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Message from the President



(Photo: Prof Graeme Clark & Robert Mandara)

18th March 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of EURO-CIU. Our foundation meeting was held on 18th March 1995, when cochlear implants were in their infancy. While we have come a long way since then, unfortunately we are still climbing the same mountains today, for awareness, access and lifelong care. In 1995 there was a great deal of opposition and negativity towards cochlear implants. Now, 30 years later, we can see that the technology is proven, incredibly reliable, safe and accepted. Besides, cochlear implant outcomes are typically far better than the inventors ever expected them to be.

Our 30th Anniversary Symposium will be in Istanbul on 4th April (with General Assembly for members only on 5th April), and I hope that many of you will be there.

Jumping forward 30 years into the future, how do we expect the world of cochlear implants to look in 2055? Will people of all ages be able to get bilateral implants? Will all CI users get frequent device upgrades, free consumables (batteries, filters...) and spare processors? Will people need to be able to get the additional support that they need? Will everyone who needs implants be able to get them? Will CI users have geographical mobility without having to worry about who will look after their ears? Will the same three brands dominate the CI market? Will EURO-CIU still be a strong advocacy force?

Technology and medicine will inevitably advance. For example, totally implantable devices and gene therapy solutions may arrive soon, while artificial intelligence is expected to

improve processor mapping. Our community needs to carefully consider every “advance” and steer decision makers accordingly.

EURO-CIU relies on member associations and active volunteers within them. Historically, when most CI users were children, the active volunteers were inevitably the parents of CI users. Now that there are over 500,000 CI users in Europe, most of them very capable young adults, I strongly encourage existing CI users to put themselves forward and advocate for CI users. New persons with lived experience need to come in and refresh EURO-CIU, as well as our member associations, with new vision and drive.

As many of you know this will be my last column. Having served six years on the board of EURO-CIU as Vice-President and President, I will be standing down at the General Assembly on 5th April. Thank you to everyone who has supported me. In Istanbul we will therefore be electing a new President, 2nd Vice-President and Secretary. To apply for any of these roles or to find out more, please contact Beatrice Cusmai beatrice.cusmai@aguav.it for an application form. I hope and trust that EURO-CIU will continue to grow and thrive well into the future. Here's to the next 30 years!

Robert Mandara
President, EURO-CIU

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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 Istanbul 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 Turkey 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 2 June 2025. 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 – 30th Anniversary and Symposium



The banner features the EURO-CIU logo on the left, which includes a stylized 'C' with a sunburst and the text 'EUROCIU EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF COCHLEAR IMPLANT USERS O.S.B.L.'. To the right is the CID logo, a circular emblem with 'CID' and 'COCHLEAR IMPLANT DERNEĞİ' below it. The central text reads 'EURO-CIU's 30th Anniversary' in a cursive font, followed by '15th EURO-CIU Symposium Past, Present and Future: The journey of listening with cochlear implants' in bold. Below this, the dates '4th April 2025 Symposium' and '5th April 2025 General Assembly' are listed. A registration link 'Register here: www.eurociu2025.com' is provided. The location 'ISTANBUL/TÜRKİYE' and 'Faculty of Architecture-TAŞKİŞLA' are mentioned. The bottom left has the hashtag '#eurociu2025' and the website 'www.eurociu.eu'. The bottom right features logos for ITÜ and the EURO-CIU logo. A stylized illustration of the Galata Tower is on the right side of the banner.

It is a pleasure and great honour to welcome you, on behalf of Cochlear Implant Derneği (Cochlear Implant Association), CID Türkiye, to EURO-CIU's 30th Anniversary and 15th EURO-CIU Symposium, Past, Present and Future: The Journey of listening with cochlear implants. It will be held in İstanbul, Türkiye on 4th & 5th April 2025.

Türkiye has been a centre of excellence in cochlear implantation for decades, with leading experts advancing ground-breaking practices in both paediatric and adult cochlear implantation. Since the inception of cochlear implant programs, the Cochlear Implant Association has played a critical role in providing information among families and building bridges between families and professionals.

We are honoured to once again host the 15th EURO-CIU Symposium, marking an important occasion for the cochlear implant community in Türkiye. This event provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate the advancements in cochlear implantation over the past three decades and the profound impact these have had on the lives of individuals with hearing loss and their families.

Istanbul is an ideal location for this gathering, offering excellent travel connections to major European and international hubs, and world-class conference facilities designed to accommodate the diverse needs of a global event of this scale.

The website registration is open and current developments and information can be followed on the website, www.eurociu2025.com.

We look forward to hosting you and our colleagues in Istanbul, a city known for its rich history and ongoing contributions to the field of cochlear implantation.

Aylin ÖZGÜR,
President of CID Association

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30 years EURO-CIU a.s.b.l. by Prof Dr Hendrik Fehr



(Photo: Prof Dr Hendrik Fehr & Prof. Dr. Ernst Lehnhardt)

Our son Martin Fehr, deaf since he survived meningitis at 4 years-old, received a cochlear implant (CI) at the age of 15 years against the advice of the director of his school in Frankenthal/Germany, but encouraged after sound analysis by Prof. Dr. Ernst Lehnhardt (†) at the University Hospital in Hannover in 1992.

In 1994 Prof. Lehnhardt contacted me and Mrs. and Mr. Welter-Konsbruck from Luxembourg with the idea to create an NGO defending the interests of CI Users and their families. He asked us to support him in setting up a draft statute and launched later a meeting in Luxembourg with potential CI users and parents of children being implanted to create such an association.

Prof. Lehnhardt encouraged me to support him in this project given that I was already, for many years, working in EU institutions and speaking four languages (German, English, Spanish, French). During the first Assembly the twenty persons from ten countries decided to give the association the name EURO-CIU, many years before the term EURO was used for the actual European Union Currency.

Key issues/advice which Prof. Lehnhardt recommended for this association were following:

1. Representing CI users and their environment in Europe (in particular the European Union – EU);
2. Statutory members can only be CI users, parents of children using CI, registered CI associations in European countries supporting the objectives of this association;
3. Representatives from each country have only two statutory members and maximum two votes for the General Assembly;
4. Supporting members are allowed to join EURO-CIU but without having voting rights;
5. The board must be composed by statutory members;
6. No difference made between the size of the national associations being member of

EURO-CIU for the voting: one country two votes;

7. Absolutely-wise was the strict prohibition of access of professional persons or entities (as medical staff, sign language interpreters, hospitals, CI producers etc) on EURO-CIU's decisions and policies. This should assure the independence of the CI users and protect EURO-CIU for being accused of being in the hands of professional or business interests.

Another important rule was that, contrary to all other European Associations in the field of disabled persons, EURO-CIU applied the three main languages in its communication: English, French and German (which was during my 20 years as President and Vice President a particular challenge in assuring during the assemblies or board meetings the interpretation nearly simultaneously between the three core languages and Spanish).

Finally, Prof. Lehnhardt invited (at his expense) 20 persons – CI users and parents of children using CI from 10 countries (Austria, Belgian, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Luxembourg) to Luxembourg in order to discuss and create EURO-CIU on the 18th of March 1995. On this date the draft statute was decided, and the first Board was unanimously elected. First board members were myself as president, Dr. Martina Junius, CI user from Germany and Dr. Anita Wallin CI user from Sweden as Vice-Presidents, Anne-Marie Welter-Konsbruck mother of a CI-using child from Luxembourg as Secretary, Mr. Brentener(†) whose wife was CI user from Luxembourg as treasurer, the father of CI using children from Czech Republic Karel Pokorny and from Portugal José Lopes Dias CI user.

Franz Wimmer (†) CI user from Austria was the first auditor of EURO-CIU.

EURO-CIU a.s.b.l. (non-profitmaking association) was registered in the official register of associations of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on 31st on January 1996 and was approved on 6 April. The first General Assembly was held on 1 June in Munich (Germany) with 15 member countries, with the addition of Spain, Turkey, Switzerland, Poland and the United Kingdom.

I had the pleasure to lead EURO-CIU during 10 years as president and support it as one of the vice presidents another 10 years, made many friends and enjoyed the increase of the associated countries and successful action and annual meetings in many countries – which always were the highlight thanks to the commitment of the organizing associations in the host countries.

Regrettably, until 2015, we did not make much progress in developing a common base of interests which the many other associations involved for persons with hearing disabilities (hard of hearing, parents of hard of hearing children, deaf blind, sign language interpreters, deaf persons). But I hope the threats I received at the beginning from “competing” associations (“Mr. Fehr Wanted dead or alive”) are not any more the case.

