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Message from the President



Post-pandemic, the number of face-to-face cochlear implant events is steadily increasing.

In February, EURO-CIU were very well represented at **CI2024** in Las Palmas De Gran Canaria. You can read more about it in this newsletter as well as the other events mentioned below.

We hope to see you at EURO-CIU's 14th Symposium **Steps on the way to hearing with cochlear implants** in Vienna on 4th - 5th April, and General Assembly (members only) on 6th April. <https://eurociu2024.com/>. To ensure quorum, I would like to remind non-attending members to kindly complete a procuration to an attending member.

I will be representing EURO-CIU at Stichting Plots & Laat Doven's **International congress 2024 'Let's Connect 2'** congress on March 22nd-24th in The Netherlands, and CIICA's **CI Advocacy In Action: First Global Conference** May 9th-10th in Belgium.

EURO-CIU Summer camp 2024 will be held in July in Czech Republic. If you are going to, please register very soon, as there are a limited number of spaces remaining.

I wish you all a nice springtime, and hope to meet and exchange ideas with you at the above events.

Robert Mandara (President)

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Message from the Editor of the EURO-CIU Newsletter



I hope that you enjoyed International Cochlear Implant Day, and that you used the opportunity to tell people about cochlear implants.

It's not long until we meet in Vienna for the EURO-CIU Symposium and General Assembly – please see the next article, and book your place if you haven't already done so! We look forward to seeing you there, and many thanks to our friends in Austria for making the arrangements.

We are grateful 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.

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 June, so please let me have your articles (maximum about 500 words per article please) and jpg photos by Monday 3 June 2024. Just e-mail them to me at newsletter@eurociu.eu

With every good wish - and let's hopefully enjoy some Spring weather!

Brian Archbold (Editor)

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EURO-CIU NEWS – Symposium and General Assembly 2024

14th International Symposium EURO-CIU

STEPS ON THE WAY TO HEARING WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

5th April 2024 in Vienna - Austria

#EUROCIU24

We look forward to seeing you at the 14th International Symposium of EURO-CIU.

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.

The slogan of the 14th Symposium will be 'Steps on the Way to Hearing with Cochlear Implants'. 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.

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

Please note that at the General Assembly on 6th April, we will be seeking member organisations to volunteer to hold the EURO-CIU Workshop 2025 and the EURO-CIU Symposium 2026, with the General Assemblies following both these meetings. Please discuss with your own Boards, so that we can make a decision at the General Assembly.

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EURO-CIU NEWS – Join us at Summer Camp 2024 in the Czech Republic!



EURO-CIU invites up to four youngsters from individual EURO-CIU member associations, aged 14–17 inclusive, with an adult leader, to the charming town of Telč, Czech Republic, from 20th to 27th of July.

The EURO-CIU Summer Camp will offer an action-packed week of fun and educational

activities for young CI users from all around Europe. SUKI, the cochlear implant association from Czech Republic, will use their extensive experience to organize the camp on behalf of EURO-CIU. Their group of passionate young people will lead a week full of entertainment under the expert guidance of SUKI Vice-President Marína Štibranyi.

The official language is English, so at least basic knowledge of the language is required. The teenagers will have the opportunity to enhance their English skills while creating meaningful connections. It is not just about education, it's about making new friends, new experiences, having fun and raising self-esteem.

Here is the promotional video that we encourage you to send to your members and share on your social media.

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tarNALZQKUs>

And here is the Google APPLICATION FORM that the group leader will have to fill in, with details of the whole party that will join the Summer Camp.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbbWApfFEAjDct5zE1m2o-0e42CtCEYd1CTzM8qe3PfycKlw/viewform?usp=sharing)

[1FAIpQLSdbbWApfFEAjDct5zE1m2o-0e42CtCEYd1CTzM8qe3PfycKlw/viewform?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbbWApfFEAjDct5zE1m2o-0e42CtCEYd1CTzM8qe3PfycKlw/viewform?usp=sharing)

Only EURO-CIU member associations can decide which teenagers they want to send, together with a group leader. We encourage you to send out the invitation to your local members and gather together a group of up to 4 teenagers + 1 leader to join EURO-CIU Summer Camp 2024.

At the moment we still have some places available for EURO-CIU Summer Camp 2024 and it would be great to gather a wider representation of EURO-CIU associations. On 15th March we will accept kids that are on the waiting list, so that they can buy flight tickets with their associations group.

If you are willing to take part at the EURO-CIU Summer Camp 2024, you are kindly requested to send an e-mail to Marína and Beatrice expressing your interest to take part at the camp. This way your place will be reserved until you fill in the google form (link above) with the names of the teenagers and the group leader.:

m.stibranyi@suki.cz

beatrice.cusmai@aguav.it

We can't wait to meet you at EURO-CIU Summer Camp 2024!

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[EURO-CIU NEWS – CI2024 Las Palmas, Canary Islands](#)



February 21st-24th, EURO-CIU were exceptionally well represented at **CI2024**, the **17th International conference on cochlear implants and other implantable technologies**. Three of our board members were present, as well as our scientific advisor and former President.

Robert Mandara, Beatrice Cusmai and Teresa Amat appeared together in a “Trends for families of cochlear implantees” Panel Session, moderated by Leo De Raeve. Robert also participated in two round table discussions, on “Ethics & Economics in CI”, moderated by Sue Archbold, and on “Access of cochlear implants in adults: barriers and facilitators”, moderated by Bernard Fraysse. Robert challenged delegates to consider who upholds the rules of the CI game and who is setting the pace.

EURO-CIU had a small table, from where we were able to share information and make new connections.

Auditorio Alfredo Kraus is a magnificent building with many conference halls. Delegates constantly had to make the difficult choice of which one of 10 parallel sessions to attend or, alternatively, which 9 out of 10 to miss!

“The journey from HAs to CI: what patients need to know” – Michal Luntz, and a round table on totally implantable cochlear implants particularly stood out as being relevant to CI users.

Of the 1500 delegates, we identified only six cochlear implant users. Although this number is low, it is nevertheless rare and significant to have so much CI user visibility in this type of conference for medical professionals and researchers. We would certainly like to see more user advocates participating in future, to ensure that professionals and researchers are working towards the same goals as CI users.

