

In this issue :

- Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at EURO-CIU
- Message from the President
- Message from the Newsletter Editor
- EURO-CIU elects New Board Members to lead the way
- EURO-CIU NEWS – Building Accessible Communication Bridges: Reflections from the EURO-CIU Workshop in Valencia
- EURO-CIU NEWS – Join us at the 14th EURO-CIU Symposium!
- EURO-CIU NEWS – EURO-CIU SUMMER CAMP 2024 – SAVE THE DATE
- EURO-CIU at the Hearing Health Forum EU
- EURO-CIU at the European Disability Forum – European Day of Persons with Disabilities (EDPD)
- EURO-CIU represented in EDF
- World Hearing Day – 3 March 2024
- AUSTRIA – CIA – New CIA regional group in Tyrol
- SPAIN – AICE's Tune
- SWEDEN – Barnplantorna – CMV – Cytomegalovirus – Lack of knowledge about consequences.
- LEHNHARDT FOUNDATION – an internship at CIC Rhein-Main has proven to be a fount of new knowledge and inspiration.
- RELATED CONGRESS – The 17th International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Technologies
- RELATED CONGRESS – International Congress 2024 from The Dutch Association of Sudden and Late Deafened
- RELATED CONGRESS – 27th FEAPDA Congress
- RELATED CONGRESS – British Cochlear Implant Group (BCIG)
- RELATED CONGRESS – CIICA'S FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE: CI ADVOCACY IN ACTION
- RELATED CONGRESS – HeAL 2024 – Hearing Across the Lifespan
- RELATED CONGRESS – CI2024 International
- WORLD NEWS – Living Guidelines 2.0: including a hearing aid pathway
- WORLD NEWS – The WHO Health for All Film Festival (HAFF) is now accepting submissions for its 5th edition until 31 January 2024!
- WORLD NEWS – AUSTRIA – HEARRING Group – excellence dedicated to hearing implants
- WORLD NEWS – BELGIUM – Reimbursement for a cochlear implant in single side deaf children in Belgium
- WORLD NEWS – Italy – Basic Textbook on Cochlear Implants
- WORLD NEWS – The Netherlands – New book on dating with cochlear implants
- WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK wins Children and Young People Now Early Years Award
- WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – Claire Campbell Award for Outstanding Achievement – Winners announced
- World News – UK – BATOD – Paul Simpson
- WORLD NEWS – USA – American Cochlear Implant Alliance

- [ADVANCED BIONICS](#) – Remote Programming Experience CI Care without a clinic visit
- [ADVANCED BIONICS](#) – Marvel at the possibilities. Expanded linked two-ear solution
- [COCHLEAR](#) – Must-know hacks for hybrid working with hearing loss.
- [COCHLEAR](#) – Seven questions to assess hearing in individuals aged 50+
- [MED-EL](#) – IDEASforEARS Contest 2024 – Time is ticking.
- [MED-EL](#) – special offer extended: better hearing performance with Meludia.

[Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at EURO-CIU](#)



[Back to top](#)

[Message from the President](#)



Robert Mandara in the European Parliament

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as EURO-CIU's new President following the elections at our Workshop & General Assembly in Valencia. It was great to see so many of our members there, including so many confident and inspiring young adult CI users.

Tobias Fischer (1st Vice President) and Anamaria Braşov (Treasurer) were also elected. You can read short biographies of all board members in this newsletter. I am delighted with the line-up of the board and that it is truly international. The refreshed board brings new energy to improve the respectability and visibility of EURO-CIU, so that we can have more collective influence.

Before we can press on with new projects, we must attend to some important housekeeping duties. EURO-CIU is registered in Luxembourg where the rules have recently changed and must be complied with.

We are all volunteers, so please support and energise us so that we can support and energise you; praise is more welcome, effective and motivating than criticism or manipulation.

There are currently around 500,000 cochlear implants in use in Europe. While this is impressive, we are still a very long way from a CI utopia, where everyone has access to implants together with top-notch lifelong support. I hope that we will see advances in Awareness, Access and Lifelong care during my presidency. CI users, existing and future, are front and centre to all we do.

We aim to improve our communication in all areas, particularly because we recognise that people get CI because they value good communication.

In this newsletter you can read preliminary information about our next Symposium & General Assembly in Vienna 4th-5th April 2024, and the EURO-CIU Summer Camp 20th-27th July 2024. Save the dates! More information will follow soon.

The board would like to wish all of our readers and members a wonderful and peaceful Christmas season.

[Back to top](#)

Message from the Newsletter Editor



Like Robert, it was really good to see so many of our members at the General Assembly in Valencia. It was the first time that Sue & I had visited that lovely city, and it won't be the last! Sue & I extended our stay to a week, so that we could enjoy visiting all the impressive sites— and enjoying the authentic Paella which, we were told, originated in Valencia.

During my presentation about the newsletter, I was able to update members about the worldwide influence of our newsletters, so please let me have your articles as they were read in as many as 61 countries over the last year.

Many thanks to those who have sent us articles for this edition - 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 March, so please let me have your articles and jpg photos by Monday 4 March 2024. Just e-mail them to me at newsletter@eurociu.eu

With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Brian Archbold (Editor)

[Back to top](#)

EURO-CIU elects New Board Members to lead the way



Photo – the new Board and Advisors – (left to right) Fernando Giménez, Brian Archbold, Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö, Leo De Raeve, Pieter Bolle, Anamaria Braşov, Tobias Fischer, Beatrice Cusmai and Robert Mandara

The European Cochlear Implant Users Association (EURO-CIU) recently held its annual General Assembly in Valencia, where new board members were elected to lead the association. **Robert Mandara** (British-Finnish, living in Finland) has been elected President, **Tobias Fischer** (German but living in Austria) is the new Vice President, **Anamaria Braşov** (Romanian) is the new Treasurer and they will work together with 2nd Vice President **Beatrice Cusmai** (Italian but living in Spain), and Secretary **Pieter Bolle** (Belgian).

Robert Mandara, the new President of EURO-CIU is a 55-year-old bilateral cochlear implant user who received his first CI in 2014. In 2016 he became bilateral, marking a significant milestone in his life. Robert has hereditary genetic sensorineural deafness, and he began using

hearing aids at 4 years old. Originally from England, Robert moved to Finland where he now resides with his Finnish wife and is a member of the Finnish association Kuuloliitto/CITO. After attending mainstream schools, he worked as a Test Engineer and later gained a B.Eng. (Hons) degree in Electronic and Electrical Engineering from the University of Surrey. His career also included a stint in France with Eurocontrol, the European Consortium for the Safety of Air Navigation. In 1994, he returned to Marconi as a Development Engineer for TETRA private mobile radio. In Finland, Robert has worked as a technical communicator for several renowned companies. Now Robert is partially retired, so he has the time and dedication to contribute to EURO-CIU and its goals.

Tobias Fischer, the new 1st Vice President was born in Wetzlar, Germany, in 1984. He lost his hearing at the age of three due to bacterial meningitis. Remarkably, he became the first German child to receive a cochlear implant in 1988, thanks to the skilled hands of Prof. Ernst Lehnhardt. Tobias's cochlear implant enabled him to attend regular school, demonstrating the transformative power of this technology. After completing an apprenticeship as a communications electronics technician, he pursued a degree in Microsystems Technology and Electronics at Fachhochschule Gießen Friedberg, earning a B.Eng. degree. In 2007, Tobias received his second cochlear implant in Frankfurt, further enhancing his hearing capabilities. He moved to Vienna in 2009, where he met his future wife, and since 2011, he has completed a part-time Master's degree in Innovation and Technology Management (MSc). Professionally, Tobias has been a systems engineer in the aerospace industry since 2009. In his free time, he passionately supports other cochlear implant users and hearing-impaired individuals, contributing to the Austrian Cochlear Implant Society (ÖCIG) and serving as a Cochlear volunteer. He is President of the Austrian association ÖCIG.

Anamaria Braşov, 46 years old, is the new treasurer of EURO-CIU. She is the mother of two daughters, the elder one (17yrs) being born deaf and a user of bilateral cochlear implants, successfully rehabilitated and integrated in mainstream education. Anamaria has university studies in Social Assistance and is the treasurer and projects manager of the Romanian Association of Hearing Impaired People "Hear Life"; operating financial records/bookkeeping, account reconciliation, project manager for grant funded projects. Since 2010 she has been responsible for organizing and coordinating the activities of the "Hear Life" Association, including but not limited to family events, summer camps, workshops for parents and specialists; projects targeted at raising awareness about neonatal hearing screening, specialization of CI speech therapists, training teachers from mainstream education, creation of two early intervention centers.

Beatrice Cusmai, the 2nd Vice President of EURO-CIU, 51 years old, was born in Milano where she graduated in Languages and communication, and worked in PR agencies and one magazine. Then she worked as a Public Relations officer at Yamaha Motor Italy and after the premature birth of her twins she dedicated herself to digital PR for OPIQUAD and now opened her own DIGITAL HUB CANARIAS, always working in the field of communication. In 2022 she moved to Spain with her 15-year-old daughters, both with hearing impairment, due to premature birth. Sofia wears Hearing Aids, whereas Vittoria received her first CI 4 years ago and the second in 2021. Thanks to bilateral hearing she attends a bilingual college (Spanish and English) in Spain with excellent results. Beatrice is the Vice President of the Italian Association AGUAV, the association supporting Varese Hospital Audiology, famous for their innovative rehabilitation methodology. Together with the new board members she would like to create a stronger relationship among European associations and their young adults/adults members.

Pieter Bolle, the secretary of EURO-CIU, 41 years old, is the father of three boys: Wouter (13yrs), Mathijs (12yrs) and Thomas (8yrs). Mathijs was born profoundly deaf on one side and hard of hearing on the other. He was implanted at young age (7 months). He received a second cochlear implant at 2 years because his hearing degraded and a hearing aid was no longer sufficient. Pieter joined his local association VLOK-CI (Vlaamse Ouders van Kinderen met een Cochleair Implant – Flemish Parents of Children with a cochlear implant) in 2012 and he became

a member of the board in 2015. In his professional life he is Inspector-General at the Health and Safety Executive of the Belgian Government. His mantra: Everyone has the right to hear!

Together with our advisors: EDF representative Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö (Finland), Webmaster Fernando Giménez (Spain), Newsletter editor Brian Archbold (UK), and our Scientific Advisor Leo De Raeve (Belgium) we are ready to keep on advocating for cochlear implant users.