Thanks to the effective work of Maria Teresa Amat (president from 2015 to 2023) the so-called “platform” on the level of the EDF succeeded in bringing the above-mentioned associations together by convincing them that common coordinated actions were in the interest of all groups of the hearing impairment. The results at the elections inside the EDF showed that this was the way to do it.

However, it was impressive how many CI associations from other countries have joined EURO-CIU, counting now thirty-three associations from twenty-three European countries. Furthermore EURO-CIU created a special website and launched a specific newsletter which keeps members and other interested in CI issues always well informed. Great thanks to Fernando Gimenez and Brian Archbold for taking care of these!

All the best for all my friends for the next 30 years and beyond! I am so proud of the progress of the “baby” which Prof.Dr. Lehnhardt had put on its way.

Prof Dr Hendrik Fehr

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25th February 2025 – Cochlear Implant Day "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges"



www.eurociu.eu

25/02/2025 Cochlear Implant Day

**30th
anniversary
1995-2025**



EURO-CIU declared the slogan “Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges” for Cochlear Implant Day 2025, emphasizing the urgent need to overcome the stigmas and everyday challenges faced by the hard of hearing and deaf people. Through education, culture, and the dissemination of information about cochlear implants, the goal is to enhance understanding and improve lives.

Cochlear implants offer “new hearing” to people affected by profound hearing loss. While hearing aids amplify sound and benefit many, they may fall short for those with severe impairments. Cochlear implants bypass damaged areas of the cochlea, directly stimulating the auditory nerve, and can significantly improve speech understanding, as well as the perception of music and environmental sounds.

Empowering Older Adults

Despite their effectiveness, cochlear implants remain underutilized, particularly among older adults. Misconceptions about their suitability for this age group persist, and hearing loss is often overlooked as a critical health concern. However, studies show that outcomes for older adults are just as successful as for younger candidates. With health services covering cochlear implantation for eligible individuals, it's vital to raise awareness and ensure proper referrals.

Aligning with World Hearing Day

As we marked Cochlear Implant Day on February 25th, we also looked ahead to World

Hearing Day on March 3rd. This year's theme emphasizes empowering individuals to prioritize ear and hearing care, encouraging regular hearing checks, hearing protection, and support for those with hearing loss. Together, we aim to inspire positive behavioral change and foster an inclusive society where hearing health is a shared priority.

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[Willy Fuchs, EURO-CIU Treasurer from 1995-1999](#)



(Photo: Town Hall, Prague 1997 – Anita Wallin, Willy Fuchs and Nicole Fuchs)

Willy Fuchs and his daughter Nicole, a CI-user, attended the founding Assembly of EURO-CIU in Luxembourg on March 18th 1995. After a few months the first treasurer, Mr Pierre Brentener, resigned and Willy Fuchs took over the mandate. So, he was the EURO-CIU treasurer until the General Assembly in Salzburg in 1999. As a supporting member he continued following with great interest the work of EURO-CIU. He passed away on October 16th 2024.

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[CIICA's Young Adults with CI launch their Agenda and Video](#)



On CIICA's fourth birthday and CI International Day, we were delighted to share the Agenda which a global group of Young Adults with CI has been working on. This new stakeholders' group, the first to receive hearing through cochlear implants as children, are now entering higher education and the world of work.

See their recommendations for the provision of lifelong services, increased accessibility in Education, the Workplace and Public Spaces and for public awareness of the impact of hearing loss and deafness and of cochlear implantation.

"While CI solves so many problems, there are a few that could be solved with just a bit more attentive, lifelong care"

This global group of Young Adults with Cochlear Implants have come together to make an exciting video about the small changes they would like to see to make their life even better with this great technology. Download the Agenda and See the Video at [CIICA'S 4th Birthday & International CI Day: Young Adults with Cochlear Implants Launch their Agenda – CIICA](#)

"As part of the new generation of deaf people working and thriving in the hearing world, this Agenda exists to connect us to a wider community across the world ..."

EURO-CIU is a founding member CIICA

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[SPAIN – Resounding success of the 3rd AICE Federation Solidarity Concert](#)

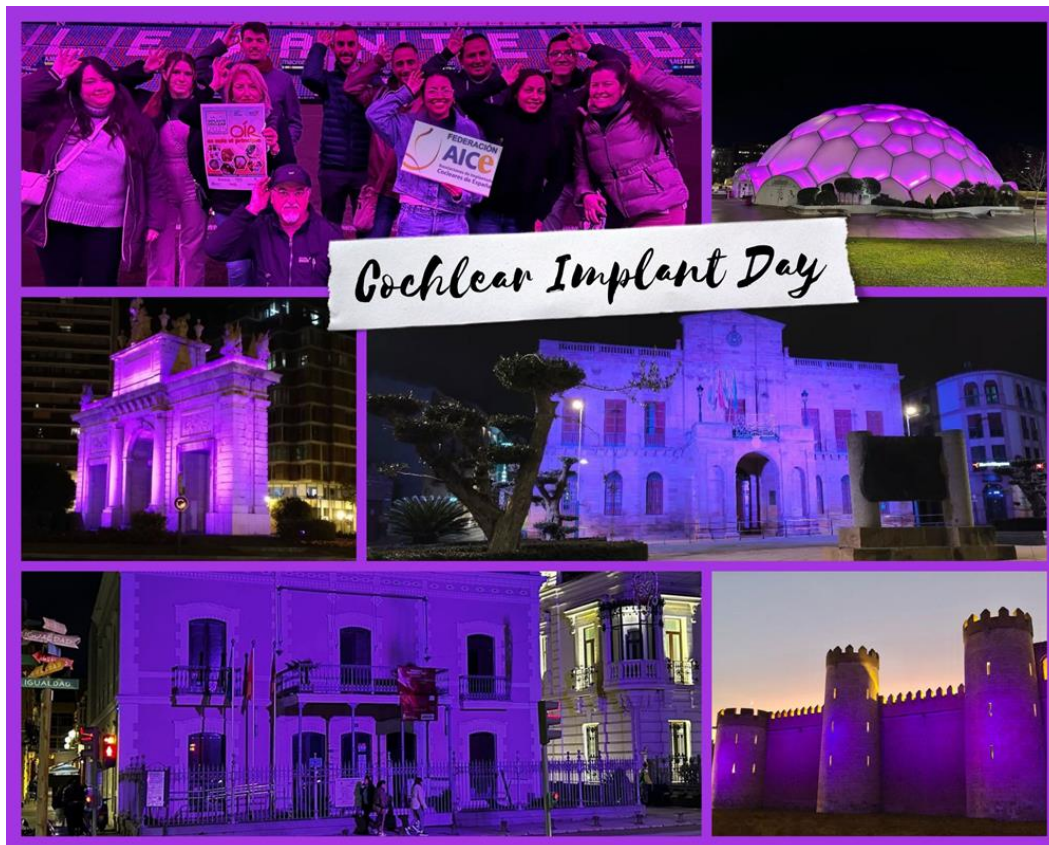


On 15 February, the Palau de la Música in Valencia hosted the 3rd Solidarity Concert organised by the AICE Federation and the “Cuarteto de Cuerda Valencia”, bringing together more than 1,500 people in a unique event that combined music and cochlear implant awareness. The Philharmonic Orchestra of the University of Valencia and the Amici Musicae Choir of Zaragoza joined this initiative to perform Beethoven's 9th Symphony, a symbol of overcoming the challenges that led to a reflection on what the composer's life would have been like if he had had access to cochlear implants?

Thanks to the efforts of the organising team, the event was sold out days before the event, with the support of institutions, sponsors and an enthusiastic audience. The evening was a tribute to music and accessibility, thanks to the magnetic loop available in the hall, which allowed those with hearing loss to fully enjoy the concert and the Ode to Joy subtitled in German and Spanish for all those present. A success that reinforces AICE's commitment to inclusion and the dissemination of cochlear implantation.