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[EURO-CIU NEWS – International Cochlear Implant Day 2024](#)



Advocating for Awareness, Access, Rehabilitation, and Lifelong Care

February 25th marked International Cochlear Implant Day, commemorating the groundbreaking surgery performed on this day in 1957 that paved the way for the development of cochlear implant technology. Celebrating its 67th anniversary, this day serves as a global reminder of the transformative power of cochlear implants in restoring hearing and enhancing lives.

Cochlear implants hold immense potential for those with hearing loss, offering a gateway to a world of sound previously inaccessible. As we honoured this milestone, EURO-CIU, the European Association of Cochlear Implant Users, spearheaded awareness-raising events across Europe under the international motto: **"We are united by a passion to hear"**.

With over 500,000 cochlear implant recipients in Europe alone, it's crucial to address key areas of concern: awareness, access, rehabilitation, and lifelong care.

Awareness: Many individuals remain unaware of the benefits of cochlear implants and their eligibility for this life-changing technology. As advocates, we strive to disseminate accurate information and dispel misconceptions surrounding cochlear implants, ensuring that potential candidates and the general public are informed about their options for improved hearing.

Access: Access to cochlear implants should be universal and equitable. Regardless of age, individuals in need should have access to bilateral cochlear implants free of charge. It's imperative to eliminate barriers to access, ensuring that every eligible candidate can benefit from this transformative technology.

Rehabilitation: Rehabilitation and ongoing support are vital components of the cochlear implant journey. Recipients require regular fine-tuning and assistance to maximize the benefits of their implants. Settling for anything less than optimal outcomes is simply unacceptable – we advocate for comprehensive rehabilitation services to empower recipients on their path to hearing success.

Lifelong Care: Technology evolves rapidly, including cochlear implant processor technology. To ensure optimal performance and outcomes, it's essential for cochlear implant users to have timely access to the latest advancements. Lifelong care should be prioritized, with regular assessments and upgrades to guarantee that users continue to experience the full benefits of their implants.

Moreover, cochlear Implants represent an investment in individuals' quality of life. Studies

suggest that the long-term benefits of cochlear implantation extend beyond improved hearing, potentially delaying the onset of conditions like dementia and Alzheimer's. By investing in cochlear implants, societies invest in healthier, more inclusive communities.

As we commemorated International Cochlear Implant Day, we reaffirmed our commitment to raising awareness, enhancing access, supporting rehabilitation, and ensuring lifelong care for cochlear implant recipients. Together, we celebrated the journey of sound and empowered individuals to embrace life to the fullest.

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EURO-CIU NEWS – the European Disability Forum (EDF) – Manifesto: Women and girls with disabilities must be recognised as leaders and changemakers



(On the left is a photo from Leon, Spain, with Commissioner Helena Dalli in the middle, and the members of the Women's Committee. On the right is a photo of the meeting in Madrid and the committee members)

A new EDF Women's Committee, with 13 members and 4 observers, was appointed by the EDF Executive Committee. Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö (Finland) represents EURO-CIU as our European Disability Forum (EDF) delegate. The committee started work in 2023. There have been two meetings, the first one was held online. The other meeting was in November in Madrid, Spain. The main topic was the preparation and adoption of the EDF's third Manifesto on Women and girls with Disabilities, signed by the Committee Chair Pirkko Mahlamäki.

The women's Committee has several topics to allow better mainstreaming of the perspective of women with disabilities within EDF's work. The main topic is advocacy on the rights of women with disabilities in EU initiatives on combating violence against women, victims' rights, and harmful practices. The other focal points are employment, political participation, accessibility, and healthcare.

At the end of the meeting, the Committee had the opportunity to network with the Spanish movement by participating in the Social Forum of women and girls with disabilities in León, Spain. The EU Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli also attended.

Following the meeting, at the beginning of the month, the European Disability Forum (EDF) launched its third manifesto on the rights of women and girls with disabilities, "Empowerment and Leadership". The manifesto calls for specific actions from decision-makers to tackle the systemic marginalisation of women and girls with disabilities – 25.9% of the population of women in Europe. It outlines ways to empower women and girls with disabilities and ensure their leadership over their lives and issues that affect them.

The manifesto focuses on four specific areas:

1. Political participation – the right for women with disabilities to participate in all aspects of the political process. Women with disabilities should have the proper and necessary support to run as candidates and be politicians at all levels.
2. Combatting violence against women – especially by criminalising the practices of forced sterilisation and forced abortion against women and girls with disabilities in all European countries. Initiatives must take into account that women and girls with disabilities are still at a higher risk of violence, including human trafficking, especially during humanitarian crisis.
3. Leadership – women and girls with disabilities should lead their lives as independent persons. They should be able to assume leadership roles in their own lives but also in society.
4. Visibility and empowerment in all areas of life that leads to equal opportunities and inclusion.

The manifesto represents a clear call to the European Union, national governments in Europe, and organisations to meaningfully include women and girls with disabilities. Authorities must also support their full participation and leadership in society.

Pirkko Mahlamäki, Chair of the EDF's Women's Committee, said:

"Women and girls with disabilities must be recognised and supported by leaders and changemakers. Our movement's motto, "Nothing without us", cannot become a reality without the full and effective participation and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities. This manifesto presents clear demands to ensure this becomes reality."

Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö

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[CIICA's latest report: YOUNG ADULTS WITH CI MATTER!](#)



**YOUNG ADULTS WITH CI:
OUR AGENDA FOR CHANGE**

TO BE LAUNCHED IN BRUSSELS ON MAY 10

CIICA carried out a global survey of adults with CI about the services they receive and what they would like – we reported on the whole group of over 1,000 respondents in CI SERVICES MATTER, and now report on the experiences of a global group of 105 young

adults who received cochlear implants as children and responded as adults. We now have the first group of young adults with CI – and they have for some time been meeting up online in CIICA CONVERSATIONS, led by Qais Khan, with their great summaries available at [Summaries of our CONVERSATIONS – CIICA \(ciicanet.org\)](#). A global Advisory Group has been established with the purpose of recognising this new stakeholder group. They tell us all:

"We are the first deaf young people with CI who are stepping into the hearing world... everyone here, united across the globe."

On International CI Day, CIICA published the report YOUNG ADULTS WITH CI MATTER, using evidence from three sources:

- data for this group (105 respondents implanted under the age of 18 from 25 countries) from the Global Adult Survey;
- summaries of seven global CIICA Conversations with Young Adults with CI (49 young adults from 16 countries);
- a survey of the Global Advisory Group of Young Adults with CI.