[Back to top](#)

EURO-CIU NEWS – Building Accessible Communication Bridges: Reflections from the EURO-CIU Workshop in Valencia



The vibrant EURO-CIU Workshop, organized this year in the picturesque city of Valencia, has left a significant mark on the community of cochlear implant users. Under the motto "Let's build accessible communication bridges", the event was organized by Federation AICE, the Spanish

Cochlear Implant Users Association Federation, marking a milestone in the strategic alignment to address hearing loss on the international health agenda.

Nineteen Associations from fourteen European countries met in Valencia, to work, debate and establish the future of EURO-CIU. The entire event was accessible to communication through live transcription on 4 screens that translated into four languages simultaneously. The core of the event revolved around the ambitious but crucial goal: putting hearing loss on the global health agenda. With the support of Federation AICE, the Workshop sought to raise awareness among the public, health professionals, representatives of the cochlear implant industry and policy makers about the importance of identifying people with hearing loss and promoting appropriate solutions.

The opening speech was given by Teresa Amat:

"In this, my last act as President of EURO-CIU, I want to leave behind me a better future. That is why I firmly believe and with total conviction that it is necessary that we hold a Symposium every 2 years, but also that we hold a Workshop every 2 years. And a Workshop, as Joan, the president of Federation AICE, says, is not only to share projects and see each other. If not it is an opportunity to work, to improve. To unite and see beyond our borders and our activities that often take up all our time and our daily lives.

"For daily life to improve globally, it is imperative to lobby, we must be visible with the specific needs of the cochlear implant group and be able to influence. Political influence, which sometimes has a bad reputation or seems to be of no use or so distant because of how slow it sometimes is, is actually essential to change things. Excursions, meetings with families, counselling are activities that help specific people at a given time, but where you move the critical mass, where you really manage to change the reality of the future, is with politicians, public administrations and to be really effective, we must be very clear about what we need, what we ask for and where we want to go.

"The Workshop was divided in three Fundamental Blocks: How to address and influence the Health and Disability Commission at local, regional, national and international level, Synergies between NGOs and the Cochlear Implant Industry and Future Routes and Joint Actions; will end with a last block looking towards the future, identifying ways and joint actions, both in the family, the fundamental role of mothers, in the youth that takes us to the future, without leaving behind the third and fourth age people.

"That is why I repeat, Workshops are so important. It is where EURO-CIU must reflect as a group on its past, present and future actions. I hope when we finish, we take back conclusions to our respective countries and in our daily lives, what we want to achieve, possible answers to how we can make it a reality, in what way and with whom."

[Back to top](#)

[EURO-CIU NEWS – Join us at the 14th EURO-CIU Symposium!](#)



The slogan of the 14th Symposium will be 'Steps on the Way to Hearing with a CI!' The programme will include both oral presentations by experts on cochlear implantation and

rehabilitation, and meet and share sessions and round table discussions with CI users. Topics will include hearing screening, indications for cochlear implantation, music, rehabilitation, everyday challenges with a CI, and potential solutions to those challenges.

Save the date! The Symposium, hosted by CIA Cochlea Implantat Austria, will take place in Vienna on 5th April 2024, with a welcome reception on 4th April - both are public. As usual, EURO-CIU will hold its General Assembly on 6th April, the day after the symposium.

Please find the detailed programme and the registration form at <https://eurociu2024.com>.

You can choose between two different hotels, with rooms blocked for us until 22nd February 2024. Be sure to reserve your stay by then! We are looking forward to welcoming you!

[Back to top](#)

EURO-CIU NEWS – EURO-CIU SUMMER CAMP 2024 – SAVE THE DATE



The EURO-CIU board is happy to announce that the Summer Camp dedicated to youngsters from 14 to 17 years old will take place in Telč, Czech Republic from **20th until 27th of July 2024**. The University Centre Telč (<https://www.uct.muni.cz/en>) will be the location of the international gathering of young adults sharing the experience of being cochlear implant users.

The camp will be offered to the members of EURO-CIU associations, that will create groups of up to 4 youngsters aged 14-17 plus one adult English-speaking leader who will join the camp with them. The capacity of the event will be 57 people. Twelve people from the Czech Republic will be organizing the event, and 45 places will be offered to EURO-CIU member associations.

The organization team will include paramedics, CI technicians and program leaders. The goals of EURO-CIU Summer Camp are encouraging young people with CI to build confidence and supporting their self-advocacy and communication skills in the safe environment of their peers, through a wide variety of interactive activities. The official language of the Camp is English, thus at least a basic knowledge of English is required of all attendants.

The full communication kit, containing detailed information on the Summer Camp and application form will be sent to all EURO-CIU associations at the beginning of February 2024 and the deadline for applications will be at the end of March 2024.

Beatrice Cusmai
EURO-CIU 2nd Vice President

[Back to top](#)

EURO-CIU at the Hearing Health Forum EU



(With thanks to Patrick D'Haese for the photos)

EURO-CIU continues to be a partner of the Hearing Health Forum EU (HHFEU). HHFEU is chaired by Alex Agius-Saliba, a Maltese MEP with a very keen interest in hearing loss and disability rights.

On 29th November 2023 I participated in HHFEU's *Healthy Hearing for Healthy Ageing Event* at the European Parliament, Brussels. Around 40 people attended and they were keen to try out the 360° Virtual Reality simulation of hearing loss. The event was a great opportunity to network in a relaxed atmosphere.

HHFEU's mission is to influence health policy and push for hearing screening in the European Union, so that people get appropriate treatments in a timely manner so that they can enjoy healthier later years with, for example, lower risks of dementia and isolation.

For more information, see: <https://www.hearinghealth.eu/>

Robert Mandara (President)

[Back to top](#)

EURO-CIU at the European Disability Forum – European Day of Persons with Disabilities (EDPD)



Robert Mandara and Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö at the EDPD, and EURO-CIU and EFHOH delegates at the EDPD.

On 30th November to 1st December 2023, Sari & I participated in EDF's EDPD event at the European Commission, Brussels.

This two-day event was excellent with outstanding inclusivity and accessibility – featuring captions in multiple languages, sign language interpreting and induction loops. A broad spectrum of disabilities were present, including a large contingent of signing deaf and at least four CI users. While many of the issues (institutionalisation, enforced sterilisations etc.) do not directly apply to CI users, many other issues do. It is vitally important that CI users continue to be represented and involved in EDF, because we have very particular needs for lifelong care and we cannot move freely between countries.

Many of the presenters had extreme disabilities but showed tremendous courage and bravery to step up and tell their powerful and moving stories.

There was much discussion about the upcoming European elections, where we were reminded that less than 5% of the current 705 MEPs have a disability. If you're a CI user reading this, have you ever thought about becoming the first CI-using MEP?

Networking at events is always enjoyable. I had a great many interesting and thought-provoking conversations, while helping to raise awareness of cochlear implants.

Robert Mandara (President)

[Back to top](#)

EURO-CIU represented in EDF



It was a joy to see that EURO-CIU was represented in EDF.

The meeting of the Women's Committee took place in Madrid, Spain.

Key discussions included:

1. Option of our 3rd manifesto on women and girls with disabilities
2. Combating violence against women
3. Updates on our work
4. Preparation of the 2024 programme

Sari represented us at the highest level.

Our presence in these forums, which has been so difficult to achieve, is essential for EURO-CIU's international presence.

Thank you Sari, for your work.

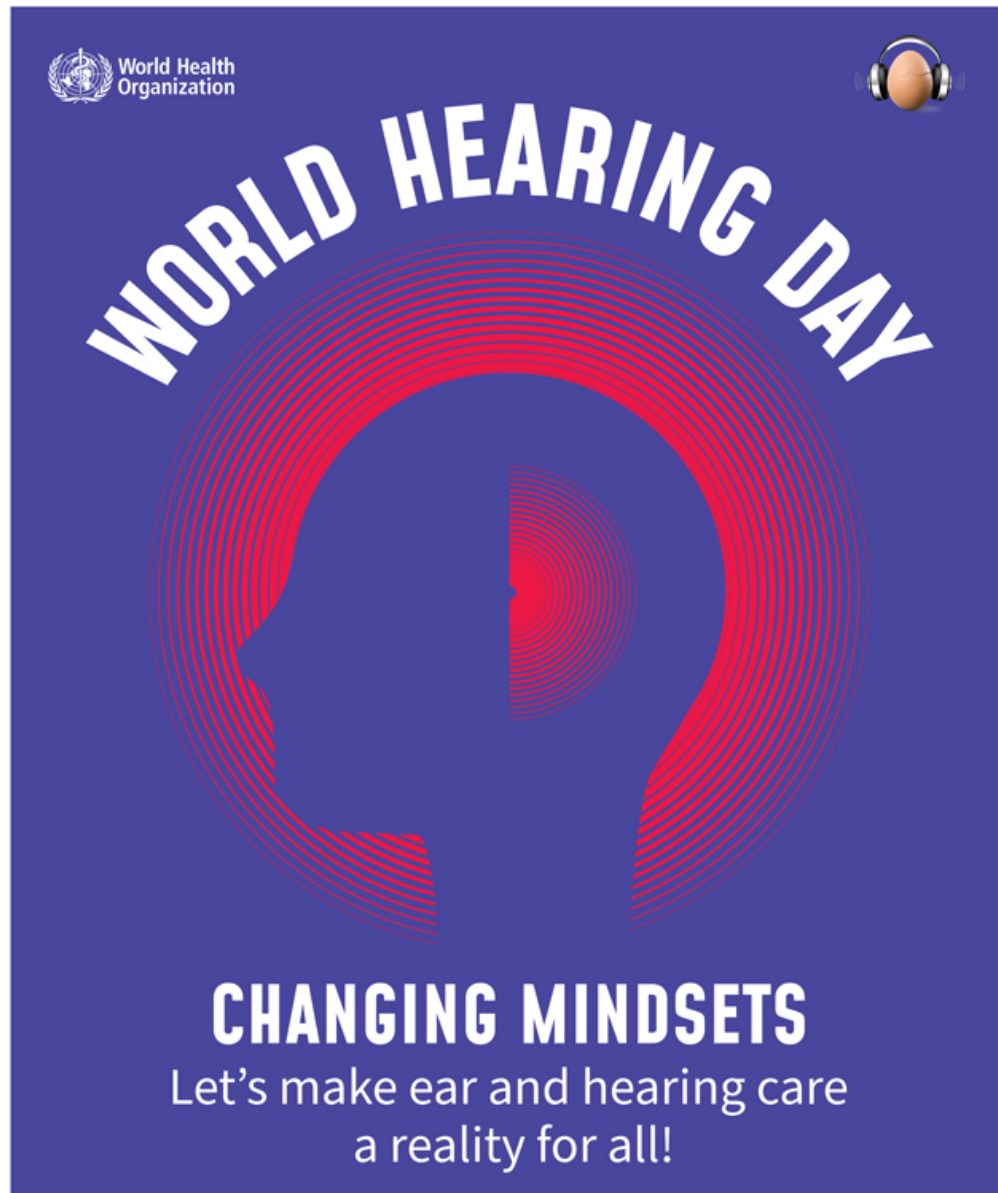
<https://twitter.com/MyEDF/status/1727974224088740124>

Sari has also participated in the European Social Forum of Women and Girls with Disabilities organized by Spain.