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[SPAIN – Cochlear Implant Day](#)



Cochlear Implant Day

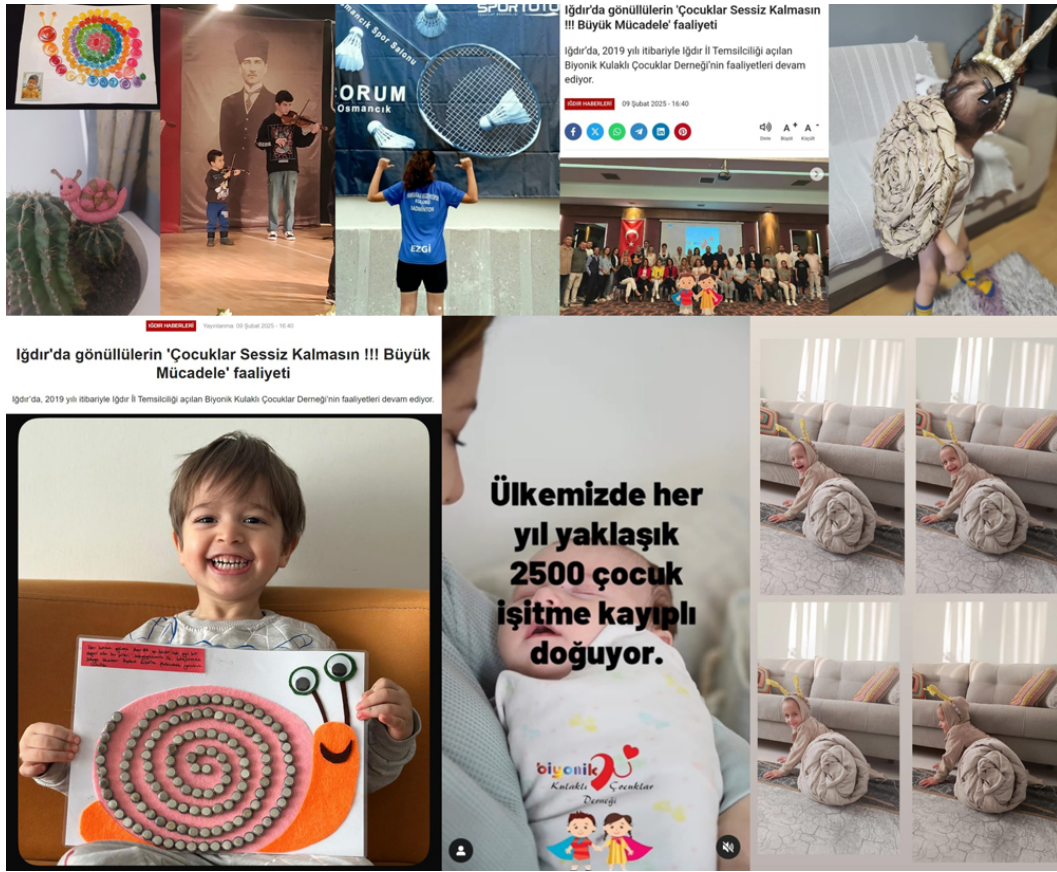
For the fourth consecutive year, the AICE Federation has launched its campaign for the Illumination of Emblematic Buildings throughout Spain, an initiative that has been joined by numerous Public Administrations from 14 Autonomous Communities.

The colour chosen to commemorate International Cochlear Implant Day is lilac, a shade that, on the one hand, evokes the magazine Integration and, on the other hand, distinguishes itself from the colours used by cochlear implant brands.

As in previous years, many municipalities have actively participated in the campaign by lighting up their most representative buildings. This year, for the first time, several sports clubs have decided to join forces to increase visibility, broadcasting messages on their screens during matches and lighting up their stadiums.

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TURKEY – Biyonik Kulaklı Çocuklar Derneği



This year, as the Biyonik Kulaklı Çocuklar Derneği, we organized an online event on February 25th. We invited families to share photos of snail-themed activities they created with their children and published these images on our association's page. On the same day, a distinguished professor delivered a comprehensive training session for families. Additionally, as February 25th approached, we shared a public awareness campaign on the importance of cochlear implants and the number of babies born with hearing loss in our country.

Our Activities in the Last Three Months

Over the past three months, we have conducted weekly training programs for families. Experts and academics delivered presentations on the following topics:

December:

- Supporting Social Competence – Asst. Prof. Dr. Merve Kaymaz (Department of Special Education, Hearing Impairment Education)
- The Role of the Family in Auditory Rehabilitation – Sinem Ayan

January:

- Supporting the Social Skills of Students in Inclusive Classrooms – Asst. Prof. Dr. Ebru Yalçıntuğ (Special Education, Hearing Impairment Education)
- Privacy Education – Specialist Teacher Belgin İçyüz (Muğla Provincial Directorate of National Education)
- Phonological Awareness – Audiologist & Speech and Language Therapist Beyzanur Yıldız
- Cochlear Implant and Auditory Brainstem Implant Adjustments & Q&A Session – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Merve Batuk (Hacettepe University, Department of Audiology)

February:

- Information Session on Cochlear Implant Devices – Emrah Kaymaz (Senior Customer Service and Consumer Sales Specialist, Cochlear Company)

- Impact of Hearing Loss on Child Development – Prof. Dr. Hasan Gürgür (Anadolu University)

In addition, in February, we submitted an Erasmus+ project under KA152-YOU - Mobility of Young People, titled "Safe Digital Spaces for Cochlear Implant Users: Youth-Led Solutions." This project aims to create safe digital spaces for cochlear implant users and is supported by an international consortium that includes EURO-CIU members.

Furthermore, the daughter of one of our association representatives, who is a cochlear implant user, Ezgi participated in the Para Badminton Türkiye Championship and ranked third in Turkey. Additionally, the son of our association's president, Ata who is also a cochlear implant user, will perform on the violin at the World Hearing Day event organized by Gazi University on March 3rd.

Finally, our association was featured in a local newspaper in Iğdır, highlighting our activities and impact.

Upcoming Plans

Over the next three months, we plan to conduct the following activities:

- Organizing Family Gathering Seminars in 2 or 3 different cities to meet with families.
- Continuing online family education programs for children aged 0-6 years.
- Hosting a large event for families as part of a spring or summer festival in Ankara.
- Attending the meeting of EURO-CIU in Istanbul in April.

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[RELATED CONGRESS – BATOD and BAEA joint conference](#)



The British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People (BATOD) and the British Association of Educational Audiologists (BAEA), with support from BATOD South West and BAEA South, 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.

Technology is central to the lives of deaf children and young people, offering tools for extending participation in education, work and leisure. This conference will allow those working in the field to share information and explore how deaf children's future lives can be enhanced and extended by technology in its broadest terms.

Papers and presentations may consider areas such as:

1. Innovations with technology hardware and software
2. Artificial intelligence
3. Apps for communication, participation and interaction
4. Gaming and online leisure or social activities
5. Technology for signed and spoken languages
6. Assistive listening technology
7. Accessibility for work and involvement in society

Venue: [The Deaf Academy](#), 1 Douglas Ave, Exmouth EX8 2AU

Please [check out the website](#) and purchase your ticket via this [Eventbrite link](#).

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[RELATED CONGRESS – British Cochlear Implant Group \(BCIG\) – 1 & 2](#)



Everyone at BCIG is looking forward to this year's Annual Conference in London on 1st and 2nd April! The venue is the wonderful Royal College of Physicians on the edge of Regent's Park and the theme of the event is "Future Horizons in Auditory and Ear Implants". The programme is packed with experts from the CI world. A very warm welcome is extended to Professor Frank Lin of the Cochlear Centre for Hearing and Public Research at The John Hopkins School of Medicine, USA who will be presenting this year's Graham Fraser Memorial Lecture. His talk is entitled, "Transforming hearing through evidence, policy, and awareness". This topic is bound to be of interest to all delegates – especially in the UK, where a BCIG SIG is examining the current NICE Guidelines. Paediatric Auditory Brainstem Implants are also in the spotlight with a keynote speaker presentation by Jonathon Whitton; Amy Swarkowshi will be discussing family-centred early intervention and vestibular implants will be thoroughly explored in an in-depth session.

Registration is still open until 17 March, and further programme details are available on the meeting website:

[Aesculap Academy Great Britain - British Cochlear Implant Group Meeting \(BCIG\)](#)

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[RELATED CONGRESS – CI2025 Boston, USA – 30 April to 3 May](#)



CI 2025 Boston: Conference on Cochlear Implants

Early Bird rates will be available until 12 March 2025. Don't miss these cost-saving rates by waiting to register. [CI2025 Boston Meeting - Cochlear Implants Children & Adults](#)

CI2025 Boston will be held In-Person. Registration includes:

- Access to the Scientific Program Sessions
- Access to CEU/CME Credit Claiming
- Symposia Materials
- Thursday and Friday Lunches
- Thursday Welcome Reception

We look forward to seeing you there!