We are pleased to share this unique comprehensive report from this pioneering group.

- Download the Full Report – [Young Adults with CI Matter Full Report](#)
- Download the Briefing here – [Young Adults with CI Matter Briefing](#)

These young adults are the first to grow up who are deaf, hearing with their implants. They are highly satisfied with their CIs (super satisfied!) but concerned about ongoing support and costs. When you are implanted at a young age, there is a long lifetime of funded CI services needed. As one young person implanted in Spain at the age of three, said:

"Many people get their cochlears later in life when they may have 20 years to live or less but not me, I may have mine for 80 or more years. I've already had them 19 years so I'm facing issues the older generation knows nothing about."

With their satisfaction comes a reliance on their technology: *"I am so used to it I can't do anything without my CI."*

These young people will launch their Agenda for Change at CIICA's global conference, CI ADVOCACY IN ACTION, in Brussels in May as an example of advocacy in this new era.

Their proposal:

The development of a new stakeholder group of young people to promote the benefits CI has brought, and the changes which could ensure lifelong hearing from CI; and full participation in society through their Agenda for Change.

"I wish to ensure CI users voices are strengthened and we can move away from narrow understandings of deafness, and encourage understanding of the particular experiences that cochlear implant users have as deaf individuals participating and being active in the hearing world."

See their [great video at www.ciicanet.org](#)

With thanks to: all respondents, the CIICA network, and the Global Advisory Group of Young Adults with CI: Jana Beneito, Spain, Jehan Daboo, India, Jessica Hissam, USA, Qais Khan, UK, Holly Loach, UK, John Lui, Australia, Manuela Malheirosilva, Brazil, Elaine Mukaaya, Uganda, Ava Pearson, UK, Bowen Tang, Canada, Theo Valles, USA.

With thanks too to the Social Sciences, Humanities Research Council, Canada, Prof Connie Mayer, York University, Toronto, Canada, and AICE Foundation for their support.

Please see details of the Brussels conference below, under the “Related Congress” section of the newsletter.

EURO-CIU is a founding member of CIICA.

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SPAIN – Federación AICE Passion to Hear reaches Spanish Society



Federación AICE has launched a campaign for International Cochlear Implant Day, which has been joined by the Delegations of Aragon, Andalusia, Cantabria, Castilla la Mancha, the Valencian Community, Asturias, the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands, Castilla y León, the Community of Madrid and Galicia. In it, the lighting of 43 emblematic monuments, fountains and municipal buildings in cities throughout Spain has been carried out, such as the Porta de la Mar (Valencia), the Plaza de España Fountain (Seville), the Municipal Facade of Pamplona, the Plaza de la Constitución (Arucas) and the Molí Real (Elche), among others.

In addition, posters have been distributed among 11 town councils both physically in public spaces and in MUPIS, located at points of interest, such as Girona, La Laguna, A Coruña, or Gijón. Also, some libraries, such as those in Valencia, Onda and Dos Hermanas, have joined this initiative and have placed posters at their entrances to commemorate International Cochlear Implant Day.

The campaign has had massive and constant dissemination over several weeks, reaching a wide variety of public and private means of transport throughout the national territory through posters and spots. Renowned companies such as EMT and Metro Valencia, TMB

Barcelona, TUSAM Sevilla and Mobility Ado Vigo, have actively collaborated by sharing the spots on the screens of their fleets or displaying the posters inside, thus reaching a large part of the population.

In some cities such as Gelsa or Albacete, solidarity activities such as races or walks have been organized, while in towns such as Valencia, Albacete or Zaragoza, stands and information tables have been installed in hospitals and on the streets where the population has been informed and made aware of hearing health and about the cochlear implant.

At the same time, social events have been held to celebrate this important date. Meetings for members and their families or an accessible guided tour was offered followed by a fellowship meal (like in Santander).

All of this has been accompanied by an online campaign with videos and accessible content that has also been followed by meetings with public administrations asking for more resources and better data. In summary, this campaign has covered a wide range of actions, both physical and virtual to make Spanish society aware about our: **“Passion to hear”**.

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[RELATED CONGRESS – International Congress 2024 from The Dutch Association of Sudden and Late Deafened – 22 to 24 March 2024](#)



EURO-CIU President, Robert Mandara is speaking at the Dutch Association for Sudden and Late Deafened international congress 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 \(stichtingplotsdoven.nl\)](https://www.stichtingplotsdoven.nl)

Gerard de Vijlder (chairman)

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RELATED CONGRESS – Navigating Mental Health and Hearing Loss – 18 to 20 April 2024



Self-Care, Challenges, and Solutions in the Field of Mental Well-Being

About the conference

The purpose of the Conference is to shed light on the significance of mental health of the hard of hearing. The main focus will be on research and data regarding the impact of hearing loss on mental health, critical importance of accessibility in daily lives of those with hearing loss, spanning across all life stages, and how inclusion in education, work and informal settings can positively influence mental well-being, as well as introducing practices that emphasize mental health care of individuals with hearing loss and tinnitus.

Time and Location

Date: April 18-20, 2024, 9:00–17:00

Location: Lev Hotel, Ljubljana, Slovenia

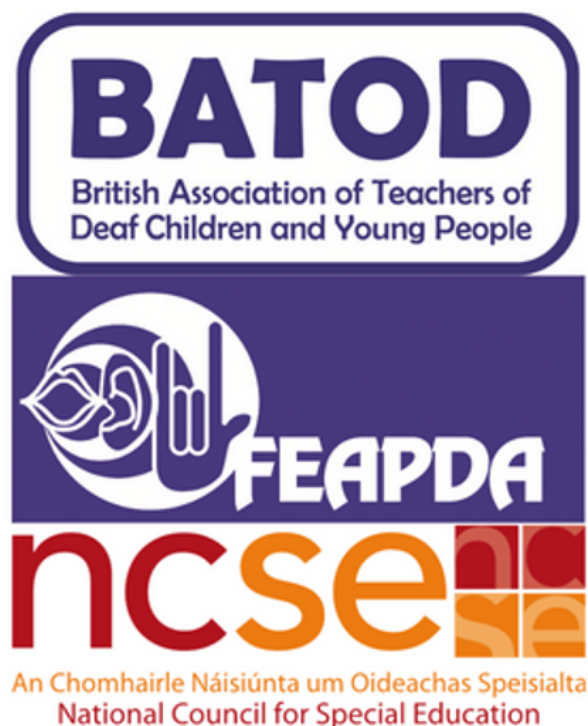
Interpretation from Slovenian to English and vice versa and real time captioning in Slovenian and English language will be provided.

