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Message from the President



Dear Members,

Our EURO-CIU Workshop and General Assembly will take place next year in Bucharest, with the workshop scheduled for 17–18 April. Preparations are already progressing well. One of the central aims of the workshop will be to establish working groups that will reflect on the future strategic direction of EURO-CIU. Together, we will develop proposals on how we wish to position our organisation in the coming years. I am convinced that these important decisions can only be made collectively, drawing on the expertise and perspectives of all our members.

I would, therefore, like to warmly invite you to participate actively in the workshop. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome at any time, and we will ensure they are included and presented during our discussions. Members will also have the opportunity to showcase their projects and association activities. If you are interested, please contact Anamaria directly.

Another key focus will be the strengthening of our collaboration with partner organisations such as EFHOH, HHF EU, and other relevant stakeholders. These partnerships are essential for amplifying our shared voice and advancing hearing health across Europe. I look forward to strong participation and meaningful contributions from all our members.

In recent weeks, EURO-CIU was represented at several significant events. At the 2nd CIICA Conference in Brussels, we experienced two intensive and

inspiring days filled with valuable presentations and engaging discussions with many distinguished participants. In addition, I recently spoke at the HHF EU webinar "*Beyond Ageing – A European Hearing Health Agenda for Inclusion and Economic Participation*". With more than 57 million people across Europe affected by hearing loss, it is crucial that we continue to address its social and economic implications. The webinar brought together key European stakeholders, including EURO-CIU, AGE Platform Europe, MED-EL, and the Hearing Health Forum EU, to discuss a life-course approach to hearing care and its importance for workforce participation and social inclusion.

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the coming year bring good health, inspiration, and continued fruitful cooperation within our community.

Warm regards,

Tobias Fischer
President, EURO-CIU

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[Message from the Editor of the Newsletter](#)



From our small village in the English Midlands, which some of you have visited, we wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

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

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

The next edition of the EURO-CIU Newsletter will be due in March, so please let me have your articles and jpg photos by Monday 2 March 2026. Just e-mail them to me at newsletter@eurociu.eu

Brian Archbold (Editor)

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[AUSTRIA – ÖCIG Workshop Weekend Fürstenfeld](#)



The Austrian Cochlear Implant Society (ÖCIG) hosted an intensive and diverse workshop weekend designed to offer both professional development and personal well-being. A total of around 20 people participated – about half regular workshop attendees and half board members and volunteers.

A Sweet Beginning: Visit to the Zotter Chocolate Factory

The weekend began on Friday with a special highlight: a guided tour of the renowned Zotter Chocolate Factory. Participants learned about the art of high-quality chocolate production and enjoyed tasting a wide range of varieties. The visit was very well received and provided a delightful and engaging start to the weekend.

Professional Input: CI, Employment, and Technical Innovations

Saturday opened with a presentation on cochlear implants (CI) and workplace integration. This was followed by company presentations from Cochlear and Advanced Bionics, who introduced their latest developments and answered participants' questions. This session offered valuable insights into current technologies and support services for CI users.

Workshops Across Several Modules

The workshop program was divided into thematic blocks, allowing participants to choose the sessions most relevant to them:

Block 1 & 2

"Nutrition for Autumn – Tips to Boost Your Mood"

Mag. Claudia Schinnerer, BSc MSc shared practical nutrition strategies for improved energy and well-being during the darker months.

"Back to My Space – Mindfulness & Self-Perception in a Loud World"

Vanessa Mosandl guided participants through mindfulness techniques aimed at reducing stress and enhancing self-awareness, particularly helpful for CI users.

Block 3 & 4

"Art Therapy – Creative Impulses for Self-Experience and Relaxation"

With Helene Martzak-Görke, participants explored creative expression and personal reflection through art.

"How Can I Improve My Hearing Perception and Understanding? – Practical Exercises"

Ulrike Rüllicke, Dipl. Audiopedagogue, offered hands-on exercises and shared hearing strategies that can be implemented in daily life.

Technical Workshop: Exploring Modern Solutions

Another highlight was the technical workshop led by Tobias Fischer. He presented the latest accessories from CI manufacturers as well as modern visual alert systems from Humantechnik. Participants had the chance to test various devices, contributing to both knowledge transfer and quality assurance regarding assistive technologies.