Joan Zamora

[Back to top](#)

[World Hearing Day – 3 March 2024](#)



Changing mindsets is crucial for improving access and
reducing the cost of unaddressed hearing loss

03 March 2024 #WorldHearingDay

The World Health Organization is excited to share the theme for [#World Hearing Day 2024](#): ***Changing mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all.***

The theme will focus on overcoming challenges posed by societal misperceptions and stigmatizing mindsets through awareness raising and information sharing, targeted at the

general public and health care providers. Towards this end, the World Hearing Day 2024 will aim to:

- Counter the common misperceptions and stigmatizing mindsets related to ear and hearing problems in communities and among health care providers.
- Provide accurate and evidence-based information to change public perceptions of hearing loss.
- Call on countries and civil society to address misperceptions and stigmatizing mindsets related to hearing loss, as a crucial step towards ensuring equitable access to ear and hearing care.

Member States, partners and stakeholders in the field are encouraged to organize events to raise awareness in communities, in order to address misconceptions around ear and hearing care and ensure accessible ear and hearing care.

Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all!

For more information visit the [WHO Ear and Hearing Care website](#) .

You can start spreading the word by using this year's [poster](#) in your communications.

[Back to top](#)

[AUSTRIA – CIA – New CIA regional group in Tyrol](#)



Photo: Hans Horak & Harald Vogl (©Aniketa Seelos-Prock)

The Tyrolean Club Ohrwurm self-help association and the Austria-wide CIA Cochlea Implantat Austria association joined forces on October 10th, 2023. The Tyrolean association now represents the CIA Tyrolean regional group. Together, the two associations hope to be able to achieve their common goal of supporting people with hearing loss and people with hearing implants and their families and friends even better.

The Club Ohrwurm association has been a contact point for Tyrolians using hearing aids or cochlear implants for 5 years. The association wants to offer a platform for exchange, information, and mutual support to those affected by hearing loss. This has also been CIA's goal for 31 years. *"We are very pleased about the collaboration with the Club Ohrwurm,"* says Hans Horak, founding chairman of CIA Cochlea Implantat Austria. *"Together, we can reach even more people and help them live the best life possible with a cochlear implant."*

Harald Vogl, chairman of Club Ohrwurm, is also enthusiastic about the merger: *"Club Ohrwurm has always been committed to helping people with hearing loss and cochlear implants in Tyrol. Now, we have the opportunity to further expand our offering. I warmly welcome everyone who is interested and invite you to benefit from this comprehensive network and knowledge."*

[Back to top](#)

SPAIN – AICE's Tune



After the 2 days of Workshop in Valencia with EURO-CIU and the work done we gave way to a little relaxation, we moved to the incomparable setting of the City of Sciences, to the Caixa Forum building where we attended a concert by the Quartet of Cuerda Valencia and we were also accompanied by the well-known trumpeter Rubén Simeó and the young promise, Fran Rubira, who performed a very special piece, dedicated to a cochlear implant.

Finally, Maestro Juan Bautista Meseguer, composer of the **AICE Tune**, which was presented, for the first time, to the European delegations, on video and performed by an orchestra of 70 musicians. **A tune in 4 notes that are repeated in several different octaves that aims to serve both to promote and make visible the cochlear implant, but also for the rehabilitation of cochlear implants users.** The work delighted the attendees, with a standing ovation at the end. The tune will be used in all Federación AICE's next events and years.

[Back to top](#)

[SWEDEN – Barnplantorna – CMV – Cytomegalovirus – Lack of knowledge about consequences.](#)



Barnplantorna is a parent/patient organization for children with cochlear implants as well as conventional hearing aids. Since establishing in 1995 we have achieved some huge milestones. Some of these achievements are

- 2002 every deaf child receives bilateral cochlear implants if the doctor prescribes it.
- 2005 we initiated national newborn hearing screening.
- 2008 Barnplantornamedia campaign resulted in vaccination towards invasive pneumococcal bacteria in the children vaccination program.

Great achievements, but how did we as a small organization achieve this? The key has been cooperation with doctors as well as parents telling their story. Valuable tools nowadays are of

course social media (Facebook, Instagram, platform X/Twitter) as well as press releases in Mynewsdesk.

The campaign for vaccination against the pneumococcal bacteria really saved children's lives in not contracting meningitis. One doctor's cooperation was extremely valuable to Barnplantorna – Professor Hans Rosling, globally known as the founder of Gapminder (<https://www.gapminder.org/data/>). His grandson contracted meningitis which resulted in deafness. He received bilateral cochlear implants but Hans Rosling questioned why children did not receive vaccination against pneumococcal bacteria and why he, as a doctor and professor, knew so little about the effects of meningitis. The knowledge and support he found was not among colleagues but from Barnplantorna. That was the beginning of cooperation and long friendship.

What are the causes of congenital deafness?

The most common cause of congenital sensorineural hearing loss is Connexin 26 mutation. The second largest cause concerning congenital hearing loss is the cytomegalovirus (CMV).

CMV is a common virus. Once infected, your body retains the virus for life. Most people don't know they have cytomegalovirus (CMV) because it rarely causes problems in healthy people. If you're pregnant or if your immune system is weakened, CMV is cause for concern. Women who develop an active CMV infection during pregnancy can pass the virus to their babies, who might then experience symptoms. For people who have weakened immune systems, especially people who have had an organ, stem cell or bone marrow transplant, CMV infection can be fatal.

CMV spreads from person to person through body fluids, such as blood, saliva, urine, semen and breast milk. There is no cure, but there are medications that can help treat the symptoms.

Most healthy people who are infected with CMV may experience no symptoms. Some experience minor symptoms. People who are more likely to experience signs and symptoms of CMV include:

- Newborns who became infected with CMV before they were born (congenital CMV).
- Infants who become infected during birth or shortly afterward (perinatal CMV). This group includes babies infected through breast milk.
- People who have weakened immune systems, such as those who have had an organ, bone marrow or stem cell transplant, or those who are infected with HIV.

CMV – how does it affect newborn babies?

Most babies who have congenital CMV appear healthy at birth. A few babies who have congenital CMV who appear healthy at birth develop signs over time — sometimes not for months or years after birth. The most common of these late-occurring signs are hearing loss and developmental delay. A small number of babies may also develop vision problems.

The following signs and symptoms are more common in babies who have congenital CMV and who are sick at birth:

- Premature birth
- Low birth weight
- Yellow skin and eyes (jaundice)
- Enlarged and poorly functioning liver
- Purple skin splotches or a rash or both
- Abnormally small head (microencephaly)
- Enlarged spleen
- Pneumonia

- Seizures

Lack of knowledge about CMV is a barrier to prevention.

Studies from Canada, USA, France, Netherland, Switzerland and Japan reveal that 61-87 percent of pregnant women never heard about CMV. Pregnant women can, if infected by CMV, transmitt the virus over the placenta to the foetus. In Sweden there have been no campaigns about CMV to create awareness among young couples or pregant women how to protect themselves against congenital CMV. Barnplantorna wants to change this!

All pregnant women are informed about the risk about Listeria that can cause severe infections if you are pregnant and how to avoid that by not eating certain kinds of cheese, raw fish and raw meat during pregnancy. However, reports reveal that CMV seems to be more common than Listeria among pregnant women.

Awareness can decrease the spread of CMV.

There is no vaccine yet but, by certain arrangements, we can prevent or decrease the spread of CMV.

Careful hygiene is the best prevention against CMV like:

- Wash your hands often, especially if you have contact with small children or their diapers, saliva or other secretion. This is especially important if the children attend child care, so information to the staff in child care about CMV is extremely important.
- Avoid contact with tears and saliva when you kiss a child. Kiss on forehead!
- Avoid sharing food or drinking out of the same glass.
- Clean toys and any surfaces that come in contact with children's urine or saliva.

If you have weakened immunity, you may also benefit from taking antiviral medication to prevent CMV disease.

Paediatric Clinics have a huge information responsibility in giving pregnant women, parents as well as professionals in contact with small children knowledge about CMV.

Scandinavian study about CMV confirms.

In a multidiscipline research study in Karolinska Institute n Stockholm/Sweden it is confirmed that:

- 90 percent of the children with congenital CMV that also received cochlear implants had damaged balance function
- 20 percent had visual impairments
- 15 percent were diagnosed with autism
- 20 percent were diagnosed with ADHD

If newborns are diagnosed with severe CMV infection right after birth they can be treated with anti-viral medication for a long period. The study from Karolinska Institute finds it urgent with newborn screening concerning CMV on all newborns.

Early diagnosis would mean early treatment/intervention concerning cognitive development that would be of great importance for the child and its parents.

Barnplantorna hopes that spreading information in cooperation with professionals will decrease the amount of children born with severe CMV-infections without the important treatment early.

Ann-Charlotte Gyllenram
President
BARNPLANTORNA

[Back to top](#)

LEHNHARDT FOUNDATION – an internship at CIC Rhein-Main has proven to be a fount of new knowledge and inspiration.



Photos: Yvonne Seebens (therap.head of CIC), Kristin Ley (therap.head of adult rehab in CIC), Ekaterina Tortladze and Teona Gvalia (Co-founders and therapists of Hearing House), Lia Bagashvili and Tinatin Eristavi (therapists of Hearing House), Nataliia Obuchova (therapist from Ukraine), Liubov Wolowik (board member of the Lehnhardt Foundation)

In November 2023 four hearing, speech and language therapists from Georgia and one teacher for the deaf from Ukraine seized the opportunity to undertake an internship at CIC Rhein-Main. They were invited by the Lehnhardt Foundation for a week-long internship in Friedberg, and the valuable program was organized by the CIC. Therapists from Georgia work at the Hearing House paediatric hearing centre in Tbilisi, the capital. Their practice includes working with children with Hearing Aid (HA) and Cochlear Implant (CI) and their families. Members of the Lehnhardt Foundation have long been acquainted with the head of the Hearing House, Ekaterine Tortladze. She is the mother of a 27-year-old young woman with a CI and HA. Ekaterine founded the Aures Foundation (AF) 11 years ago. AF is an NGO dedicated to advocate ear and hearing care in Georgia. She is also a member of the WHO Core Group and is highly active in CIICA. Ekaterine's vision was to create a centre of excellence for children with hearing technologies and their families in Georgia. The Hearing House centre has been in existence for three years, and the therapists aim to enhance the quality of rehabilitation for children with HA and CI.