The registration fee for the conference is 190 euros.

[Click here for further details of the conference.](#)

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[RELATED CONGRESS – 27th FEAPDA Congress – 26 & 27 April 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.

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.

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

The prices are:

FEAPDA members*

2-day ticket – €260

1-day ticket – €140

Non-members

2-day ticket – €300

1-day ticket – €200

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

The registration for the 2024 FEAPDA congress is live. [Secure your ticket via this link.](#)

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RELATED CONGRESS – British Cochlear Implant Group (BCIG) – 30 April & 1 May 2024



British Cochlear Implant Group Meeting 2024

Learning journeys - Bringing
people together

30th April - 1st May 2024

The Glasshouse International
Centre for Music

EARLY BIRD
CLOSING 15/03

Aesculap Academia -
part of the B. Braun Group

Learning journeys – Bringing people together

Registration for this event is still available, so please [CLICK HERE](#). Registration closes Friday 19th April 2024.

The forthcoming 2024 BCIG event will take place in Gateshead on the banks of the River Tyne at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music (formerly Sage), conveniently located just a short hop across the Tyne bridge to Newcastle City Centre and within easy reach of local rail and air transport links.

The conference will be buzzing with delegates from all aspects of the Cochlear Implant world: surgeons, audiologists, rehabilitationists, anaesthetists – and we're all looking forward to a special presentation on the use of AI by expert Allan Pang.

The major CI companies will be well-represented in the exhibition hall and the posters will represent up-to-date research progress for you to take back home.

The prestigious Graham Fraser Lecture will be given by Dan Jiang this year. The title is: **"Decoding Silence: Advancements in Paediatric Auditory Brainstem Implants and Beyond"**

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Anirvan Banerjee

ENT Consultant and Director of the North East Regional Cochlear Implant programme
James Cook University Hospital Trust, Middlesbrough

PROGRAMME

To view the provisional programme, please [CLICK HERE](#), and then click on the link to the pdf of the programme towards the bottom of the webpage.

ABSTRACTS

Abstract submission has now closed.

ACCOMMODATION

To view the official accommodation website for the BCIG 2024 meeting, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Please note, availability and cut off dates may vary per hotel but are normally around 28 days before the event.

To book your stay at the Hilton Newcastle Gateshead, please [CLICK HERE](#) to book direct. Please note, allocation rooms are only available to book until 18th March 2024 and cancellation terms are 2 weeks prior for guests booking via the link.

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RELATED CONGRESS – CI Advocacy in Action – 9 to 10 May 2024

The poster features a dark blue background on the left with white text, and a photograph of the Atomium structure in Brussels at night on the right. The CIICA logo is in the top right corner.

**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
COCHLEAR IMPLANT INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY OF ACTION AISBL

Please share our invitation with your members and colleagues!

Come and join us in Brussels for the first Global Conference on **CI ADVOCACY IN ACTION**. This in-person event will be held at the [Maison des Associations Internationales](#)

in 40 Rue Washington, B-1050 Brussels, on 9th – 10th May 2024.

There is huge interest in the first global conference on CI advocacy and our plans are moving ahead quickly! We are delighted that Dr Shelly Chadha, Technical Lead, Ear and Hearing Care, WHO, will join us to inspire us to work together advocating for Ear and Hearing Care.

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.

There will be an opportunity to join us for an informal networking supper to meet friends old and new – places limited. We hope to see you in May 2024!

Captioning will be available in 6 languages.

To register, please [visit our website](#) and secure your place now! Reduced rate available for ci users €50.

Thanks from all the CIICA team for making our growing impact possible.

EURO-CIU is a founding member CIICA

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RELATED CONGRESS – HeAL 2024 – Hearing Across the Lifespan – 6 to 8 June 2024



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! And check out the [website](#) for the new special sessions and details of Keynote speakers.

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 – 10 to 13 July 2024](#)



Registration is now open. Don't miss the early bird prices. Book your hotel and flights now. [CI2024 International Vancouver](#) – July 10-13, 2024

Cochlear Implantation: Facilitating the Patient Journey is the conference theme. The Niparko Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr. Ruth Litovsky, "Successful Pathways to Outcomes in Bilateral Cochlear Implantation." Drs. Jill B. Firszt and Andrej Kral are confirmed as keynote speakers. <https://www.acialliance.org/page/CI2024>

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.

[Registration is now open.](#)

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

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[RELATED CONGRESS – European Academy of Otolology and Neurotology \(EAONO\) – 4 to 7 September 2024](#)



After the well-organized virtual EAONO meeting in London in 2021, we would like to welcome you to the 2024 face-to-face EAONO workshop which will be organized from 4th to 7th September in the oldest city of the Netherlands; Nijmegen. The beautiful and historically rich city of Nijmegen is located in the east of the Netherlands near the German border. A large percentage of the inhabitants of the city are in their 20's due to the number of schools and universities located there. The conference venue will be Concertgebouw de Vereeniging, a concert hall officially opened in 1915 and built in a mixture of Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles.

We are looking forward to a scientific program with state-of-the-art lectures, scientific presentations and discussions. Moreover, there will be ample opportunity to submit and present original papers.

Please check out the website by clicking [here](#).

Note: abstract submission deadline is April 15th, 2024, 12:00 CEST.

Looking forward to welcoming you! On behalf of the organizing committee:

Jef Mulder and Myrthe Hol

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[WORLD NEWS – World Hearing Forum stakeholders' meeting, WHO HQ, Geneva](#)



The World Hearing Forum stakeholders' and members' meeting took place at WHO HQ, Geneva on 27-28 November bringing together the global actors dedicated to advancing ear and hearing care. Meeting participants highlighted the significant public health challenge posed by hearing impairment, affecting approximately one in five individuals worldwide. It drew attention to the need for changing mindsets related to ear and hearing care across the world.

The meeting was opened by the WHO Assistant Director General for Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases, Dr Jerome Salomon. The first day focused on the voices of individuals with hearing loss with Shari Eberts sharing her life experience and how it was shaped by societal perceptions of hearing loss. It brought together a panel of people representing different sections of society who shared their perceptions of hearing loss and

hearing care. Key issues discussed included the stigma associated with wearing hearing aids, misconceptions about sign language, and difficulties in accessing screening and related services.