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[RELATED CONGRESS – USA – Twelfth International Adult Aural Rehabilitation Conference: 4 – 6 May 2025](#)





(Photo from previous conference and Geoff Plant)

Venue: Woburn Elks Lodge

If you are coming to Boston for CI2025:BOSTON, you should consider staying on for a few more days to attend the Twelfth International Adult Aural Rehabilitation Conference to be held in Woburn, MA. Woburn is located around 20 km (12 miles) from Boston, and there are a number of hotels near the conference site. The conference is hosted by the [Hearing Rehabilitation Foundation](#) and offers participants the chance to find out more about the current state of Aural Rehabilitation practices.

The theme of the Twelfth International Adult AR conference will be “Aural Rehabilitation: Where the Magic Happens!” We are calling for papers that embrace the theme of providing AR services of all types in the office/clinic and/or in the surrounding community.

Our invited speakers are Nicholas Reed from New York University, and Karen Chan Barrett from the University of California, San Francisco. Nick will speak on the ACHIEVE clinical trial of hearing intervention vs healthy aging control on 3-year cognitive decline, and provide insights on hearing, hearing aid use, and aging outcomes from large epidemiologic studies such as National Health Aging and Trends Study. Karen’s presentation will focus on the use of music for aural rehabilitation. There will also be a number of contributed papers, plus a panel of adults with hearing loss speaking about the effects of auditory training on their lives.

The Conference will start with a reception at the HRF Office in Woburn, MA on the evening of Sunday, May 4, 2025. This informal event will run from 5:00 – 7:00 pm and will provide a chance to catch up with old friends, and to meet participants from other places. Transportation will be provided from local hotels if needed. The meeting will run for two full days (9:00 am – 5:00 pm).

[Registration is now open](#), and we are offering an Early Bird fee of \$350. The registration fee after March 28, 2025 will be \$400. This fee provides one conference registration, which includes light breakfast, lunch, morning, and afternoon coffee breaks on the two days of the conference, the Welcome Reception on May 4, 2025, and a copy of the Conference Handbook. A Conference Dinner is planned for the evening of May 5, but will not be covered by the registration fee. A special registration rate for students is available upon request.

!!WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

[Geoff Plant](#)

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[RELATED CONGRESS – European Symposium on Paediatric Cochlear Implantation 2025 – 11 to 14 June 2025](#)



We are very honoured to host the important [European Symposium on Paediatric Cochlear Implantation 2025](#) again in Hannover after the first event in 1996. We will be able to demonstrate the fast development over these three decades with the enormous impact on the life of deaf children and their families but also the change that has happened in the field of teaching, rehabilitation, diagnosis and concepts of care with the build-up of networks of multidisciplinary interinstitutional networks.

Hannover is an ideal location for this type of meeting due to the good travel connections to all major hubs in Europe by air, train and car as well as the conference facilities, which will provide a first class venue for this type of international meeting with the expected number of participants.

We will focus on well-selected topics presented by keynote speeches and focus sessions, educational sessions, training workshops and a large industry and scientific exhibition.

The meeting shall promote the issue of optimized and quality issued care using cochlear implants for hard of hearing children. On behalf of the local scientific committee, I am convinced that we will be able to provide an outstanding international meeting with many participants from all countries across Europe as well as other continents.

[Registration is now open.](#)

We are glad and proud to host you and all our colleagues in the pioneering city of Hannover with respect to the field of cochlear implants.

[Thomas Lenarz](#)

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[RELATED CONGRESS – International Symposium on Usher Syndrome –
19 & 20 June 2025](#)



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON USHER SYNDROME

19, 20, 21 June 2025 · Nijmegen, The Netherlands

ush2025.org

info@ush2025.org

#USH2025



Registration is open for the Scientific Congress (on June 19th-20th) of USH2025.

As the Scientific Congress focuses on knowledge sharing and aims to connect and encourage collaboration and crossovers between different fields of expertise, it will be a great help if you can share this news with your network of interested researchers and scientists. And invite them to join us!

Registration URL: <https://www.ush2025.org/en/informatie/inschrijven-en-kosten/>

During registration participants can choose to submit an abstract for oral or poster presentation.

Abstracts to be submitted by March 28, 2025, the Abstracts Committee will send further details to the applicants.

More information about the Scientific Congress, such as fees, location, speakers, accessibility, can be found on our website. www.USH2025.org/en/.

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RELATED CONGRESS – CI ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2025 – 16 & 17 October 2025



WHEN: Thursday 16th October from 09:00 to 17:00 and Friday 17th October from 09:00 to 16:30.

WHERE: [Maison des Associations Internationales](#), 40 Rue Washington, Brussels, 1050, Belgium

Go to [CI ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2025: 16TH & 17TH OCTOBER 2025 – CIICA](#) for details and to register. If you are a CI user, you may be eligible for a 50% discount on the ticket price. (early bird ticket quantities are limited to 30 and available until 30th June 2025).

Our CIICA global network continues to grow, with members in 74 countries inspiring each

other to action to ensure maximum benefit from this amazing technology.

Building on the impact of our first global conference in 2024 in Brussels, our second conference 'CI Advocacy in Action 2025' will bring together the network of CI users, families, professionals, academics, industry and policy makers and funders together to share advocacy challenges and successes.

With funding and resource challenges globally, how do we ensure that those who could benefit from CI can gain access, and those who have CI have the lifelong sustainable services required?

- How do we influence the key stakeholders?
- Could services be delivered differently?
- How can service providers and users and families work together to ensure the services are effective and efficient?
- What about equity for those in low and middle income countries?
- How are services delivered to those who are older?

These and other issues will be addressed in a lively and vibrant two days, in this unique inclusive conference learning from each other and building collaboration across the globe.

Come and join us to add your voice to the network and help us to move CI Advocacy forward across the globe.

The venue is fully accessible and the conference will have captioning in English, French, Spanish, German and Dutch, with other languages on request. Last year's delegates said: *"The most accessible conference I have ever been to..."*

Have a look at the reflections from last year at [Insights from Delegates: CI Advocacy in Action in Brussels 2024 – CIICA](#) and join us this year to develop amazing global collaborations to ensure sustainable CI services for all.

"I feel inspired and energised – going back home full of hope and inspiration."

"Wonderful interactions with so many inspiring advocates – sharing ideas and challenges.."

"... loved every moment – the same goals in different ways..."

EURO-CIU is a founding member CIICA

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[WORLD NEWS – The World Hearing Forum](#)



The World Hearing Forum, with over 200 members, drives a global advocacy initiative that provides a common platform and narrative for all stakeholders to collaborate and raise awareness about the need and means for ear and hearing care through its five workstreams:

1. [Make Listening Safe](#)
2. [World Hearing Day](#)
3. [Changemakers](#) (Co-Chair: Teresa Amat)
4. [External Relations](#) and
5. [Members Engagement](#) (Co-Chair: Sue Archbold)

... to achieve its advocacy goal.

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

Are you interested in becoming a member? The membership application process will reopen from March 15 to June 15, 2025.

[Apply here!](#)

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[WORLD NEWS – World Hearing Day 2025: Virtual Lunch Debate in the European Parliament](#)







➤ **Welcome** – MEP Zala Tomasic

➤ **WHO World Hearing Day 2025 theme** - Shelly Chadha – WHO

➤ **The EU Disability Employment Package** - Monika Chaba – European Commission

➤ **Hard of Hearing people in employment - implementing inclusive approach** – Lidia Best– EFHOH

➤ **Advocacy / multi-sectoral action for change** - Ariane Laplante-Lévesque - WHO Europe

➤ **The consequences of hearing loss on employment** – Mark Laureyns – AEA

➤ **The role of hearing health in employment and job retention** – Stefan Zimmer - EHIMA

➤ **Debate** - All

➤ **Conclusion** – MEP Zala Tomasic

Virtual Lunch Debate – European Parliament
“World Hearing Day 2025 – Changing Mindsets”
 Host: MEP Zala Tomasic (Slovenia, EPP)
 Tuesday the 4th of March 2025 12:30-14:30h CET
 All presentation are supported with Speech to Text in:
 English, Dutch, French, German, Slovenian and Spanish




On occasion of World Hearing Day 2025, **MEP Zala Tomasic** hosted a Virtual Lunch Debate in the European Parliament in cooperation with **EFHOH**, **AEA** and **EHIMA** on 4 March 2025.

The recordings of the presentations as well as the subsequent debate can be accessed via the following links:

- MEP Zala Tomasic (EPP): [Video](#)
- Shelly Chadha (WHO): [Video](#)
- Monika Chaba (European Commission): [Video](#)
- Lidia Best (EFHOH): [Video](#)
- Ariana Laplante-Lévesque (WHO Europe): [Video](#)
- Mark Laureyns (AEA): [Video](#)
- Stefan Zimmer (EHIMA): [Video](#)
- Debate and conclusions: [Video](#)

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[WORLD NEWS – EDF Women’s Committee meeting in Greece](#)





(Photos: Group picture of the EDF Women's Committee and EDF staff; Louise Danielsson narrates in sign language for the video of the Women's Committee; and Committee discusses with the participants of Greece.)