The team of specialists gained new knowledge and got familiar with new approaches and services through an exchange of experiences with specialists from the German CI rehabilitation centre and the state Supraregional Advisory and Support Centre for children with hearing loss. They had the opportunity to witness the functioning of early intervention services for children with hearing loss, a mobile inclusion service, and family-centred parenting programs. The insights gained from these experiences played a crucial role in determining the initial direction for improvement.

The program of the week was quite intensive and included planning and implementation of rehabilitation for children and adults with CIs. This encompassed therapy sessions, hearing testing, fittings, video analysis of parent-child interactions, documentation, and parent outreach. A lot of new information was gathered during meetings with representatives of CI manufacturers. Centre specialists spoke about spoken language-oriented approaches to listening, such as Natural Auditory Oral Approach, Auditory-Verbal Therapy and MarteMeo. Numerous conversations and discussions took place in various cases.

"It's important to note that there is not just ONE right approach for everyone! Working together is of the utmost importance. We successfully sorted out and found a solution to very challenging cases that made a real difference in the lives of certain children and families. We are grateful for your cooperation and assistance!"

Team of Hearing House

In Georgia, the field of ear and hearing care has recently seen concrete improvements in the area of ear and hearing care, as a result of collaboration between NGOs like AF, private and the public sector. Since 2018, the NHS has become mandatory for all maternity hospitals. While the program requires improvement, it remains functional. State initiatives provide hearing aids (HA) and cochlear implants (CI) to both children and the elderly, with a focus on children due to resource constraints. The CI program includes a 1.5-year rehabilitation for children and their families. Unfortunately, there is currently no rehabilitation program for children with hearing aids (HA) or Children of Deaf Adults (CODA). It is the goal of AF and HH to promote the improvement of an ear and hearing care system in Georgia.

Hearing House and the Lehnhardt Foundation are looking forward to future collaborations.

"This internship became a source of new knowledge and inspiration for us. We returned to Georgia with new knowledge and many new ideas. At the weekly staff meetings, we still discuss the innovations we have seen during this internship and try to successfully transfer them to our practice. This is an excellent chance for us to reconsider our practices, and we are truly grateful for this opportunity."

Team of Hearing House

Authors: Liubov Wolowik, Teona Gvalia

[Back to top](#)

[RELATED CONGRESS – 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.

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

[Back to top](#)

[RELATED CONGRESS – International Congress 2024 from The Dutch Association of Sudden and Late Deafened](#)



The Dutch Association for Sudden and Late Deafened is organising an international congress in 2024. It will take place on Friday 22, Saturday 23, and Sunday 24 March 2024 in Hotel Zuiderduin in Egmond aan Zee in The Netherlands. The theme of this congress is Let's connect 2!

After the success of the first international congress in 2014, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary, this event has become a tradition every five years, bringing together organisations from different countries to share knowledge and experience on the issues and possible solutions related to sudden and late deafness.

During this congress, we will pay attention to the needs of the Sudden and Late Deaf and seek solutions and best practices together with international sister organisations. This way we can learn from each other, exchange experiences and contribute to a more inclusive world for people with this invisible challenge. Let's connect!

The congress is intended for everyone who works with and for deaf and hard-of-hearing people, for interested parties, policymakers, fellow sufferers, experts by experience, interpreters, visionaries, and everyone else who is interested and wants to gain and/or share knowledge. The expected number of visitors from home and abroad is about 250.

Many of the Sudden and Late deafened are Cochlear Implant (CI) users. Therefore, all of the CI companies will be present at the congress to give visitors the latest information about their products. Also, other companies who work with and for our target group will be present.

For more information about the congress feel welcome to visit our website: Internationaal congres 2024 (stichtingplotsdoven.nl)

[Back to top](#)

RELATED CONGRESS – 27th FEAPDA Congress



Submission deadline for call for contributions extended to 5pm Friday 12th January 2024.

The 27th [Federation of Associations of Teachers of the Deaf \(FEAPDA\)](#) Congress is in partnership with British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People ([BATOD](#)), with support from [BATOD Northern Ireland](#), and [National Council for Special Education \(NCSE\)](#).

Dates: 26 April – 27 April 2024

Place: [The Grand Hotel](#), Malahide, Co. Dublin, Ireland

Congress languages: English (interpretation will be provided into International Sign, Irish Sign and British Sign Language)

Theme: Diversity in deaf education

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.

Call for contributions

Call for contributions is open. [Downloadable copy available here.](#)

The European Federation of Associations of Teachers of the Deaf (FEAPDA), National Council for Special Education (NCSE) and British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People (BATOD), with support from BATOD Northern Ireland, invite all interested parties (teachers, professionals, lecturers, researchers, developers and manufacturers of technical devices, service providers, service users, policy makers, students etc) to present their work.

Deaf children and young people form a diverse group with varying experiences of hearing loss but who are also affected by other aspects of their lives. Additional medical and/or educational needs, cultural and social backgrounds and every individual's own life experience will influence their experience of deafness.

Papers and presentations may consider issues such as:

- Meeting the needs of children who are deaf with additional needs;
- Meeting the needs of children whose deafness is not their primary need;
- The experience of deaf children from minority communities;
- How deaf individuals experience and define their own identities

Abstracts for **paper presentations (30 min)**, **workshops/interactive presentations (60 min)** and **poster presentations** are welcomed.

Further information is available on the BATOD website <https://www.batod.org.uk/about-us/batod-national-feapda-ncse-joint-congress-2024/>

The proposed prices are:

*FEAPDA members**

2-day ticket – early bird rate €220, full price €260

1-day ticket – early bird rate €120 full price €140

Non-members

2-day ticket – early bird rate €250, full price €300

1-day ticket – early bird rate €150, full price €200

**As BATOD is a member of FEAPDA, BATOD members can access the FEAPDA rate.*

We hope to publish the registration link soon.

[Back to top](#)

[RELATED CONGRESS – British Cochlear Implant Group \(BCIG\)](#)

British Cochlear Implant Group Meeting 2024

Learning journeys - Bringing
people together

31st April - 1st May 2024

The Glasshouse International
Centre for Music

REGISTRATION OPEN

Aesculap Academia -
part of the B. Braun Group



BCIG is proud to announce that abstract submission and registration is now OPEN for BCIG 2024!

The event will be held in the fantastic Glasshouse International Centre for Music (formerly Sage), Gateshead on Tuesday 30th April – Wednesday 1st May 2024.

The theme of the conference is: **Learning journeys – bringing people together.**

Anirvan Banerjee and the Northeast Cochlear Implant Team have put together a wide-ranging and probing programme – including an expert panel and more direct participation from delegates and our new PPIE Group. The latest news on AI use in Cochlear Implants will also be presented plus updates on BEARS and the National Registry.

Register early for the best rates!

Please submit your abstract [here](#) – closing date is 31st January 2024.

Our new PPIE Group coordinator, Anna Tucker has been engaging with the group members to try and find out what **really** matters to CI users, their carers and people on the CI waiting list. Read the results on the [website here](#).

The BCIG Annual Collection of CI Numbers from the UK units is **so nearly** ready.....watch out for the release on our website very shortly. Apologies for the lateness of this announcement – but we do rely on units supplying the data in good time and there were a few problems with the figures this year. Will numbers of implantation have reached pre-COVID levels yet? Not long to wait to find out!

[Back to top](#)

**RELATED CONGRESS – CIICA'S FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE: CI
ADVOCACY IN ACTION**

CIICA'S FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE: CI ADVOCACY IN ACTION

MAY 9/10, 2024 | BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Successful advocacy is key to expanding access to cochlear implantation. Hear about how groups of parents, young people and advocates have achieved success, learn from professional advocates what works, share your challenges and get new ideas by networking with global partners. This first-ever global advocacy conference on CI will provide crucial learning opportunities and a chance to be part of a global movement for change.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.CIICANET.ORG



CIICA are excited to announce their first ever global CI Advocacy in Action conference, which takes place in Brussels on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th May 2024.

Successful Advocacy is key to expanding access to Cochlear Implants and lifelong services.

Hear about how groups of parents, young people and advocates have achieved success, learn from professional advocates what works, share your challenges and get new ideas by networking with global partners. This conference will provide crucial learning opportunities and a chance to be part of a global movement for change.

We are delighted that Dr Shelly Chadha, Technical Lead, Ear and Hearing Care at WHO, has kindly agreed to lead the programme and inspire us to action. The conference programme will include impactful speakers from across the globe. You will also have the opportunity to showcase your advocacy success and challenges at our great venue in Brussels, Maison des Associations Internationales.

There will be 9 short slots for you to share your advocacy success! Let us know if you are interested by emailing info@ciicanet.org. We also wish to receive no more than four slides about your advocacy activities which we can showcase at the event.

The event will be accessible to all and there are generous discounts available for CI users. These are limited in number so apply early. Sponsorship packages are also available – please contact CIICA at info@ciicanet.org for more information.

Please visit the [CIICA website](http://WWW.CIICA.ORG) for further details and to register your place. Book early to avoid disappointment!

Come and join us and share in this exciting opportunity for global change!