The second day explored the experiences of service providers and policymakers, emphasizing the public health aspects of hearing care. The forum also stressed the importance of public health competencies for hearing loss. This includes integration of hearing care into initiatives for child health, healthy ageing, school health, occupational health, training of public health nurses and health workers.

Day 3 focussed on outlining strategic actions to move towards the goal of integration through a collaborative effort of the World Hearing Forum members. The meeting concluded with identification of key steps and actions to address this gap through a comprehensive awareness campaign targeting communities, health providers, practitioners, and policymakers.

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

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WORLD NEWS – Join IFHOHYP (International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People) for the 15th Study Session ‘Finding Your Voice’ in collaboration with the Council of Europe / European Youth Centre



Photo taken during the Study Session 2022 in Budapest, Hungary

Are you a deaf or hard of hearing young leader aged between 18 and 30, eager to make your mark, tell your story, and influence change on a global scale? It's time to step into the world of human rights, politics, and advocacy.

Join us in the heart of Strasbourg, France, for our transformative 6-day study session in partnership with the Council of Europe. Mark your calendars from May 27th to June 1st, 2024!

Over these 6 days, you'll explore the fundamentals of advocacy and leadership for hard of hearing young people. Delve deeper into human rights, focusing on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and uncover the dynamics of effective advocacy. Engage in workshops to discover the power of storytelling, the representation of hard of hearing individuals, the introduction of artificial intelligence, techniques for advocating for yourself through the media, and crafting your profile! You'll have the opportunity to connect with individuals who are hard of hearing young people from across the globe.

Apply now for your chance to be part of this life-changing experience! Secure your spot by [visiting our website here](#).

Submissions close on Friday, March 15th, at 24:00 CET.

Join us in shaping a world of inclusion, accessibility, and human rights!

Qais Khan

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WORLD NEWS – Disability Card



On 8 February, the Parliament and Council reached an agreement on the legislative proposal to introduce a Europe-wide "Disability Card. A flagship action under the 2021-2030 Disability Strategy, the EU Disability Card will allow people with disabilities to claim recognition of their status across the EU during short stays (including the duration of EU mobility programmes, such as Erasmus+) irrespective of which Member State originally granted it.

The proposal for the Directive on the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card was adopted in record time. It includes many improvements compared to the original proposal and we are above all happy that, after more than 10 years of campaigning, we will finally be able to hold the Card in our hands! However, it will still take a while to develop the national laws and until the systems in each Member State are set up.

Currently, the disability status granted in one European country is not necessarily

recognized in another, owing to different classification systems and social benefits associated with disability status that may not exist in another country. This often bars disabled people from accessing the goods and services they are used to at home.

As outlined in the Commission's original proposal and now confirmed by co-legislators, obtaining a Disability Card will remain subject to the national social security, health and welfare laws and classification systems of a person's country of residence; but once disability status is issued, public authorities and private entities across the EU are legally bound to treat it as equivalent to their own systems. Member States should issue the Disability Card in accessible formats, including assistive formats upon request. This would include a digital version, which would be equivalent to the physical card.

The adopted text requires Member States to make rules and conditions for the Disability Card available in accessible formats (e.g. sign language, audio features). Compared to the Parliament's proposal, the final text, however, removed the requirement for Member States to enable applicants for the Disability Card to choose whether they want to display symbols on the card that would indicate the type of assistance they require. Hearing impairment would thus not become immediately discernible to others.

By 6 months from the Directive's date of application, the Commission is required to set up an EU website dedicated to the Disability Card initiative, including links to national websites. The website needs to be established in accessible and easy-to-read formats, and also available in sign language.

The bill also includes a proposal for a European Parking Card for people with disabilities, which focuses on access to reserved public parking spaces. For practical reasons (the parking card needs to be displayed in the car, while the Disability Card needs to be carried on the person), the Commission decided not to merge the EU Disability Card with the EU Parking Card.

[Click here for further information](#), which includes links to other documents.

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WORLD NEWS – FINLAND – Russ Palmer



The University of Oulu in Finland has announced that they are awarding **Russ Palmer** with an honorary doctorate.

Along with 16 other distinguished colleagues, Russ will attend the official conferment ceremony on 17-19 May 2024. An honorary doctorate is the highest recognition that a university can give to a person. The Faculty of Education and Psychology has chosen Russ for his pioneering work with music therapy and research.

Honorary doctors are people who are internationally distinguished in the disciplines represented at the University of Oulu. Many of them have contributed to significant research collaborations with researchers from the University of Oulu. In addition, honorary doctorates have been awarded to persons who have other merits, in terms of society and the operations of the University of Oulu.

The University of Oulu recently announced the news and said of Russ:

"[He] is known internationally as a researcher and educator of social-haptic communication based on the sense of touch. One of his research areas is related to communication opportunities without visual and auditory sensations. He is a pioneer in developing and researching the interaction of people with limited communication opportunities. The core target group of social-haptic communication is deaf-blind persons or persons who are losing their visual and auditory senses. As a music therapist, Palmer also studies how music can be listened to through the body."

Congratulations to Russ!

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[WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – World Hearing Day – deaf children and young people call on the UK Government to invest in the therapy that has transformed their outcomes and opportunities.](#)



Deaf children and young people – who all learnt to listen and speak with Auditory Verbal therapy – have been calling on the UK Government to urgently invest in and increase access to the programme which transformed their opportunities.

Ahead of World Hearing Day (March 3) young CI users who attended charity Auditory Verbal UK's family programme have shared their own stories, achievements and ambitions in video messages to the UK Government and Chancellor and the UK Children's Commissioner. The young CI users include Bea who is training to be a midwife – her

dream job – despite her family being told that when she was diagnosed as profoundly deaf as a baby, she would barely be able to hear a jet engine next to her.

Bea said: “Auditory Verbal therapy not only enabled me to learn to listen and talk and attend mainstream education but also encouraged both me and my family to have high aspirations and believe I could achieve the same things as my hearing friends.

“I have always wanted to be a midwife and it is thanks to having Auditory Verbal therapy when I was younger that I am now following my passion and delivering babies. All deaf children should have the option to access the therapy programme because it is truly, truly life changing.”