A Cozy Ending: Bowling Together

The workshop day concluded in a relaxed atmosphere: Participants gathered for an enjoyable bowling session, providing an opportunity for socializing, informal conversations, and strengthening the community spirit.

Conclusion

The ÖCIG workshop weekend offered a well-balanced mix of information, personal development, and shared experiences. With diverse program elements and warm support from the ÖCIG team, the weekend proved to be both educational and inspiring for all attendees.

Tobias Fischer
Präsident, ÖCIG

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[ROMANIA – Asculță Viața – The St. Nicholas Good Deeds Fair – A Celebration of Giving and Community](#)



In the spirit of generosity and togetherness, BNI Sibiu and BNI The Power of Many proudly organized the St. Nicholas Good Deeds Fair, a Christmas charity event dedicated to bringing joy to both children and adults while supporting a meaningful cause.

The fair came to life thanks to the incredible involvement of dedicated organizers and volunteers from our community, who shared their time, energy, and creativity. Families and visitors of all ages enjoyed a festive atmosphere filled with warmth, kindness, and true holiday spirit.

Children took part in a variety of interactive activities – from creative workshops and face painting to temporary tattoos and engaging games. The fair also featured beautiful winter decorations, handmade products crafted with care, and a special stand filled with donated toys, all sold for charitable purposes.

A special focus of the event was raising awareness for our association's mission. Children and young people with cochlear implants actively engaged with visitors, sharing their experiences and helping make our cause more visible within the community. Their presence reinforced an essential message: **children and young people with cochlear implants can achieve anything their peers can.**

Our association hosted a creative workshop where children wrote heartfelt letters to Santa Claus, expressing their dreams and wishes. We also introduced "The Hearing Journey", a specially designed colouring book that tells the story of a little bunny's path – from diagnosis to cochlear implantation, recovery, and full social integration. This gentle and educational activity helped children and adults alike understand the journey toward hearing and inclusion.

As part of our workshop, participants decorated a Christmas tree made entirely from recycled materials. The tree was adorned with colourful hand-cut-outs, each bearing personal messages, wishes, and words of encouragement – a beautiful symbol of unity, sustainability, and collective support for our cause.

The festive day was enriched by a captivating organ concert in the church, followed by heartfelt Christmas carol performances that filled the air with emotion and joy. Guests enjoyed delicious food, warm drinks, and freshly made pancakes and gingerbread, completing the cozy holiday atmosphere.

All funds raised during the event were fully donated to our association and will be dedicated to organizing the 2026 Summer Camp for Hearing-Impaired Youth – reinforcing our shared commitment to supporting meaningful causes and making a lasting positive impact in our community.

The St. Nicholas Good Deeds Fair was more than a charitable initiative – it was a vibrant reminder of the power of collaboration, generosity, and the true spirit of the holiday season.

[Anamaria Braşov](#)

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[SPAIN – AICE – 28th Edition of the AICE Awards](#)



On November 15, the 28th edition of the AICE Awards was held in Barcelona, Spain. These awards recognize the work of individuals, organizations, and institutions that have excelled in informing, supporting, or researching in the field of cochlear implants, deafness in general, the elimination of communication barriers, and volunteering.

The event was attended by more than 125 people, including members and relatives of the AICE Federation, representatives of the Federation's regional delegations, representatives of cochlear implant brands, doctors, speech therapists, audiologists, representatives of other associations, politicians, and people closely associated with AICE.

The winners of this edition were: Dr. Alejandro Harguindey Antolí-Candela from the Institute of Otolaryngology of Madrid (IOM), who received the Medical Award. The Institutional Award went to the World Hearing Forum. The Accessibility Award went to the Basilica of the Sagrada Família in Barcelona, and Sue Archbold, coordinator of CIICA, the International Cochlear Implant Action Community, received the Outreach Award. The Volunteer Award, a surprise until the end of the evening, went to Luisa Baena, a member and cochlear implant user, for her selfless work.

In addition, at the end of the gala, a small tribute was paid to Teresa Amat, coordinator of the AICE Federation since its inception, on her upcoming retirement. The surprise consisted of the presentation of a picture of her made up of the covers of our magazine "Integración". She was also presented with a special edition of the magazine, an issue dedicated entirely to Teresa. Written by doctors, speech therapists, audiologists, other professionals, members and friends of the AICE Federation and, of course, Teresa herself. It was a very emotional moment of the evening.