[Back to top](#)

[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

[Back to top](#)

RELATED CONGRESS – CI2024 International



Save the Date! **CI2024 International** – July 10-13, 2024

This international conference will foster the exchange of multi-disciplinary scientific information applicable to audiologists, physicians, speech pathologists, psychologists, scientists, engineers,

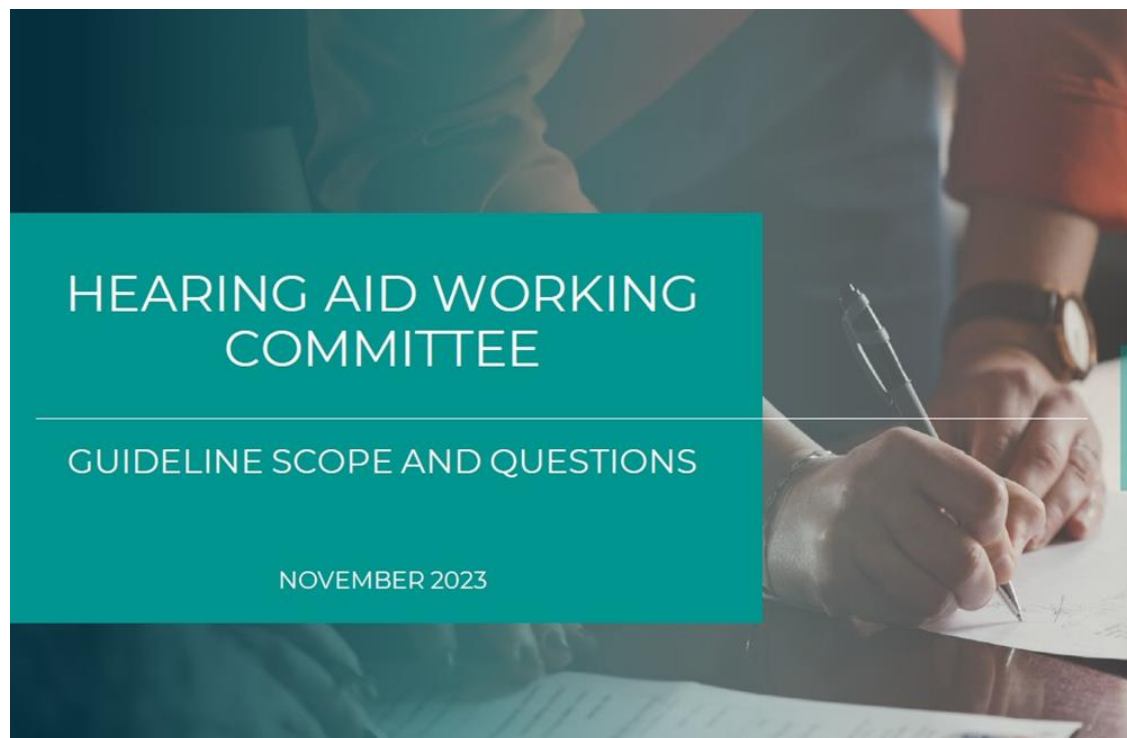
educators, students, advocates, and others involved in cochlear and other implantation technology globally. The conference will provide attendees with opportunities to engage with fellow professionals exploring current and emerging topics for cochlear and other implant device patients across the lifespan.

Anticipated session topics:

- Successful Pathways to Cochlear Implantation: A Global Perspective
- CI in SSD for Adults and Children: Candidacy, Provision, Outcomes
- Socio-emotional Health in Cochlear Implant Users
- CI Provision at Both Ends of the Age Spectrum: Under 6 months and over 90
- Optimized Models for Cochlear Implant Workflow
- Listening Impacts on Literacy and Learning in Children with Cochlear Implants
- Effects of the COVID Pandemic on Cochlear Implant Outcomes

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – Living Guidelines 2.0: including a hearing aid pathway](#)



As published in the previous EURO-CIU Newsletter, the Living Guidelines were launched on 14 July 2023. Following this launch, national professional societies and healthcare organisations have to look to adopt the guidelines into their clinical practice standards and guidance.

To access the full online guidelines, click [HERE](#). To find out more about the process and for more educational tools head to Living Guidelines: www.ciicanet.org and <https://adulthearing.com/living-guidelines/>. An introduction video of the Living Guidelines for adult cochlear Implantation was developed by Pindrop (New Zealand) and CIICA: <https://adulthearing.com/living-guidelines/>.

It was mentioned that the guidelines will be updated as new evidence becomes available. Also 30 out of 40 Task Force members were in favour of incorporating hearing aids into a second version of the guidelines.

So, a new Hearing aid working group of experts was formed, which consists of a blend of current Task Force members and new subject matter experts in the field of hearing aid fitting.

They will focus on three main areas:

- Importance of optimised hearing aid fitting
- Importance of appropriate and comprehensive outcome measures
- Importance of hearing health continuum and timely referral for CI assessment

A first meeting of this Hearing Aid working group took place in November to discuss the next steps for Version 2.0 of the Living Guidelines. This included planning, decision-making, and outlining the course of action for the ongoing development and refinement of the guidelines. We will keep you updated in the near future.

[Back to top](#)

WORLD NEWS – The WHO Health for All Film Festival (HAFF) is now accepting submissions for its 5th edition until 31 January 2024!



The Health for All Film Festival (HAFF)

Since audio-visual language is one of the essential components of WHO's "Communicating for health impact" approach, the goal of the HAFF is to boost the art of short films as a means of increasing awareness and promoting global health issues.

WHO invites all filmmakers and video artists worldwide to submit their short documentaries, fiction or animation films of three to eight minutes for the categories of:

- Better Health and Well-being
- Universal Health Coverage
- Health Emergencies
- Physical Activity and Health
- Migrants and Refugees Health
- Student Film
- Very Short Film (1'00" to 2'59")

This is a great opportunity for film and video innovators in the **rehabilitation community** to champion and promote this area of health in the context of the categories above.

We are looking forward to receiving your short films!

For more information please contact the HAFF at filmfestival@who.int

[Back to top](#)

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/>).

Image-guided planning of cochlear implantation

Surgeons have the option to create a three-dimensional map of the cochlear implant candidate's inner ear using CT or MRI scans before surgery, which they can then use to guide the placement of the electrode array based on the individual's anatomy. This can help ensure that the electrodes are placed in the optimal location for stimulating the auditory nerve, which may improve speech perception and sound quality for the cochlear implant recipient. Additionally, image-guided surgical planning can help reduce the risk of complications during surgery, such as damage to the facial nerve or other critical structures in the ear.

OTOPLAN

OTOPLAN is one of those software tools that allow for preoperative planning of cochlear implantation. Prof. Marco Caversaccio, Dr. Philipp Aebischer, and Dr. Tom Gawliczek from the Inselspital University Hospital in Bern, Switzerland, report that the development of the software started in 2013 and was originally meant to assist robotic surgery in the future. Since then, OTOPLAN has been constantly developed for increased accuracy and precision of the planning tool.

Prof. Caversaccio states that at the current stage there is already a trend towards better hearing outcomes in cochlear implant recipients after OTOPLAN-guided surgery. However, he also points out that there are still a series of other factors that influence post-surgical outcomes. Further development will help optimize the software in the future.

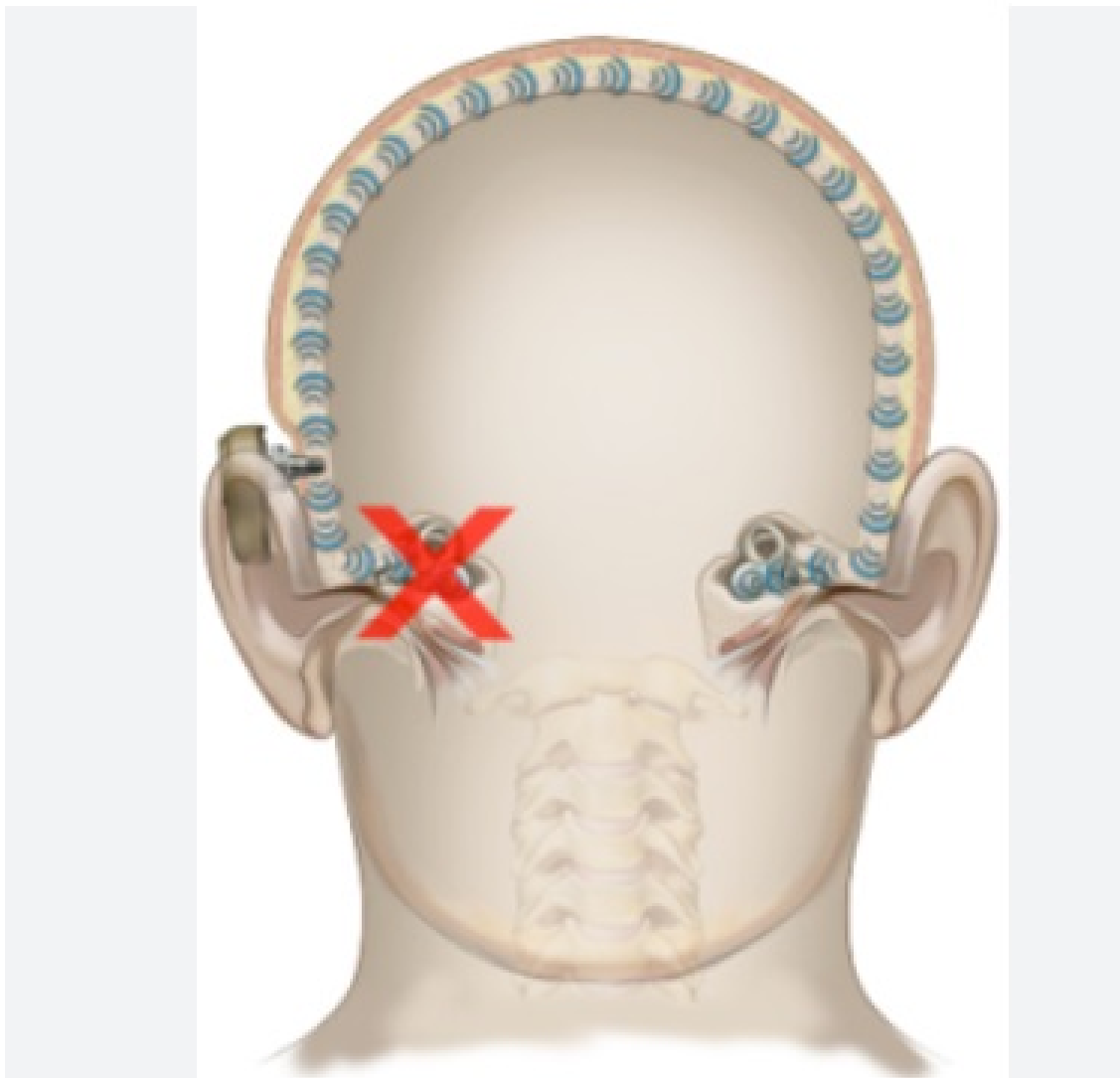
The Swiss experts highlight that successful outcomes with OTOPLAN strongly rely on high-resolution images that the software gets fed with. Therefore, OTOPLAN is not yet fully effective in middle ear implantation as imaging of the middle ear ossicles is still challenging. A great future potential is seen in the use of OTOPLAN for vestibular implant surgery.

Overall, OTOPLAN has the potential to become a valuable tool for cochlear implantation because it allows for more precise placement of the electrode array, which may lead to better hearing outcomes.

