)

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Please seek advice from your health professional about treatments for hearing loss. Outcomes may vary, and your health professional will advise you about the factors which could affect your outcome. Always follow the directions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information.

Views expressed are those of the individual. Consult your health professional to determine if you are a candidate for Cochlear technology.

The Cochlear™ Nucleus® 8 Sound Processor is compatible with Apple and Android devices. For compatibility information and devices visit www.cochlear.com/compatibility and www.resound.com/compatibility

The Cochlear Nucleus 8 and the Kanso® 2 Sound Processor is dust and water resistant to level IP68 of the International Standard IEC60529. The Nucleus 8 Sound Processor was tested to a depth of up to 1 meter for up to 1 hour. Refer to the relevant user guide for more information.

The Cochlear Nucleus 8 and the Kanso 2 Sound Processor with Aqua+ is dust and water resistant to level IP68 of the International Standard IEC60529. The Nucleus 8 Sound Processor with Aqua+ can be continuously submerged under water to a depth of up to 3 meters for up to 2 hours. Refer to the relevant user guide for more information.

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[COCHLEAR – How clearer hearing has helped Jonas become a national success](#)



Meet Jonas, a 21-year-old enthusiastic fencer who has achieved German national championship status twice, as well as being a silver and bronze medalist. While one might imagine that sight is key to success in fencing, hearing is also important to be able to quickly react to your opponent's moves.

"Fencing is about recognizing the reaction of your opponent... to hear the rival's footsteps and also when the blade touches," says Jonas.

"Without my implants, I certainly wouldn't be as successful as I am now," says Jonas.

Jonas has noticed the difference in sound quality in both his sport and his everyday life.

With his new Cochlear™ Nucleus® 8 Sound Processors, Jonas loves ForwardFocus [±], which he has chosen to have fully automated rather than turning it on and off manually in the Nucleus Smart App. ForwardFocus powerfully reduces distracting background noise when you want to focus on face-to-face conversation.⁽¹⁾

"With the ForwardFocus feature, I never have trouble understanding my friend, especially when it's a little louder around us," says Jonas. "With the new sound processors, the background noise is further reduced, making it clear again, and my understanding of speech has improved."

Another major difference from his previous devices is the ability to directly stream phone calls, music, and entertainment simultaneously to both ears from his compatible smartphone. It's something that he appreciates about Cochlear's "advancing technology" for recipients like himself, who have had their implants since childhood.

Today Jonas is training to be a hearing aid acoustician and would like to enable other people to hear better with the help of new technology and his technical support.

"Hearing is for me a great gift in terms of the quality of life that was given to me," says Jonas. "And I am glad that I can do the same for my customers."

[Click here to see more about Jonas' hearing journey.](#)

⁽¹⁾ Cochlear Limited. D1964109 Clinical Investigation Report CLTD5804 – Feb 2022.

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Views expressed are those of the individual. Consult your health professional to determine if you are a candidate for Cochlear technology.

± ForwardFocus is a clinician-enabled feature that can be user controlled or automated.

The Nucleus 8 Sound Processor is compatible with Apple and Android devices. For compatibility information and devices visit www.cochlear.com/compatibility and www.resound.com/compatibility

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MED-EL – Rehab at Home for Adults



We all know how important rehabilitation is for people with cochlear implants. That's why MED-EL has introduced a new Rehab at Home for Adults series to provide practical tips and tricks about making rehab fun with all the family. The free resources include topics such as:

- Enhancing music enjoyment
- Understanding phone conversations
- Mastering everyday listening goals
- Conversation in the car
- Understanding speech from far away.

On the MED-EL blog, you can read helpful guidance and learn more about how to make the most of your rehab time to improve your hearing in everyday life. It also includes videos from real life CI users who talk about how they manage each situation and their top tips.

Visit <https://blog.medel.com/category/tips-tricks/tips-tricks-rehab-at-home/> now!

It's important to practice regularly and with a lot of patience. The MED-EL Blog also offers downloadable Rehabilitation Kits, which can help ease the process. Trudi makes use of these with the help of her daughter and husband and as she maintains, *"Lots of practice!"* is the key.

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MED-EL – Prestigious Global Engineering Award for Ingeborg and Erwin Hochmair



MED-EL founders Ingeborg and Erwin Hochmair recently received the prestigious 2023 IEEE Alexander Graham Bell Medal for their outstanding contributions to communication and engineering.

The IEEE is the world's largest technical professional organisation advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. Since 1976 the prestigious Alexander Graham Bell Medal has been awarded to just 58 visionaries whose exceptional contributions have made a lasting impact on communications, networking sciences and engineering.

Not only are Ingeborg and Erwin the first Austrians to receive the IEEE Medal but also the first recipients ever to be acknowledged for the development of a medical device.

"By pairing engineering expertise with medical knowledge, Ingeborg and Erwin Hochmair have restored the gift of hearing to hundreds of thousands worldwide, fundamentally improving their lives. Their 2023 IEEE Alexander Graham Bell Medal is a well-deserved honor," said IEEE Awards Board chair, Dr. Nim K. Cheung.

For more information on the Alexander Graham Bell Medal visit: <https://corporate-awards.ieee.org/recipients/current-recipients/>

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