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[SPAIN – AICE – Youth and seniors with cochlear implants meet in Barcelona](#)



The young cochlear implant users of the AICE Federation gathered in Barcelona from November 14 to 16 for their traditional Annual Meeting.

The Youth Meeting was once again a success. More than thirty young cochlear implant users were able to enjoy different workshops and talks, all of which were accessible thanks to simultaneous transcription on screens. The event combined recreational activities, educational workshops, and accessible cultural experiences to promote learning and interaction among young cochlear implant users.

Some of the people who participated in these presentations were Jesús Celada, Ambassador on Special Mission for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and Carolina Der, technical officer at the World Health Organization (WHO), specifically within the ear and hearing care program in Geneva, Switzerland. Both encouraged and empowered them to defend their rights.

In the afternoon, they visited the Barça Museum and ended the weekend with the AICE Awards Gala.

On the other hand, a group of older members also wanted to attend the AICE weekend event. For them, too, the educational part was combined with the more recreational part. On the one hand, they visited the Sagrada Família on a guided tour accessible to communication. And on the other hand, the Legal Service Department of the AICE Federation gave them a talk on planning their lives for the next 15 years from a legal perspective.

In the evening, they attended the AICE Awards Gala and were pleasantly surprised when the Volunteer Award was presented to Luisa Baena, a member of the group.

It was undoubtedly a very full weekend.

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[SWEDEN – BARNPLANTORNA celebrates thirty years with a conference – with the passion to hear](#)



In 1991, the first minor child in Sweden received a unilateral cochlear implant. Barnplantorna (parent organization) was founded in 1995 by five dedicated parents. Since then, Barnplantorna has established itself through collaboration with the seven hospitals in Sweden that perform CI operations on both children and adults.

In cooperation with the CI-clinics, Barnplantorna has advocated for:

- CI surgery for children born deaf (1995)
- Bilateral CI for all children when recommended by a doctor
- Hearing screening for newborns, which has decreased the age of operation for children to six months age!
- Implementation of a vaccine against invasive pneumococcal disease in the childhood vaccination program

The list goes on. Around 130 professionals as well as parents wanted to join in celebrating Barnplantorna at the Jubilee Conference at the renowned Clarion Post Hotel in Gothenburg. All invited speakers said YES to participate!

Professor Karl White – “the best is yet to come”

The program was the result of collaboration between the president of Barnplantorna, Ann-Charlotte Gyllenram, MD, Radi Jönsson at the CI clinic at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, and Associate Professor Ulrika Löfkvist at Uppsala University.

Keynote speaker Karl White gave an exposé on cochlear implant development;

"Building a sound foundation for children with hearing loss – the best is yet to come" (we ain't seen nothing yet).

Video clips of deaf children from the past, who communicated with sign language, alongside today's deaf children who use spoken language and stated, "I have bionic ears," couldn't have been clearer.

We are in the midst of a development. White also shared an important message with us that surely motivated us all: "The race is not over yet, we have a lot left to do." Karl White's lecture was based on his TED talk

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=TED+talk+Karl+White&mid=022FFC02029F824ABFF8022FFC02029F824ABFF8&FORM=VIRE.>

Ulrika Löfkvist emphasized the importance of early family intervention.

Ulrika Löfkvist has long experience in hearing research. She gave a lecture on family-centred intervention, where she emphasized the importance of screening, early diagnosis, and early interventions. Early hearing aid fitting and parental guidance are important for children's language development over time.

Radi Jönsson – the importance of medical interventions at diagnosis

The conference offered an up-to-date program. Radi Jönsson pointed out that newborn screening (such as OAE) is not sufficient. All screening units should also use methods like ABR (Auditory Brainstem Response) for "at-risk children." Balance functions should also be assessed so that parents can receive guidance on how to support their child's motor development.

From medical interventions to genetic research

The participants found the presentation on genetic research particularly interesting. Dr. Elisabeth Dahlström explained that it is now possible to map the entire human genome, which can be useful in audiology. Dahlström also described gene therapy for hearing loss through injections, where the first successful attempts have been made in Asia. This is intended for patients with a specific variant of auditory neuropathy originating from abnormalities in the Otoferlin gene, which is currently affected by this treatment.

The future is already here!