The EDF Women's committee received an invitation to hold its Board meeting in Thessaloniki, Hellas.

Thank you to Foteini Zafeiropoulou, National Confederation of Disabled People and for the help of EDF President, Joannis Vardakastanis, organising two-days' meetings and presentations of Disability women of Greece at end of the April.

Work of Disability rights in Greece

Greece has adopted a new legislation on the EU directive on violence against women, but any input concerning the protection of women with disabilities were not included. They continue to claim to integrate accessibility, access to personal assistance and providing the information in accessible format. There is a lack of knowledge and application of accessibility for information and communication. This includes, for example, the possibility to get help using sign language, whether there is no existing possibility for speech to text aid. Judges and prosecutors are a big issue because those involved in criminal procedures do not apply the human rights approach. They are now putting effort in ensuring transposition of the EU Directive.

Several Greek disability associations were invited to discuss and give presentations, but only few of them attended. One of their biggest issues is the accessibility questions of disabilities to get better employment and living possibilities. Especially living in old towns are challenging to them.

Asking to have the possibility to meet the deaf people associations, there was little, because of the problems and fear of communication problems. According to information from Ms. Zafeiropoulou, associations of the Cochlear implants' users seem to her not to be very active.

Other issues

Board members presented their ongoing projects and work of disability associations. Elena Ratoi (ENIL) from Moldova Disability Associations mentioned that Moldova was seriously affected by the quick decision of US president to reduce foreign support because a lot of organizations are working in the field of human rights, gender equality and rely on funds from the United States government. The big problem is when the projects that were paid by USAID were forced suddenly to stop, even if these were not finished or paid.

Louisa Danielsson from EUD (European Union of Deaf) presented the work of Deaf Women working group. Their main issues are how to empower and get more women in leadership and how to access to the health. They will also prepare a toolkit.

The next stage

The Committee will prepare an EDF roadmap on the rights of women and girls with disabilities covering the new mandate of the EU institutions, which is a document that will contribute to the consultation on the EU Gender Equality Strategy. There is also mentioned three other documents: the Guide on the transposition of the Directive on combating violence against women, the report for the review of the EU by the GREVIO and the Position paper on gender stereotypes against women with disabilities. The video

of presentations of the women's committee members saying the phrases of stereotypes is in production.

Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö
EDF Representative from EURO-CIU

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WORLD NEWS – BELGIUM – CI-user Rob Beenders became Minister in Belgium!



(Photo: Robert Mandara, President of EURO-CIU with Rob Beenders)

On Sunday 2 February 2025, I was watching the 7pm news on Belgium television when they announced that Rob Beenders, CI-user and Director Global Public Advocacy of the Cochlear Company was to become Minister of Consumer Affairs, Combating Social Fraud and Equal Opportunities in the new Belgian government.

Rob was a member of the Flemish parliament when he had a sudden hearing loss, caused by Ménière disease. Because he could not manage all the conversations, he stopped working in the Flemish parliament in 2019. After some counselling, he decided to go for a cochlear implant in his deaf ear and a hearing aid in the other ear, which was an excellent decision. Rob was very satisfied with his implant, and was even willing to advocate for CI. So Cochlear invited him to work as a public advocator, first for Benelux and later as Director Global Public Advocacy. An example of how a cochlear implant can help you to reintegrate into a social and professional working environment.

During all these years he was still having close contact with the leaders of the socialist party. Because of his expertise they asked him now to join the government.

EURO-CIU would like to congratulate Rob Beenders in becoming Minister of Consumer Affairs, Social Fraud and Equal Opportunities in Belgium! He's setting a great example for all CI users: the first minister with a cochlear implant!

Leo De Raeve
Scientific Advisor EURO-CIU

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WORLD NEWS – KYRGYZSTAN – Round Table “Inclusion for Children with Hearing Impairments” in Bishkek



In April 2024 the Lehnhardt Foundation, with support from German International Cooperation Society (GIZ), launched the project "Development of a sustainable support program for hard of hearing and deaf children in Kyrgyzstan." This initiative aims to enhance the qualification of therapists in both urban and regional areas of the country. Following numerous practical training sessions and online meetings, a Round Table entitled "Inclusion for Children with Hearing Impairments" was organized on 19 February 2025 at the National Centre for Maternity and Childhood Care (NCMCC) in Bishkek.

The Round Table brought together representatives from the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Development, as well as local educational and healthcare organizations, NCMCC staff, delegates from the German Embassy and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), parent associations, public foundations and business partners of cochlear implant manufacturers. The timing of the event coincided with two significant dates: International Cochlear Implant Day on 25 February and World Hearing Day, celebrated under the World Health Organization's slogan "Overcoming Stereotypes: Making Ear and Hearing Care a Reality for All!"

The primary goal of the Round Table was to discuss the progress made already, and to address pressing issues related to the inclusion of children with hearing impairments. Special attention was given to early detection of hearing impairments, diagnostic methods, cochlear implantation and the rehabilitation of affected children.

Key speakers included ENT doctors from NCMCC, the director of the rehabilitation centre and family support, the director of the International Association of Hearing Rehabilitation Specialists, the head and one therapist from the parents' organization Slyshim Vmeste, the head of NGOs Uplift and Balanur, the head of the Department of Special Pedagogy at the Pedagogical University and a member of the Board of the Lehnhardt Foundation.

The event featured engaging discussions, culminating in the signing of a resolution that was forwarded to the Cabinet of Ministers. The director of NCMCC and the project partners expressed strong support for this initiative, hoping for rapid advancements in the field.

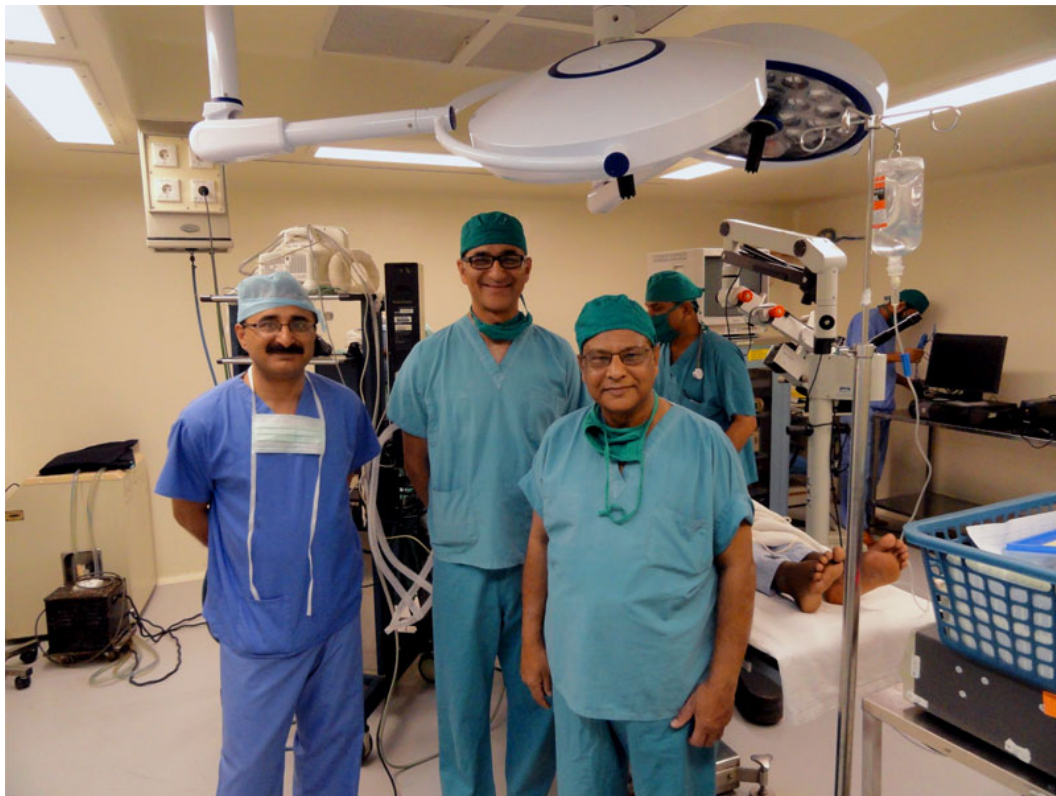
The next phase of the project involves training of 15 therapists under a "train the trainer" concept. These educators will consult and oversee 30 classes in mainstream schools and kindergartens, accommodating children with hearing impairments who are either currently enrolled or set to begin their studies in September 2025.