Interview with Prof. Marco Caversaccio, Dr. Philipp Aebischer, and Dr. Tom Gawliczek from the Inselspital University Hospital in Bern, Switzerland, on Oct 9th, 2023

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – BELGIUM – Reimbursement for a cochlear implant in single side deaf children in Belgium](#)



Thanks to joined forces of CI-teams, companies, universities, and CI-user groups, I'm happy to let you know that the Belgian minister of Health Care, Frank Vandenbroucke, just announced

that:

- A cochlear implant will also be reimbursed for children under the age of 18 with single-sided deafness (SSD).
- Bilateral cochlear implants will be reimbursed in children with a bilateral severe to profound hearing loss until the age of 18 years (which is 12 years now).

The new reimbursement regulation will start from 1st of January 2024 onwards.

The decision to come to reimbursement of a CI in case of SSD, was based on a lot of international scientific publications, but especially on the outcomes of a Belgian study.

Leo De Raeve

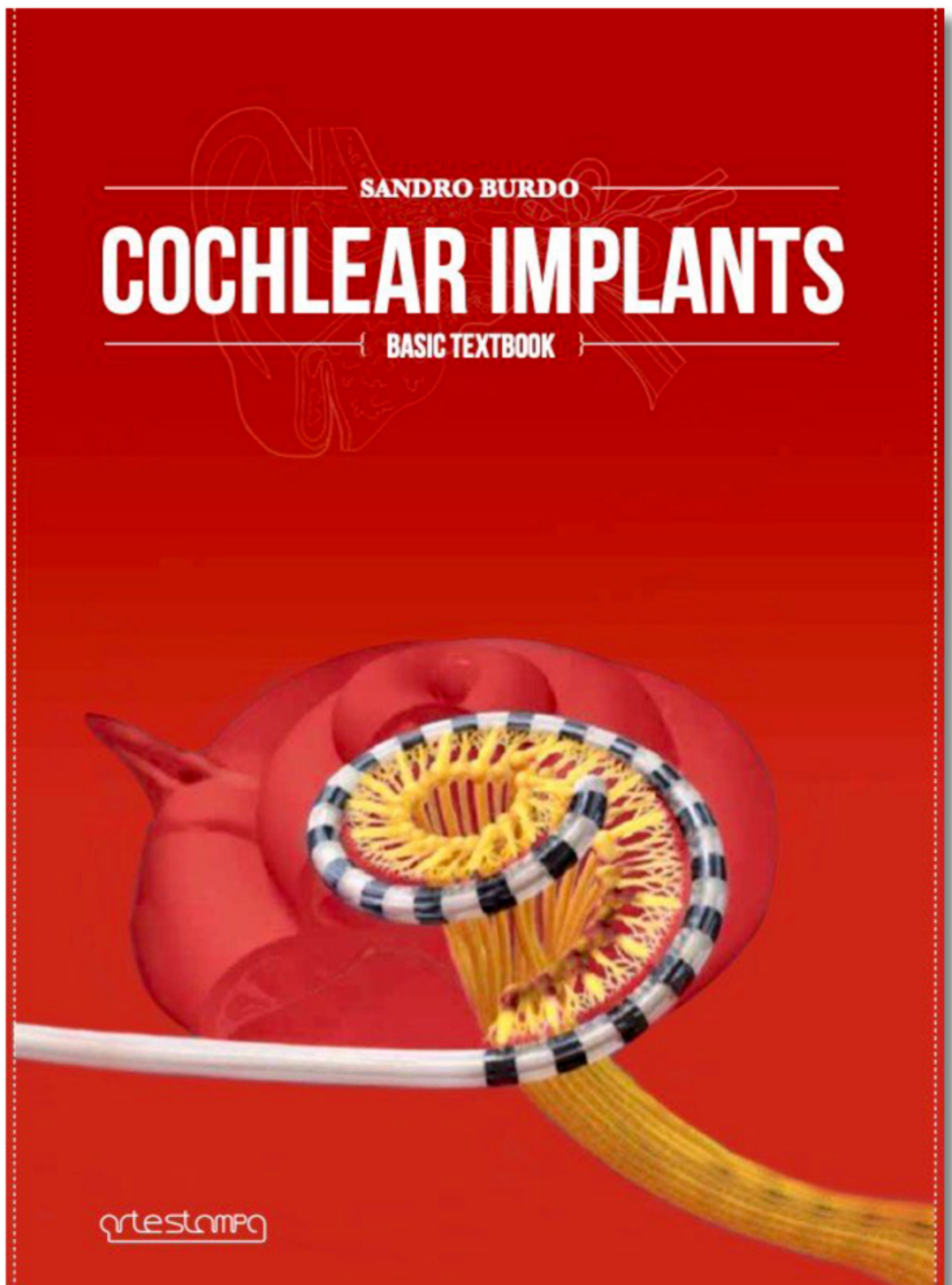
Scientific Advisor, EURO-CIU

Some references of this study:

1. van Wieringen A, Boudewyns A, Sangen A, Wouters J, Desloovere C. Unilateral congenital hearing loss in children: Challenges and potentials. *Hear Res.* 2019 Feb;372:29-41. doi: 10.1016/j.heares.2018.01.010. Epub 2018 Jan 31. PMID: 29395617.
2. Arras T, Boudewyns A, Swinnen F, Zarowski A, Philips B, Desloovere C, Wouters J, van Wieringen A. Longitudinal auditory data of children with prelingual single-sided deafness managed with early cochlear implantation. *Sci Rep.* 2022 Jun 7;12(1):9376. doi: 10.1038/s41598-022-13247-5. PMID: 35672363; PMCID: PMC9174487.
3. Arras T, Boudewyns A, Dhooge I, Offeciers E, Philips B, Desloovere C, Wouters J, van Wieringen A. Assessment of receptive and expressive language skills among young children with prelingual single-sided deafness managed with early cochlear implantation. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2021 Aug 2;4(8):e2122591. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.22591. PMID: 34432009; PMCID: PMC8387851.
4. Arras T, Boudewyns A, Dhooge I, Zarowski A, Philips B, Desloovere C, Wouters J, van Wieringen A. Early cochlear implantation supports narrative skills of children with prelingual single-sided deafness. *Sci Rep.* 2023; 13, 17828.

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – Italy – Basic Textbook on Cochlear Implants](#)



The literature on cochlear implantation includes very few introductory textbooks, while many publications are devoted to updating or explaining specific aspects of the topic.

The neophyte may struggle to understand specialized texts due to lacking basic knowledge. However, even the expert may need an overview of the various cochlear implant models, taking advantage of a technical summary related to the main concepts of audiology and otology.

Cochlear Implants by Sandro Burdo, is a textbook written by a single author who maintains a logical order of chapters, facilitating learning because sequential.

Although it is an introduction, the treatment is comprehensive of the topic from a technical standpoint, but with essential reminders of audiology and otology necessary to understand how the various device components simulate auditory anatomy-physiology.

All brands were described, but without any qualitative or preference comments, to allow the reader to build their own opinion. However, a careful reading points-out that the devices are not similar, but they present significant differences that should be known for rational choice and individualized implant fitting. In this way, the clinician should develop the critical sense that will lead him to have his view based on concrete and scientific considerations. In other words: he will not be prey only to the promotional ads of companies that often exaggerate certain product features, obviously hiding its limitations.

The text is divided into three main parts:

- basic science (acoustics and electricity);
- auditory anatomy and pathophysiology;
- cochlear implant technology,

for a total of 240 double-column pages, 143 figures, and 13 tables, confirming the educational purpose of the book with 1.5 illustrations per page.

Clinical aspects are covered briefly because discussing them in depth would have meant going off topic. Incidentally, clinical elements such as indications, contraindications, etc., represent the only topics covered in other books, deciding not to repeat concepts that are now more than familiar.

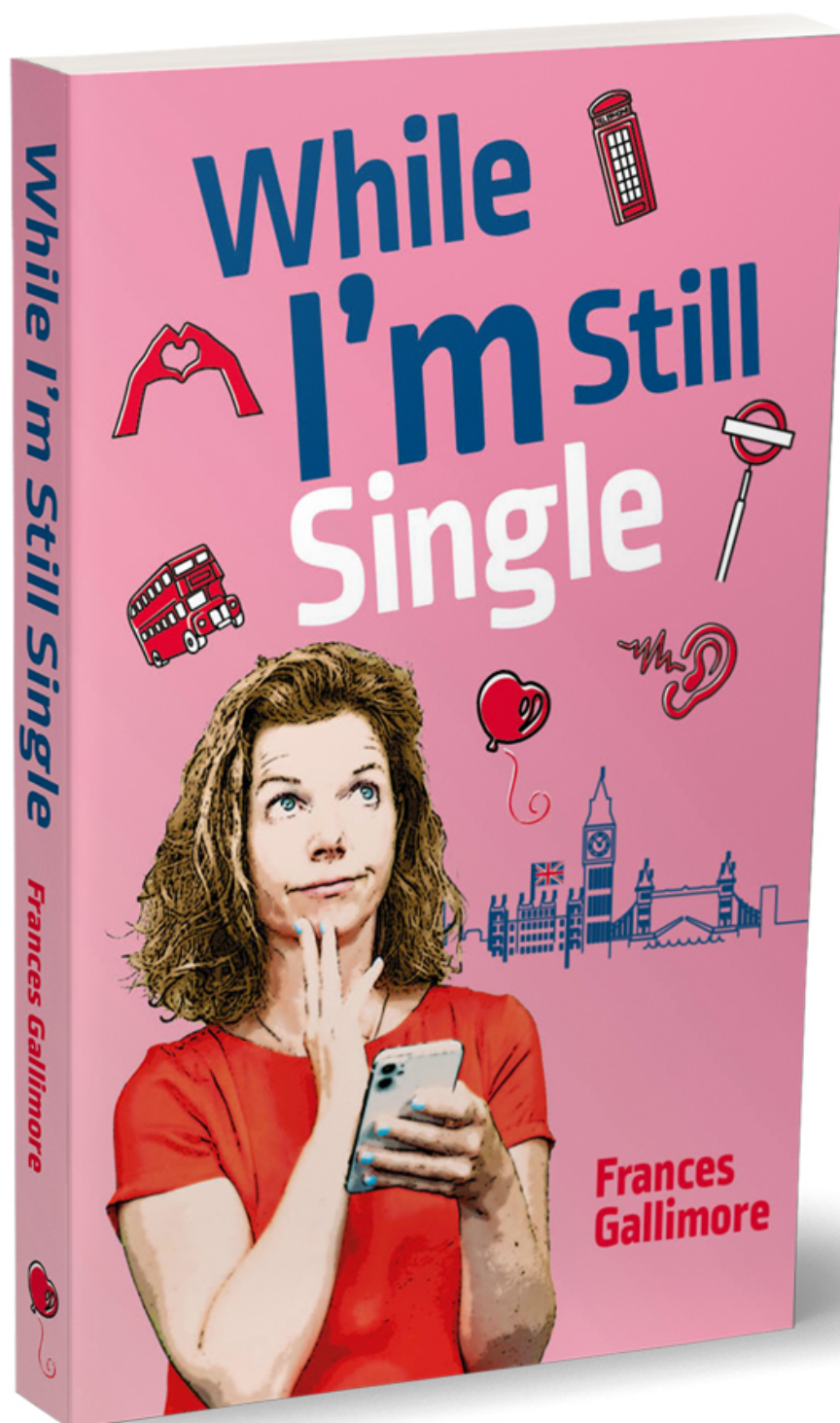
Finally, it may be helpful to know that the author used the simple language of a high school textbook, putting all the topics into an organic design in which the three main themes just mentioned interact.