Watch Bea’s message to the Government [here](#) and a montage of messages from other children and young people [here](#).

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[WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – Children’s Commissioner for England meets deaf children and young people challenging perceptions of what they can achieve.](#)



Cochlear Implant Users met the Government Children’s Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, to share their stories and achievements to show what is possible for deaf children with early and effective support, and discussed what needs to change to help them thrive.

They included teenager Hope (13) who shared her story with Dame Rachel, saying: “When my parents found out I was deaf they found themselves in a very scary and unfamiliar place with no experience of deafness. They also received lots of negative comments about my abilities and my potential to achieve and were worried about what the future would hold for me. I attend mainstream school, love music and playing netball, proof that we can do anything we set our minds to, but this has only been possible with specialist early support. My parents wanted me to learn to listen and speak and chose for me to have Auditory Verbal therapy and when I graduated my speech was ahead of a typical hearing child. I wouldn’t be the girl I am today without Auditory Verbal therapy.”

Read more [here](#)

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WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK – Deaf celebrity Tasha Ghouri inspires deaf children and young people for International Cochlear Implant Day.



Deaf celebrity, influencer and proud cochlear implant user Tasha Ghouri (front row, second from right) met deaf children and young people to share her inspiring story and hear how they are challenging perceptions of what young deaf people can achieve.

The London event was part of Auditory Verbal UK's (AVUK) celebrations around International Cochlear Implant Day. Tasha, who was joined by her dad, Tarek, heard directly from young deaf people who have been supported to listen and speak through Auditory Verbal therapy about the difference early and effective support has made to them and their families.

Deaf young people like sisters Sade (24) and Topaz (22) Oram were both diagnosed as profoundly deaf soon after birth, and wear cochlear implants. The sisters now both work as early years teachers. Sade said: *"I am proud to be deaf and proud of what both myself and my sister have achieved because of the support we had as young children with Auditory Verbal therapy and of course our family."*

"People like Tasha not only inspire me but are also a public face proving being deaf does not have to be a barrier to success, goals and aspirations. Like Tasha I am never held back by being deaf. I love travelling to new places – going skiing in the winter and going to different music festivals in the summer. I'm always looking for a new adventure!"

Tasha said: *"I was thrilled to meet these deaf young children and their families, who also share the belief that being deaf doesn't stop you from achieving your dreams."*

"We need to change attitudes about what deaf children and young people can do and I'm delighted that I had the chance to hear about the dream and ambitions they have as well as talking to them about my experiences and how I was supported on my hearing journey."

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WORLD NEWS – UK – British Cochlear Implant Group (BCIG)



International CI Day 2025

The BCIG trustees celebrated International CI Day on 25th February by releasing a 'fun-facts' video compiled by trustee Emma Stapleton, an ENT surgeon from Manchester, featuring several of the BCIG trustees. The recording is still available on [Twitter / X](#).

PPIE Group

The BCIG PPIE Group is growing – and there's now a new logo for the group. Anna Tucker is doing great work in helping CI professionals understand what CI users really want. If you have a project that would benefit from patient input, [please contact BCIG](#) as the group is ready and waiting to leap into action! Please see the new logo above.

Annual Collection of Data Update

Helen Cullington, the Immediate Past Chair of BCIG, has been assessing the numbers produced by the BCIG Annual Collection of Data:

Each year BCIG collects data from United Kingdom cochlear implant centre coordinators about the number of people using and receiving cochlear implants in the UK. These data provide fascinating insights into the current UK cochlear implant situation, and from 2021-22 we have also asked about referrals for CI assessment.

The first cochlear implant surgeries were performed in the UK in 1984; with the first child receiving an implant in 1988. Implants began to be centrally funded in 1990.

In the year from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, 1,395 people received cochlear implants in the UK (959 adults and 436 children). The maintained population of people using cochlear implants was 22,065 (15,448 adults and 6,617 children). The estimated UK population in 2023 was around 67,700,000. This means that about 3 people in every 10,000 have a cochlear implant in the UK. So, people with cochlear implants are still pretty rare in the general population. This is around three times the prevalence of people worldwide with a cochlear implant.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a devastating impact globally, and of course on surgical treatment in the UK. We were still able to give around 800 people cochlear implants in 2021 – but this was half the number from the previous year. The 2023 data show improvement (1,395 people), but we are still not up to our pre-pandemic levels (1,623

people in 2020). Implant centres have worked incredibly hard tackling the waiting lists of patients, so we really hope to see increases in the 2024 data.

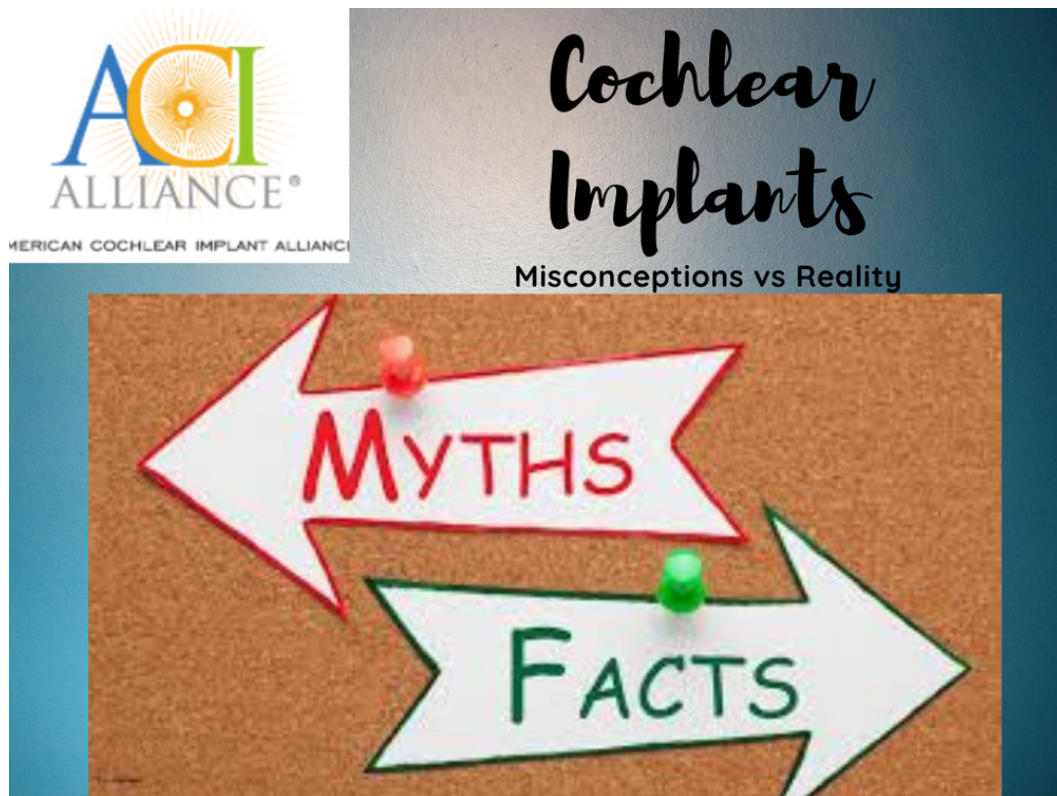
We know that there are many adults in the UK (and worldwide) who could benefit from a cochlear implant but do not currently have one. We are all working hard to improve access to cochlear implants, with schemes like the joint [British Academy of Audiology and BCIG Cochlear Implant Champions](#). Our 2023 data shows an increase in referrals for cochlear implant assessment from the previous year, so we hope we are heading in the right direction.