This initiative underscores the Lehnhardt Foundation's commitment to fostering inclusive education and to support children with hearing impairments in Kyrgyzstan.

Dr. Monika Lehnhardt-Gorany & Liubov Wolowik

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[WORLD NEWS – PAKISTAN – International Medical Relief Agency \(IMRA\)](#)



(Photo of the IMRA Surgery Team)

IMRA (International Medical Relief Agency) is a U.K based charity providing medical relief world-wide. Their team consists of over 100 medical professionals whose primary aim is to educate and train those in the medical profession to improve the healthcare of the most underprivileged countries in the world. To date they have assisted over 1,000 patients, equating to approx. £4 million.

They would like to share with us a [video of Mohamed Anas](#) and his parents talking about Mohamed's cochlear implant operation, funded by IMRA.

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[WORLD NEWS – UK – AVUK – UK Young Cochlear Implant Users campaign for greater access to early and effective support](#)



(Photos: On the left, Sam outside the House of Commons; on the right, Nathaniel)

Deaf teenager Sam Callaghan and his family have continued their campaigning work in the UK challenging perceptions of what deaf children can achieve with early and effective support.

The family joined Auditory Verbal UK (AVUK) in London at a UK Parliament debate discussing the Provision of Auditory Verbal therapy. Sitting in the public gallery Sam and his family heard MPs set out the case for the UK Government to make the necessary investment to increase access to early, effective support for deaf children, including the support that helped him to learn to listen and speak when he was younger.

Following the debate Sam and his family and AVUK have been invited to a meeting with Government Minister Stephen Kinnock MP, to discuss why funding for Auditory Verbal therapy in the UK is needed now.

AVUK's Hear Us Now campaign is calling for action to break down barriers to opportunities for deaf children and enable every family who wants their deaf child to learn to listen and talk, to be able to access Auditory Verbal therapy through publicly funded services in the UK. Right now, less than 10% of deaf children in the UK can access Auditory Verbal therapy but there is strong support to change that.

Seventeen-year-old Nathaniel Kuhn has also lent his voice to the campaign writing a letter to the **UK media** ahead of World Hearing Day calling for Government investment to ensure more deaf children have access to the support he had.

Nathaniel, who was born deaf received his implant at 18 months old, is currently completing his International Baccalaureate in London with the goal of studying history at university from the autumn.

He said: *"Less than 10% of deaf children in the UK can get Auditory Verbal therapy which transformed my life and this isn't fair and isn't right. Which is why I want the Government to hear the urgent calls to invest in Auditory Verbal therapy and transform opportunities for more deaf children across the UK like me."*

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WORLD NEWS – UK – AVUK – Celebrating International Cochlear Implant Day with award winning Sanemi Parashar



12-year-old Sanemi Parashar shared her story to mark International Cochlear Implant Day.

Sanemi was born profoundly deaf and had cochlear implant surgery at 15 months. She was supported to listen and speak as a young child with Auditory Verbal therapy and despite having balance issues she overcame this and other hurdles, persevering in developing her speech and language skills to achieve age-appropriate spoken language.

Sanemi said: "I've worn cochlear implants since I was a baby and had a re-implant when I was two and a half. I have an older brother and my Mum and Dad really wanted me to learn spoken language so that I could have the chance to do all the things my brother has done and my friends can do. With lots of hard work – from my family, Auditory Verbal Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist and all involved in my care, my listening and speaking was as it should be for a child of my age by the time I was around 6 years old.

"Helping other people is another thing that makes me really happy because I have been helped by so many people to be able to do all the things I can do. Because of all this help I'm trying to pay it back and love spending my free time on charity activities.

"I am an ambassador and mentor for Advanced Bionics, volunteer with the BEARS (Both Ears) trial, a charity representative at school and raise money for Addenbrookes Hospital, in Cambridge, with events like bake sales and volunteering.

"In November last year I was absolutely delighted to win the Claire Campbell Outstanding Achievement Award which was for the young person who has gone above and beyond to show what deaf children can achieve.

"I love classical Indian dance and I'm preparing for my Grade 3 exam and I perform at social events. I also take part in drama, swimming and tennis and I'm a keen baker in my spare time!

"I know how lucky I am to have all the required support and care I need from not just my family, but all the professionals, including those at AVUK who have helped me so much to express myself with the power of speech."

The **Claire Campbell Outstanding Achievement Awards** will again be open to applications in the summer of 2025 for the third year and more details will be available on the AVUK website and social media channels.

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[WORLD NEWS – UK – British Cochlear Implant Group \(BCIG\) update](#)



**British
Cochlear
Implant
Group**

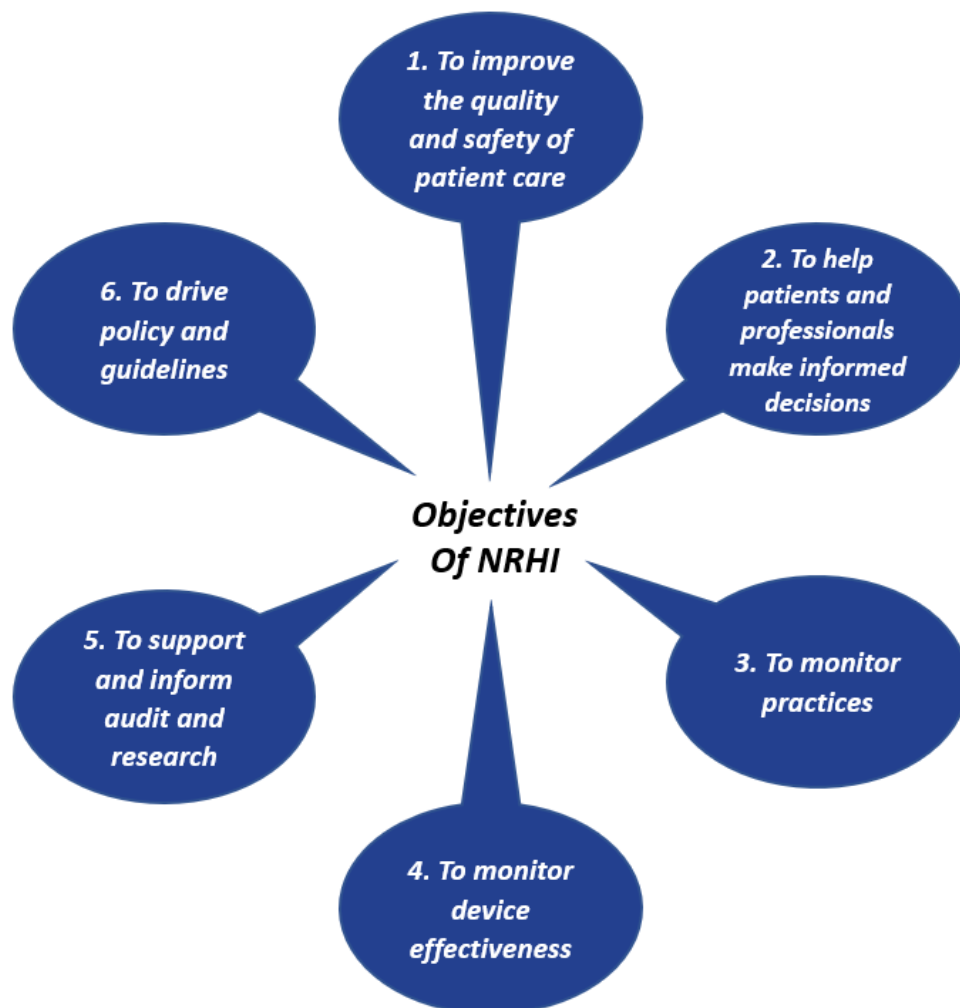
Olivia Kerrigan, a BCIG Trustee and Rehabilitationist in Cambridge, has organised a year-long programme of monthly webinars covering a wide range of topics which are proving increasingly popular. In January, Dr Efstratia Papoutselou presented **Beyond Cochlear Implants and Hearing Aids: Introducing Rincell-1, a Cell Therapy for Hearing Loss**. In February, Dr Debi Vickers gave **An update on BEARS and IMPACT**. The webinar in March was a talk on the **Transition from Paediatric to Adult Cochlear Implant Services by Dr Ying Guo**. These webinars are free to attend – and registration links are available on the [BCIG website](#). As a benefit of BCIG membership, there is now a growing library of webinars in the members' area of the BCIG website. If you are unable to attend the event in person, the recording will be available for you to view on demand.