For information: <https://audiocongressi.it>

Sandro Burdo

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – The Netherlands – New book on dating with cochlear implants](#)



Are you living with hearing loss? Are you experiencing obstacles in your social life? What about when dating or meeting new people? I wrote a book about this very topic: *While I'm still Single*. An open-hearted tale full of self-deprecating humour. The book follows the main challenges of Charlotte, a hard of hearing woman and covers various themes. Think of inclusion, diversity, hearing loss, vulnerability, self-development, family patterns and single life.

I am a Dutch writer and content creator. In 2018, I lived in London for eight months and wrote a series of blogs about the dating scene for the famous Dutch women's magazine VIVA. *While*

I'm still Single is inspired by my own lived experience – a someone who is hard of hearing and wears a cochlear implant.

Order now

Curious to know more? You can order your copy at www.whileimstillsingle.com.

Frances Gallimore

[Back to top](#)

WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK wins Children and Young People Now Early Years Award



Auditory Verbal UK has won the **Children and Young People Now Early Years Award** for its specialist family programme of Auditory Verbal therapy which supports deaf babies to learn to listen and speak and have the same opportunities as their hearing peers. Around 80 per cent of deaf children who attend the programme for at least two years achieve age-appropriate spoken language, rising to 97 per cent for deaf children without additional needs. The award was for the

initiative that has done the most to improve the life chances of children under five, with judges saying:

This was an *“established programme with bold ambitions”*.

The award comes as AVUK shared its impact over the last year : [Our impact: creating a sound future for deaf children \(2022-2023\)](#)

Between November 2022 and October 2023, AVUK has supported more than 150 families with deaf babies and children in the UK directly through its family programme. There are now 31 Auditory Verbal therapists in the UK, up from 26 this time last year (November 2022). AVUK has also supported more than 480 professionals working with deaf children in the UK and around the world.

These figures come a year after the launch of the bold 10-year strategy – [Creating a sound future for deaf children](#) – with the aim of ensuring that families of all deaf children under the age of 5 in the UK have the opportunity to access an Auditory Verbal programme via publicly funded services close to where they live. To do this, AVUK are seeking investment to train the 300 certified Auditory Verbal Therapists needed in the UK.

[Back to top](#)

[WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – Claire Campbell Award for Outstanding Achievement – Winners announced](#)



Deaf teenager Lauren Press and St George's Hospital Auditory Implant Service, London, have been announced as the **winners** of the first Claire Campbell Awards for Outstanding Achievement.

The awards were launched in memory of Claire, mother of two deaf children and passionate advocate for deaf young people, who died in November 2022.

Claire was a committed ambassador of Auditory Verbal UK, as its Chair of Trustees from 2013 to 2020. In memory of the dedication and compassionate support Claire gave to others – together with her family – the awards recognise the outstanding achievements of deaf children and young people and the adults who have gone above and beyond to support them.

Lauren Press (17) was diagnosed as profoundly deaf soon after she was born, she had her first cochlear implant aged two and her second at six. She joined AVUK's specialist family programme aged six months to learn to listen and speak with Auditory Verbal therapy. At the age of three she graduated with spoken language skills at a level expected for a hearing child of her age. Nominated for her drive and motivation and dedication to helping others understand deafness and to help improve outcomes for all deaf children. She said: "I feel privileged and honoured to have won this award. My motivation to speak publicly comes from my belief in the importance of early educational intervention for deaf children so that they can fulfil their full potential at school and in life."

St George's Hospital Auditory Implant Service in London were nominated by the family of a deaf teenager for "going above and beyond in positively impacting, changing and continuing to support so many children and young people throughout their hearing journeys." The team said: "We are honoured and touched. Cochlear Implantation can truly impact the life of patients and their families, and this award is testament to that success."

The awards will take place every year, so do keep an eye on AVUK website and social media for when we open for 2024 entries.

[Back to top](#)

[World News – UK – BATOD – Paul Simpson](#)



BATOD representatives attended the Funeral Mass of Requiem for Paul at Rochester Cathedral on Monday 27th November 2023. Some of you may have joined in person or virtually via the streaming link. Paul's contribution to the field of deaf education featured in the service. His family have expressed their appreciation of the many messages and kind words received since Paul's passing.

One of the ways BATOD would like to commemorate Paul is through the creation of a memory book. We would welcome contributions from our members and friends of BATOD, either as stories, reflections, anecdotes or memories alongside a photo or two that you may have. This can be shared via exec@batod.org.uk with the subject line 'Memories of Paul'. Information about how the memory book will be published and shared will follow in due course via this [website post](#).

Please share your contributions no later than 31st January 2024. Please do share this request with contacts who would want to contribute.

The [Just Giving page for Brain Tumour Support](#) will remain open for donations to the end of December 2023.

[Back to top](#)

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



AMERICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT ALLIANCE

Research. Advocacy. Awareness.

Dr. Ruth Litovsky Selected as Niparko Memorial Lecturer for CI2024

Ruth Litovsky PhD has been selected to deliver the annual Niparko Memorial Lecture at CI2024 Vancouver, on “Successful Pathways to Outcomes in Bilateral Cochlear Implantation.” The Niparko lecture was established to recognize Dr. John K. Niparko’s enduring commitment to cochlear implant research and clinical care and honor his significant contributions to the field.

Dr. Litovsky is the Oros Family chair in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She has a joint appointment in the Division of Otolaryngology in the Department of Surgery, and serves as the Academic Associate Dean for the Division of Natural, Physical & Mathematical Sciences in the College of Letters & Science. [CI2024 - American Cochlear Implant Alliance \(acialliance.org\)](#)

Adult and Pediatric Rehabilitation

Be sure to use our resources on [Adult Rehabilitation](#) and [Pediatric Rehabilitation](#). The pages include tips, blog posts, aural rehabilitation, and more. We have compiled these specific resources for parents of children with hearing loss: [ACI_ParentResources.pdf \(ymaws.com\)](#)

Read our latest blog post on adult rehab

[I've completed my clinician-guided auditory rehabilitation. How can I maintain what I've achieved and continue progressing? - American Cochlear Implant Alliance \(acialliance.org\)](#)

After AR concludes, who can you turn to for support? What can you do to maintain your progress and continue to progress? Joining groups and being familiar with resources and organizations of people with hearing loss, specifically CI recipients, can provide valuable information and support. Increasingly people are benefitting from online groups such as Cochlear Implant Experiences, which is moderated by knowledgeable individuals and is a reliable source of information.

Cochlear Implant Podcasts - American Cochlear Implant Alliance (acialliance.org)

Podcasts can be a great resource for information on cochlear implants and to hear other people's hearing loss stories. Visit our new podcast page for more!

[Back to top](#)

[ADVANCED BIONICS – Remote Programming Experience CI Care without a clinic visit](#)



Whether it's because it is hard for you to get to the clinic, or because you have a busy schedule, sometimes visiting your audiologist is not easy. That's why we are introducing the new **AB Remote Support app**. Not just a remote checking tool, it allows you to have virtual appointments with your audiologist over your smartphone.

The app has a **video chat function** that allows you and your audiologist to meet over secure connections with end-to-end encryption. **It even lets your audiologist remotely adjust your Marvel CI sound processor** and compatible Phonak hearing aid or CROS—all without you having to go to the clinic.

The AB Remote Support app is available for free for both iOS and Android devices. Visit AdvancedBionics.com/remote to learn more. If you require more information about the app, please contact your hearing care professional or local AB support.

Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone, and iOS are trademarks for Apple Inc., registered in the US and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc.

Android, Google Play, and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google Inc.

[Back to top](#)

ADVANCED BIONICS – Marvel at the possibilities. Expanded linked two-ear solution



Hearing with both ears helps us hear better in noisy situations, know where sounds are coming from, and makes hearing less tiring. **(1), (2), (3)** Together with our sister company Phonak, **AB is the only company to offer linked two-ear solutions** with hearing aids and cochlear implants designed to “talk” to each other and work together as a pair. Now AB’s Marvel will also be the only CI system with a CROS device.

For people who have severe to profound hearing loss in both ears but hear with only one Marvel CI, CROS gives them another possibility to hear from all around them. Having a CROS device on the ear without Marvel CI allows it to pick up sounds from that side and send them to the Marvel CI. This way, listeners can have a more complete sense of their surroundings and follow conversations from all directions, especially in noisy situations such as restaurants or in the car.

This means **no matter your hearing loss, Marvel has a flexible linked two-ear solution for you**. This could be with two Marvel CIs, a Marvel CI and a Phonak Link hearing aid, or a Marvel CI with a CROS.

Great things are coming with Marvel CI, and we can’t wait to share them all with you. [Click here](#) or contact your local AB representative to learn more!

(1) Koch DB, Soli SD, Downing M, and Osberger MJ. 2009. Simultaneous Bilateral Cochlear Implantation: Prospective Study in Adults. *Cochlear Implants International* (February 26), *Cochlear Implants International*, n/a. doi: 10.1002/cii.413.

(2) Zeitler D, et al. 2008. Speech Perception Benefits of Sequential Bilateral Cochlear Implantation in Children and Adults: A Retrospective Analysis. *Otology & Neurotology*. 29 (3): 314-325.

(3) Dunn, C, et al. 2008. Comparison of Speech Recognition and Localization Performance in Bilateral and Unilateral Cochlear Implant Users Matched on Duration of Deafness and Age of Implantation. *Ear and Hearing*. 29 (3): 352-359.