We are very excited for our [National Registry of Hearing Implants](#), which is being piloted in some centres now – this will make national data collection much easier and more comprehensive.

Have a look at [BCIG website](#) to see more of our annual data, and please get in touch with any questions.

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[WORLD NEWS – USA – ACI Alliance Updates](#)



[ACI Alliance Addresses Misconceptions About Cochlear Implants](#)

Finding accurate information about CIs can be a challenge for people first learning about the option. ACI Alliance created a new resource addressing common misconceptions that we encourage you to share.

MISCONCEPTION: I'll lose remaining residual hearing, so I should wait on getting a CI until I have little or no remaining hearing.

REALITY: With advances in cochlear implant surgical techniques and changes in the internal devices, recipients do not necessarily lose residual hearing after surgery, and they nearly always gain much more than they lose. CI candidacy criteria have expanded to include individuals with more residual hearing because patients do better with shorter periods of deafness. [Read about the steps to cochlear implant.](#)

MISCONCEPTION: Cochlear implants limit one's participation in sports and swimming.

REALITY: Children and adults participate in the full range of sports—even contact sports like football—utilizing protective padding in helmets. Waterproofing solutions protect the sound processor and allow recipients to hear while in the water. Some people prefer to remove their external device while swimming.

Read these questions and more: <https://www.acialliance.org/page/cimisconceptions>

Primary Care | Determining Candidacy

Adults: With increased opportunity for adults of all ages to benefit from advanced hearing technology—including cochlear implants—primary care physicians have a key role in supporting their patients and their families. If you care for adults, it is likely that there are patients in your practice who are struggling to hear despite using hearing aids and could benefit from a cochlear implant.

Children: As the family's most trusted medical professional, you have a key role in encouraging them to: explore cochlear implantation via the materials provided here; undergo a candidacy evaluation with CI specialists at an appropriate CI center; and talk to other families who have gone through the process.

<https://www.acialliance.org/page/DeterminingCICandidacy>

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Advanced Bionics – My cochlear implant failure and upgrade success



Meet Danielle, a deaf artist and art teacher in North Carolina. Danielle has had an Advanced Bionics C1 cochlear implant since 1996, when she was six years old, and she is considered a “veteran” of the device despite her age.

“By 2021, my device was showing signs of failure. [...] Over the course of the next year, it became apparent that I needed to schedule the surgery, so that I wouldn’t run into the issue of my device failing mid-life, which would cause me to not be able to work or live optimally. Besides, I was 31. I wanted to have the surgery sooner so my brain would still be young enough to adapt easily to the massive shift in technology from C1 to the new device. Knowing that I might not ever hear as well as I did at that time was frightening, but I didn’t see much of a choice. It was a risk I was going to have to take.”

In October 2022 Danielle underwent surgery again to get a new implant with the current technology, the **HiRes Ultra 3D cochlear implant** with a **Marvel CI sound processor**.

"I wish I could say that my "normal" level of hearing returned quickly, but it didn't. It took a solid five to six months for things to sound "normal" or even pleasant again. [...] But I'm here to tell you that it does get better again. It takes a while, so you have to stick with it, and suffer through the early stages. It is very possible to hear even better than you did before. I think I'm finally entering the "better than before" stage, a year after surgery."

You can read Danielle's full story on Advanced Bionics' blog, [CONNECTIONS](#). Make sure to visit the 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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[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. Working parents might need to find time to bring their child to a CI centre or hearing care professional for programming. Teenagers might need to organize their fitting appointments around active academic and social lives, while busy professionals might be unable to leave the office for appointments.

That's why we have introduced 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](https://www.advancedbionics.com/remote) to learn more. If you require more information about the app, please contact your hearing care professional or local AB support.

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[COCHLEAR – Try a musician's playlist to help you reconnect with music.](#)



Photo: Richard Reed

For Richard Reed, a professional blues musician, it was critical to re-introduce music to his life after losing his hearing.

“You use a different part of your brain to process music, so music and singing can be demanding with a cochlear implant. Pitch is different, timbre is different, even acoustic instruments can sound electric. It’s a whole new challenge.”

To help you get started, Richard has devised a Spotify playlist which encompasses music with different instruments from different genres, including flamenco guitar, drums, cello and even ukuleles, as well as a range of songs with lyrics.

Here's a selection from the playlist:

- Killing me softly, Gypsy Flamenco Masters
- I walk the line, Johnny Cash
- The girl from Ipanema, Antonio Carlos Jobim & Frank Sinatra
- Funky Drummer, James Brown

To help you create your own playlist, here are six tips from Richard:

1. Start with music you know

Simple and familiar melodies will always be the gold standard for initial forays into music with a cochlear implant, Richard says.

2. Keep it simple at first

Start with a plain melody performed on just one or two instruments because rich, complex sounds are harder to understand. Gradually introduce new but similar music and extend your library slowly.

3. Introduce variations of familiar music

Start with a new song in a similar style, perhaps by a favourite artist, and slowly try to appreciate new favourites.

*“Once in a while, try listening to different versions of a song from your childhood. There’s a nice rendition of **Peter and the Wolf on Spotify** with narration by David Bowie, and there are snippets on YouTube.”*

4. Repeat, repeat, repeat

Repeated listening is one of the big keys to success, so don’t give up if music doesn’t sound the way you remember it.