If you are not yet a member of BCIG, or have lapsed your membership, now may be the time to (re-) join. New membership categories are about to be introduced – including a more affordable student category. Membership of BCIG is open to all professionals working in the field Cochlear implants and enables a reduced-price registration to our April

Annual Meeting. Further details on the [BCIG website](#).

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WORLD NEWS – UK – Update on the UK National Registry for Hearing Implants



We are delighted to report that the UK National Registry for Hearing Implants (NRHI) will go live on **24th March 2025!**

The primary aim of the registry is to improve safety and outcomes for hearing implant users in the UK.

Background

The NRHI has been adopted under the new NHS England 'Outcomes Registry Programme' (ORP). This overarching programme aims to capture key data on all types of implanted medical devices. The data collected by the ORP includes a universal dataset for all types of implantable medical devices, which will cover details of the device used (including unique device identifier), patient, date & place of surgery and surgeon. In addition, individual registries will capture more detailed clinical information relevant to the type of device.

Within the NRHI, a suite of data forms has been developed for cochlear implants - these include relevant clinical and audiology data, short and longer term hearing outcomes, and any complications. Parallel datasets are in development for auditory brainstem and acoustic implants.

Data will be submitted to a secure online portal hosted by the ORP, who will also support ongoing data analysis and reporting. NHSE have seconded a team of clinical specialists to provide expert input into the NRHI development.

Rollout!

A controlled rollout of the NRHI is planned for spring-summer 2025. The first sites will be St Thomas's, Birmingham (paediatric and adult services), Middlesbrough and Cambridge. User feedback will be gathered and relevant changes will be implemented to the NRHI platform.

The remainder of the English CI centres will be trained over the coming months. Work is ongoing to agree cross-border governance arrangements to allow Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish CI centres to submit their data as soon as possible.

Full training and support will be provided to centres; a registry clinical manual and online training resources to support registry users are available.

Work is also underway on data analysis and reporting, including establishment of a committee for reporting and outlier analysis. Centres will be able to access their own data, with a series of regular published reports produced for the public domain. There will be patient/service user involvement at all stages of this process.

Next Steps

The NRHI steering group will focus next on data quality monitoring and roll-out of clinical outcome datasets for the remaining hearing implant types, including acoustic implants. We are exploring the possibility of linking the registry to manufacturers, to allow a single point of device registration.

Patient reported outcomes (PROMs and PREMs) will follow; the intention being that the registry system will contact patients automatically by email at defined intervals and ask patients to submit their responses into an online portal. Response by post will also remain an option for those who do not wish to engage digitally.

Keep in touch: please feel free to email Katherine.Wilson@gstt.nhs.uk if you have any registry-related questions or comments!

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[WORLD NEWS – USA – RALLY CAPS: A Heartwarming Story of Friendship and Resilience](#)



In a world where stories of overcoming adversity often inspire us to persevere, **RALLY CAPS** is a shining example of the power of determination, friendship, and acceptance. This independent, coming-of-age film recently claimed two prestigious awards – Best Feature and Best Editor for Lee Cipolla – at the Zions Indie Film Festival in Utah. For those who haven't seen it yet, **RALLY CAPS** is now available to stream on Peacock, Amazon, Fandango, and more!

The film, written and directed by Lee Cipolla, is based on true events and adapted from the book by Stephen J. Cutler and Jodi Michelle Cutler. It tells the story of a young boy named Jordy, who suffers a serious injury during a youth baseball tryout. As Jordy faces physical and emotional challenges in his recovery, he attends a summer camp that changes his life. It's here that he forms an unlikely yet powerful friendship with Lucas, a deaf boy who has recently undergone cochlear implant surgery.

Lucas, who plays catcher on the camp's baseball team, is also working through his own struggles with his new cochlear implants. The two boys bond over their shared experience of facing challenges and stepping outside of their comfort zones. Together, they not only form a strong friendship but also become a dynamic pitcher-catcher duo, ultimately leading their team to the championship game.

What makes **RALLY CAPS** so special is its universal message of overcoming fear,

embracing differences, and showing compassion toward others. The story resonates deeply with viewers of all ages, particularly those who can relate to facing physical or emotional setbacks. The film beautifully showcases the idea that true strength lies in accepting help, finding new paths forward, and lifting each other up in times of need.

The cast of RALLY CAPS includes a stellar lineup of talented actors, including Academy Award Nominee Judd Hirsch (The Fabelmans), Carson Minniear (Apple TV+'s Palmer), and Amy Smart (DC Comics' StarGirl). Carson Minniear, in particular, shines in his role as Jordy. His performance brings depth and sincerity to the character, reminding us of the resilience that lives in every child. His portrayal of a young boy recovering from an injury while supporting a friend is both heartwarming and uplifting.

One of the most compelling aspects of the film is its portrayal of cochlear implants – a technology that many in the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community rely on to hear. Lucas's journey with his cochlear implants is handled with sensitivity and authenticity, offering a perspective on deafness and hearing loss that is both educational and empathetic. It's a reminder that, for many children, the process of adapting to cochlear implants is not only a medical challenge but also an emotional one. Through Lucas's character, RALLY CAPS celebrates the courage it takes to embrace new possibilities, no matter how difficult or intimidating they may seem.

The film's light-hearted yet poignant nature makes it a perfect watch for the entire family. Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or simply someone who enjoys an inspiring story, RALLY CAPS will leave you with a smile and a renewed belief in the power of friendship, acceptance, and hope. Its message that setbacks can be overcome with love, determination, and teamwork is one that resonates across generations.

In a world that often feels divided, RALLY CAPS reminds us that the human spirit is unbreakable. This charming, funny, and deeply inspiring film is a must-watch for anyone who believes in the power of resilience and the importance of embracing differences. It is a celebration of the strength we all possess to push through challenges and create meaningful connections along the way.

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



AMERICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT ALLIANCE

[ACI Alliance Comments and Testimony](#)

ACI Alliance submits comments to federal agencies and testimony to state legislatures and Congress relating to issues surrounding access to cochlear implants. We most recently wrote to support SB317 which restores coverage for cochlear implants and hearing aids for adults under Missouri Medicaid. With passage of the bill, Missouri would join the majority of States that offer this life-changing intervention for adults. [ACI Alliance Supports Missouri Efforts to Expand Medicaid CI Coverage to Adults.](#)

[2025 AudiologyOnline Webinars presented in partnership with ACI Alliance.](#)

Registration is open for the March AudiologyOnline and ACI Alliance Webinars

Early Hearing Detection & Intervention 101 **Wednesday, March 19 @ 12 pm**

Barriers to Enrolling Children with Hearing Loss in Early Intervention **Wednesday, March 26 @ 12 pm**

[Early Hearing Detection - American Cochlear Implant Alliance](#)

[Cochlear Implants in Infants and Young Children | FAQs](#)

Children FAQs – Visit this page to learn about candidacy and pediatric therapy for infants and children. [Cochlear Implants in Infants and Children | FAQs - American Cochlear Implant Alliance](#).

[Ask the Audiologist | Blog](#)

Our question this month is "Will I be able to understand speech in different environments after getting a cochlear implant?" Find out the answer to this and other questions answered by our audiologists by clicking below. [Ask the Audiologist | Blog - American Cochlear Implant Alliance](#)

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[WORLD NEWS – USA – ACI Alliance – Dr. Bruce Gantz to Receive ACI Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award at CI2025 Boston](#)



Dr. Bruce Gantz will receive the American Cochlear Implant Alliance (ACI Alliance) 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Opening Session of CI2025 Boston. The Lifetime Achievement award recognizes the contributions over the whole of a career and for the work and accomplishments of the individual being recognized.

Dr. Gantz is a Professor of Otolaryngology at the University of Iowa, and completed his undergraduate work as well as his MD and MA degrees at the University of Iowa as well. He has devoted his career to advancing cochlear implant technology and expanding indications for implantation. Dr. Gantz implanted the first cochlear implant at the University of Iowa in 1980 and in 1987 he was the first in the United States to implant a congenitally deaf child with a multi-channel cochlear implant. He helped establish the Iowa Cochlear Implant Clinical Research Center in 1985. In that role, he has led research that

demonstrated longevity of hearing preservation for over 20 years in listeners with acoustic and electric signal processing, which has significantly expanded eligibility criteria for those who obtained little benefit from their hearing aids. One of the main objectives of his research is to further develop our understanding of how the brain processes speech in demanding listening environments by examining critical issues across all levels of the auditory system.