[Back to top](#)

[COCHLEAR – Must-know hacks for hybrid working with hearing loss.](#)



Today, remote working, which allows employees to balance office time with working from home, is becoming not only normal but expected. In the UK, one in five people work from home at least one day a week. **(1)**

Online meetings can be challenging, not just for people with hearing loss. **(2)** We asked cochlear implant recipients to share their hacks for remote working.

1. Request video meetings rather than phone calls

“Use speaker view rather than gallery view to enlarge the speaker’s image, making it easier to speech-read,” says Gael, co-author of *Hear and Beyond*, a book designed to help people live well with hearing loss.

2. Switch on captions

Some conferencing and call platforms like **Google Meet** and **Microsoft Teams** have caption functions that can be helpful during calls. Some platforms will also save the captions once the call has ended. Check the accessibility settings of the platform you use to find out more.

3. Supplement video meetings with text messaging

Integrated chat functionality allows you to supplement your verbal communications with written communication.

4. Use a smartphone for streaming audio, and a computer for video

“This is a huge one for me,” says Roger, a cochlear employee and cochlear implant recipient. *“Teams lets you connect to a meeting from multiple devices, so I use smartphone for audio streaming * and laptop for video. I think a lot of people don’t use smartphones for streaming because they can’t see the screen on their phone. But doing both is a big benefit.”*

“The meeting organiser [...] enabled us to dial in using our cell phones for the audio. It was awesome as my Bluetooth enables the sound to go right into my processors, which gives a stereo effect,” says Tom, a search and rescue officer who has two Cochlear™ Nucleus® Sound Processors.

We also have examples to enhance communication in the office.

Gael says: *“Ask the organiser if a microphone can be used at the meeting. This benefits everyone and will minimise interruptions and crosstalk if people need to use the mic to speak.”*

*“Choose a place to sit where you have a clear view of the people you’ll talk with the most,” advises Greg, and “switch on the ForwardFocus * feature via your Nucleus Smart App to reduce the noise coming from behind you. Otherwise sit at a table with your back to a wall.”*

[Click here to experience how ForwardFocus can help at the workplace.](#)

* For compatibility information and devices visit www.cochlear.com/compatibility

References:

(1). UK Parliament. Research Briefing: *The impact of remote and hybrid working on workers and organisations*. October 2022. [Cited 11 May 2023]. Available from: <https://post.parliament.uk/research-briefings/post-pb-0049/>

(2). Owl Labs. *State of hybrid work 2022: Europe*. [Cited 11 May 2023]. Available from: <https://owllabs.eu/state-of-hybrid-work-emea/2022>

Reference to Hear and Beyond does not constitute as an implied or express endorsement or recommendation or sponsor by Cochlear Limited. The views and opinions of the author do not necessarily state or reflect those of Cochlear Limited.

© Cochlear Limited 2023.

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 instructions 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.

Cochlear’s range of Smart Apps and Support Apps are available on App Store and/or Google Play. For information regarding the sound processors, operating systems and devices that are compatible with the Cochlear’s range of Smart Apps and Support Apps, visit www.cochlear.com/compatibility.

Android, Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC.

Apple and iPhone are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

[Back to top](#)

[COCHLEAR – Seven questions to assess hearing in individuals aged 50+](#)



Did you know that people are more than twice as likely to get their pet checked by a vet than they are to get their own hearing checked? **(1)**

Yet *“deafness or impaired hearing has a profound impact on people's lives,”* says Peter, a cochlear implant recipient from Australia. Peter has been involved with an independent global cochlear implant (CI) task force to develop new Living Guidelines for cochlear implantation.

Only 1 in 20 adults who could benefit from a cochlear implant have one, **(2)**, **(3)** because many healthcare professionals, including GPs and audiologists, as well as the general population, lack awareness of cochlear implants and of who would benefit from them.

To address this, the guidelines recommend that every adult older than 50 should have their hearing tested every one to three years.

Reflecting on his role in the task force, Peter says: *“Those who have gone through the process are well placed to advise clinicians about what the experience is like, what it entails, and what could be done to improve the CI journey of potential recipients.”*

If you know someone who is showing signs of hearing trouble, here are seven short questions.

Seven signs that hearing aids may not be providing enough benefit:

1. Do you have trouble hearing over the phone?
2. Do you find it hard to follow conversations when two or more people are talking?
3. Do you regularly need to ask people to repeat what they are saying?
4. Do you need to turn up the television volume so loud that others complain?
5. Do you have trouble hearing because of background noise?
6. Do you think that other people seem to mumble?
7. Do you find different speakers difficult to hear, such as children and people who are softly spoken?

Help your friends and loved ones better understand the signs of hearing loss and when to get a hearing check. Share these questions today.

[Click here to find out more about the Living Guidelines.](#)

References: (1). Carlson ML, Nassir AM, Marinelli JP, Lohse CM, Sydlowski SA, Hearing Health Collaborative. Awareness, perceptions, and literacy surrounding hearing loss and hearing rehabilitation among the adult population in the United States. *Otol Neurotol.* 2022;43:e323–e330.

(2). Sorkin DL. Cochlear implantation in the world's largest medical device market: utilization and awareness of cochlear implants in the United States. *Cochlear Implants International.* 2013 Mar 1;14(sup1):S12–4. (3). De Raeve L. Cochlear implants in Belgium: Prevalence in paediatric and adult cochlear implantation. *Eur Ann Otorhinolaryngol, Head Neck Dis.* 2016 Jun 1;133:S57–60.

© Cochlear Limited 2023.

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 instructions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information.

[Back to top](#)

[MED-EL – IDEASforEARS Contest 2024 – Time is ticking.](#)



Photo: IDEASforEARS winners 2023 from across the globe

MED-EL has kicked off its annual search for young inventors whose ideas might one day improve the lives of people with hearing loss.

Children between 6 and 12 years of age from all over the world are invited to send their submissions as videos, drawings, photos, etc. The most creative and innovative inventors will win a trip to MED-EL headquarters in Innsbruck, Austria.

From its first edition in 2017 on, many of the IDEASforEARS winners were hearing implant users themselves or had a sibling, parent or friend with an implant. This additional motivation seems a massive creativity booster. Previous inventions included an alarm function for lost audio processors, cochlear implants that could be charged with solar power or approaches for inner ear gene therapy.

In Innsbruck, the young winners will make new friends from all over the world, learn how cochlear implants are manufactured, talk to real R&D inventors and meet the people who worked on their or their loved one's implants.

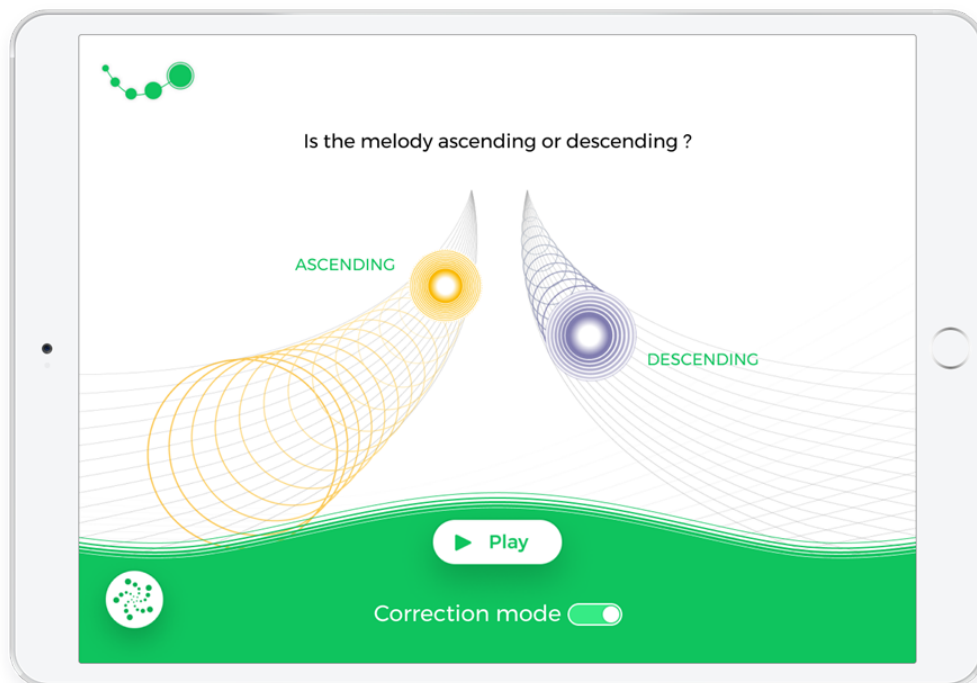
"Children have a free mind and think out of the box. That's why they always come up with amazing ideas", says Geoff Ball, inventor of the VIBRANT SOUNDBRIDGE middle ear implant, who heads the IDEASforEARS jury.

Do you have an idea that could help someone with hearing loss? Think big and **send us your entry** by January 17, 2024.

Learn more about MED-EL's children invention contest on ideasforears.medel.com.

[Back to top](#)

[MED-EL – special offer extended: better hearing performance with Meludia.](#)



Music is a balm for the soul, yet music appreciation remains one of the challenges for cochlear implant users. But music training is definitely worth pursuing. Research has shown that it can improve music enjoyment and perception and enhance speech understanding and overall hearing performance in cochlear implant recipients.

MED-EL is proud of their long-standing partnership with Meludia, a developer of music-based brain trainings. Their close collaboration resulted in an online music training with specially curated exercises for people with cochlear implants.

Many users and professionals, such as rehab specialists, music therapists, etc. have enjoyed their Meludia training and seen progress in speech understanding in noise, pitch perception and music appreciation.

MED-EL is excited to announce the continuation of a successful special offer, unlimited free 12-months Meludia subscriptions for myMED-EL users in Europe and around the world*.

Paediatric and adult recipients as well as professionals can enjoy this popular online music training which is structured, guided and entertaining at the same time.

Start your Meludia training now and enjoy the benefits music training can offer! [Click here](#) for more information.

*Offer not valid in Japan and the USA due to local laws and restrictions.

[Back to top](#)

EURO-CIU · L-8337 CAP 3, rue Michel Rodange, Luxembourg · info@eurociu.eu

© EURO-CIU (2023)

[Subscribe to this free newsletter](#)

Not interested anymore? [Unsubscribe](#).

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your browser](#).

EURO-CIU is a full member of
**The European Disability
Forum (EDF)**



EURO-CIU is a founding
member of the **World Hearing
Forum from the World Health
Organization**



EURO-CIU is a founding
member **CIICA**