“Sometimes we must find music merely tolerable before finding it enjoyable,” he says.

5. Challenge yourself when you’re ready

Consider listening to difficult pieces occasionally. By comparison, simpler music will seem easy!

6. Be open-minded

Experiment and try not to let genre matter too much. Richard’s own playlist includes Mozart, a guitar version of Für Elise by Beethoven, Johnny Cash and Janis Joplin.

“Take this challenge as your chance to make new favourites, to find music where you don’t expect it,” he says.

To listen to Richard’s Spotify playlist, [click here](#) or scan the QRcode above.

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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 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.

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COCHLEAR – How streaming sound helps you hear more clearly.



Do you use direct streaming with your sound processor? Recipients often tell us they find it helps in many circumstances, including at work and at school – from joining work calls to watching videos.

Studies show that streaming is also proven to offer benefits in hearing with a sound processor. (1)-(3) As well as helping you enjoy more types of entertainment, work and study, it can also support your efforts to improve your listening skills.

Cutting through the noise

For example, if you're talking on the phone in a crowded place, it can be hard to hear clearly. Direct streaming from a compatible smartphone* would send the sound straight to your sound processor* without the outside interference to help you hear the conversation clearly.

Up close and personal

Streaming also allows you to hear at your personal volume level. Being able to hear more easily in more situations can help you connect with friends and family more often socially, like movie nights at home.

Things to try with direct streaming:

1. Expand your music appreciation skills

Direct streaming can be used to enjoy music. To start, create a playlist with a variety of music styles and listen to them regularly.

2. Listen to audio books

Try listening to books and follow along with the printed text as well. By reading along, you'll be able to pick up any words that were unclear or misheard.

3. Practice on the phone

Talk to friends and family on video calls using direct streaming to try and improve your ability to follow and engage in conversations. Start building your confidence by talking to a close friend or family member, then gradually increase the number of people you can communicate with for group video calls.

Learn more about True Wireless™ devices at our [dedicated website](#)

** 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.*

(1) Wolfe J, et al. Evaluation of a wireless audio streaming accessory to improve mobile telephone performance of cochlear implant users. International Journal of Audiology. 2016;55(2):75-82.

(2) Wolfe J, et al. Improving hearing performance for cochlear implant recipients with use of a digital, wireless, remote-microphone, audio-streaming accessory. J Am Acad Audiol. 2015 Jun;26(6):532-9.

(3) Warren C, Nel E, and Boyd P. Controlled comparative clinical trial of hearing benefit outcomes for users of the Cochlear™ Nucleus® 7 Sound Processor with mobile connectivity. Cochlear Implants International (2019 Feb); 20(3).

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

Cochlear's range of Smart Apps and Support Apps are available on App Store and/or Google Play.

ACE, Advance Off-Stylet, AOS, Ardium, AutoNRT, Autosensitivity, Baha, Baha SoftWear, BCDrive, Beam, Bring Back the Beat, Button, Carina, Cochlear, 科利耳, コクレア, 코클리어, Cochlear SoftWear, Contour, 콘트واء, Contour Advance, Custom Sound, DermaLock, Freedom, Hear now. And always, Hugfit, Human Design, Hybrid, Invisible Hearing, Kanso, LowPro, MET, MP3000, myCochlear, mySmartSound, NRT, Nucleus Osia, Outcome Focused Fitting, Off-Stylet, Piezo Power, Profile, Slimline, SmartSound, Softip, SoundArc, SoundBand, True Wireless, the elliptical logo, Vistafix, Whisper, WindShield and Xidium are either trademarks or registered trademarks of the Cochlear group of companies.

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[MED-EL – New Campaign “A Life of Possibilities” to reassure parents](#)



On World Hearing Day, MED-EL launched a new campaign to support parents of children with hearing loss, showcasing that children can lead “A Life of Possibilities”.

Young cochlear implant users also feature as some of the stars in the campaign’s short videos that celebrate children’s memorable milestones like the first day of school, sleepovers, and sports days. Milestones that parents of children with severe hearing loss can be worried about.

The new MED-EL campaign wants to empower parents with the knowledge they need to navigate uncertain times and medical terms, acknowledging their anxieties after diagnosis of hearing loss and connecting them with other parents who have been through similar experiences with their child.

Impacts of untreated hearing loss still underestimated.

As part of the 2024 campaign, MED-EL conducted a global market research to gain insights into the perceived impact of untreated hearing loss on children. Summarizing the key findings, over a third of adults are unaware of its importance of hearing for a child’s speech development, educational achievements, and social connections. This underlines the need to help raise awareness about hearing loss, the support available, and appropriate technologies such as cochlear implants.

Materials and support for parents.

Supporting materials of the global “Life of Possibilities” campaign include a dedicated website and a guide for parents, available for free download. Parents can also connect with Hearpeers Mentors who share their own experiences.

Check out the [“Life of Possibilities” campaign](#) now and share it with parents who have only just started the hearing journey with their child.

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[MED-EL – Celebrating the Bright Minds of the IDEASforEARS Winners!](#)



The results are in! More than 250 brilliant young inventors from 24 countries participated in 2024 IDEASforEARS Children's Invention Contest from MED-EL. This year, 14 creative children from across the globe stood out, with their unique ideas winning them a trip to the MED-EL headquarters in Innsbruck, Austria.

Smart Watches, Solar Power, Apps and Charging Innovations

Children who are affected by hearing loss know firsthand about the challenges and opportunities of using hearing technology in everyday life. That's why their ideas are always among the most innovative! Picking the global winners was not an easy task for the jury, given all those creative ideas that were submitted during the contest. They ranged from smart watches with special features for people with hearing loss to eco-friendly processors, handy features such as sibling mute mode, and intelligent apps.

This year's participants showcased a keen interest in sustainable solutions, using sun, wind and kinetic energy to power their hearing devices.

Find out more about the amazing ideas of the [IDEASforEARS 2024 winners](#) and see who will be travelling to Austria soon. If you have a great idea that could help individuals with hearing loss, share it with us in the next edition of IDEASforEARS, taking off on November 9, 2024.

Follow the #IDEASforEARS adventure on the [IDEASforEARS Facebook page](#) and stay connected with the global community of hearing innovation enthusiasts!

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