Dr. Gantz has authored over 270 peer-reviewed manuscripts and held offices in multiple professional organizations in the field, including being a founding board member of the American Cochlear Implant Alliance. His significant contributions to teaching, research, and clinical medicine have profoundly impacted the way we carry out cochlear implantation in the US and around the world impacting the profession of otolaryngology and transforming the lives of many thousands of children and adults with profound hearing loss.

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

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ADVANCED BIONICS – Matthew's Resilient Hearing Journey with CI Revision Surgery



When you receive a cochlear implant (CI), you're choosing a life filled with sound. So, when something goes wrong with the technology, it can be a major shock. For Matthew Ardis, who was implanted in 2001 as a baby, his Advanced Bionics CIs enabled him to learn to speak, build relationships, enjoy music, and pursue his passions. However, when his implants failed not once, but twice, he was faced with revision surgeries that tested his patience and determination to hear again.

"When I was 11 years old, I needed revision surgery because of an implant failure on my right ear," Mathew says. "One day, I woke up and put my processor on, and it sounded like I was underwater..." He went through the CI revision surgery and aural rehab therapy and was able to get back to speed with his hearing.

Matthew was thriving as a university student when his second implant failed. *"The location of my cochlear implant swelled, and I was unable to wear my processor on my head,"* he says. His second revision, which was during COVID, was tough because he had to wait a year to get reactivated. But today, his cochlear implants are working well with no issues.

What's Matthew's ultimate message after these challenges?

"Although I have had cochlear implant revision surgery, I have friends who I've grown up with who still have their original implants, and they're showing no signs of slowing down. I know very few people who have had revision surgery and the ones I know are spread out amongst all the main cochlear implant manufacturers. I had my original Advanced Bionics implant for almost 20 years. That's a long time for any implantable device, and it survived through all my development and gave me the ability to learn to speak. In my opinion, it is hard to trade that in."

Read Matthews's full blog post on Advanced Bionics' blog, [CONNECTIONS](#).

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ADVANCED BIONICS – Is hearing with two ears better than one?



When we listen with both ears, it helps us move through our noisy world with more confidence and enjoy life more. With both ears, our brains can locate where sounds are coming from, allow us to have conversations in noisy places, **(1),(2)** and hear and make sense of a wide range of sounds.

For children with profound hearing loss in both ears, getting two cochlear implants is one of the best ways for them to learn spoken language. **(3)** Studies also show that adults with severe-to-profound hearing loss in both ears hear better with two cochlear implants than with one. **(4,5,6)** If you have just one cochlear implant and are thinking about a two-ear solution, AB is here for you. Two cochlear implants can help:

- Improve speech understanding in quiet and in noise;
- Make listening less tiring;
- Find where sounds are coming from;
- Improve overall sound quality.

"I'm using both ears together, and the result is almost magical," says Jacob Landis, who hears with two AB cochlear implants. *"When both ears are 'on,' my brain produces this amazing fullness and richness of sound that my one ear alone never quite gave me."*

AB cochlear implants work together to allow you to hear your best, especially in noisy situations. If you have one cochlear implant and wonder if you might be able to hear even better, speak to your audiologist. This may be the time for you to discover that hearing with two ears is better than one.

Learn more about AB's two-ear solutions.

- (1) Boothroyd A. (2006). *Characteristics of listening environments: benefits of binaural hearing and implications for bilateral management*. *International journal of audiology*, 45 Suppl 1, S12–S19. [I](#)
- (2) Brungart, D. S., & Simpson, B. D. (2007). *Cocktail party listening in a dynamic multitalker environment*. *Perception & psychophysics*, 69(1), 79–91. <https://doi.org/10.3758/bf03194455>
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- (5) Liitovsky, R., Parkinson, A., Arcaroli, J., & Sammeth, C. (2006). *Simultaneous bilateral cochlear implantation in adults: a multicenter clinical study*. *Ear and hearing*, 27(6), 714–731. <https://doi.org/10.1097/01.aud.0000246816.50820.42>
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COCHLEAR – on behalf of Cochlear and Professor Graeme Clark, happy World Hearing Day!



On World Hearing Day we joined the World Health Organization in supporting their vision of making ear and hearing care a reality for all. Together, we can help ensure hearing health is available to everyone.

[Click >>here<<](#) to watch the World Hearing Day greeting from Professor Graeme Clark.

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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.

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COCHLEAR – Cochlear Named Most Trustworthy Healthcare Company in the World



Cochlear, the global leader in implantable hearing solutions has been named the **number one most trustworthy company in the healthcare industry by Newsweek in its 2024 rankings of the World's Most Trustworthy Companies.**

Over 70,000 participants provided 269,000 evaluations, highlighting Cochlear's exceptional reputation and dedication to improving the lives of those with hearing loss.

"At Cochlear we place a strong emphasis on customer service and support ensuring our recipients are at the heart of everything we do. Cochlear offers a comprehensive range of services to ensure that recipients of our devices receive the best possible care throughout their hearing journey. This includes rehabilitation programs through our connected care program, working with audiologists and hearing care professionals for continued support, and access to a global community of Cochlear recipients," Dig Howitt, Chief Executive Officer & President of Cochlear said.

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[MED-EL – Celebrating 10 Years of Hearpeers: A Decade of Connection and Support](#)



2025 marks a special milestone for the Hearpeers project as it celebrates its 10th anniversary!

Hearpeers is a global mentor program by MED-EL that connects hearing implant users with those considering the hearing solution. Through one-on-one support and shared experiences, Hearpeers Mentors provide guidance, answer questions, and offer firsthand insight into life with a hearing implant.

This initiative was first launched in the UK in 2015, with just a small group of dedicated Hearpeers Mentors participating. Over the last decade, the project has grown far beyond that, welcoming volunteers from all over the world who are united by their motivation to support others on their hearing implant journey. Today, Hearpeers has flourished into a global network, with over 170 Mentors from 38 countries.

From the very beginning, Hearpeers was created to support those considering a hearing implant through their journey, and this mission remains the heart of the project today. Over the last ten years, it has helped connect hearing implant users and candidates, spread awareness about life with a hearing implant, and shared many inspirational stories about users.

To mark this important anniversary, the Hearpeers Team at MED-EL Headquarters hosted

a special online celebration in January, bringing together Mentors from around the world. More than 100 participants joined to learn about the project's growth, share their personal mentoring experiences, and look ahead to the future of Hearpeers.

As we continue celebrating throughout this anniversary year, we invite you to be part of the journey. Visit hearpeers.com and our social media channels (@hearpeers) to stay updated on the project and events. Here's to the next decade of Hearpeers!

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MED-EL – IDEASforEARS Contest: Winners 2025 announced



In the 2025 IDEASforEARS contest from MED-EL, 355 young inventors, aged 6-12, from 24 countries shared their creative ideas for products or services that could one day help to improve the lives of people with hearing loss.

From wearable devices like sports helmets with built-in hearing technology to sustainable audio processors powered by solar or kinetic energy and vibrating emergency pendants, the children showcased impressive creativity and compassion.

Ten winners from Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia were recognized for their exceptional ideas. This June, they will travel to Innsbruck, Austria, to exchange ideas with peers and learn about hearing innovation at MED-EL Headquarters. Congratulations to all participants for their incredible contributions!

Follow the IDEASforEARS winners' exciting adventure on the [IDEASforEARS Facebook](#) page!

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MED-EL – Encouraging Study Results on Totally Implantable Cochlear Implant (TICI)



The first-in-human feasibility study on a Totally Implantable Cochlear Implant (TICI) was recently published and delivered encouraging results. The TICI integrates all components within a single internal device, eliminating the need for an external processor and thereby providing added discretion and comfort.

Key results of the feasibility study showed that the TICI performed on par with conventional cochlear implants for hearing performance. The study participants also reported improved satisfaction and overall quality of life with the TICI, highlighting the comfort of hearing continuously, even during activities like sleeping or bathing. Furthermore, the TICI, which is implanted using a conventional surgical approach, demonstrated a strong safety profile.

The two main authors, Dr Philippe Lefèbvre, Head of the ENT Department at the University Hospital of Liège, and Dr Joachim Müller, Head of the Cochlear Implants and Hearing Prosthetics Section at the University Hospital of Munich, stated: "The TICI is a milestone within the field of cochlear implantation. One recurring wish we hear from patients in our daily clinical practice is that the implants should be as discreet as possible – or ideally invisible."

Although the TICI is still under research and not yet commercially available, the first significant steps towards fulfilling this wish have been made.

In the meantime, MED-EL recommends that anyone currently under assessment for a CI should not delay their treatment.

[Read the open access study on the TICI here.](#)

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



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member **CIICA**