From Norway, we were able to hear about a project on digital parental guidance for increased accessibility for parents. Professor Lone Percy Smith from Denmark reported on the impact of AVT on cost-benefit. In Denmark, a large proportion of professionals are AVT-certified and children with hearing impairments are offered AVT twice a month for three years. Cost-benefit analysis shows that the intervention pays off in the long run, as children develop according to their abilities and need less support later in life.

Awareness of CMV must increase!

Barnplantorna has for a long time worked (alongside doctors/researchers) to raise awareness of the consequences of CMV (cytomegalovirus). MD Karolina Falkenius Schmidt lectured on the risk of congenital often progressive hearing loss. Particularly in congenital CMV (cCMV), progressive hearing loss can occur, which may mean it is not always detected during neonatal hearing screening. Falkenius Schmidt emphasized that we need to increase awareness of CMV in society in collaboration with professionals.

Barnplantorna developed an informational brochure about CMV during the Autumn of 2024, which was highlighted during the conference.

From research study on SSD to adolescents' life experiences

Anna Persson PhD presented the study "teenagers and young adults with CI," which addresses life experiences of young adults who received a CI before 2.5 years of age. The study has examined language, communication, balance, etiology, as well as mental health.

The study is ongoing, but six adolescents clearly showed in a question panel on the last day of the conference that they have the same thoughts and future dreams as hearing adolescents. They all emphasized the importance of support from dedicated parents, relatives, and friends to inspire them, as well as the importance of taking personal responsibility and knowledge about their own needs.

From Karl White to Graeme Clark

The second day of the conference was opened by Professor Emeritus Graeme Clark (Australia) via video link. He spoke about his upbringing and how his commitment to curing deafness began. Graeme Clark shared his experiences with researchers and doctors in Sweden, as well as with Ann-Charlotte Gyllenram, president of Bamplanta.

If you want to know more, read Graeme Clark's memoirs "I want to fix ears" or view his presentation from the conference https://youtu.be/_3mGj8PU-ZU

Graeme Clark's conclusion that we should all have a holistic perspective regarding children and adults who hear with CIs has never been more important.

Bamplanta is thirty years old. Together with the dedication of parents and professionals, we continue to share knowledge and drive development forward both nationally and internationally.

Ann-Charlotte Gyllenram
President/founder, Bamplanta

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TURKEY – Türkiye Biyonik Kulaklı Çocuklar Derneği (The Association Of Children With Bionic Ears) – Congresses



1. EURO-CIU Online Meeting

On August 30, Elif Çetintav, our International Relations Coordinator, attended the extraordinary general assembly of the European Association of Cochlear Implant Users (EURO-CIU), of which the Association of Children with Bionic Ears is a member, representing our organization. It was an effective meeting where we exchanged ideas.

2. Association of Children with Bionic Ears in Brussels!

16–17 October 2025, Brussels, Belgium

The Association of Children with Bionic Ears took its place at the "CI Advocacy in Action 2025" meeting! At this international gathering, where participants from 32 countries were expected, our organization was represented by our International Relations Coordinator, Elif Çetintav. As the only member organization from Türkiye within CIICA – the Cochlear Implant International Community of Action – we proudly attended this global event with a sense of responsibility.

During this two-day meeting centered around the themes of advocacy, inclusivity, and collaboration, we had the opportunity to exchange experiences with inspiring speakers and organizations from around the world.

3. 4th International Micro TOS Hearing and Research Center Congress

We also took part in this valuable congress held in Ankara on October 23–24–25, where doctors and audiologists gathered to share academic knowledge. We had the opportunity to learn about the most up-to-date approaches regarding hearing loss and cochlear implant applications, as well as to present the work of our association.

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TURKEY – Türkiye Biyonik Kulaklı Çocuklar Derneği (The Association Of Children With Bionic Ears) – Awards



1. Inspiring Success – 15 August

Semih Seyhan, a member of the Youth Group of the Association of Children with Bionic Ears and a bilateral cochlear implant user, proudly represented our country at the International Folk Dance Festivals held in Ankara and Rize together with the OSTİM Technical University RAKSAN Folk Dance Team.

2. "Bionic Violinist" Award

Ata Çankır — a bilateral cochlear implant user, winner of the "Bionic Violinist" award at the Beats of Cochlea festival held in Poland this summer, performer on stage with Haluk Levent at Jolly Joker, and a source of hope for children and families during our association's seminars — has been granted the Youth Achievement Award organized for the second time this year by the Social Reconciliation Platform, of which we are a member.

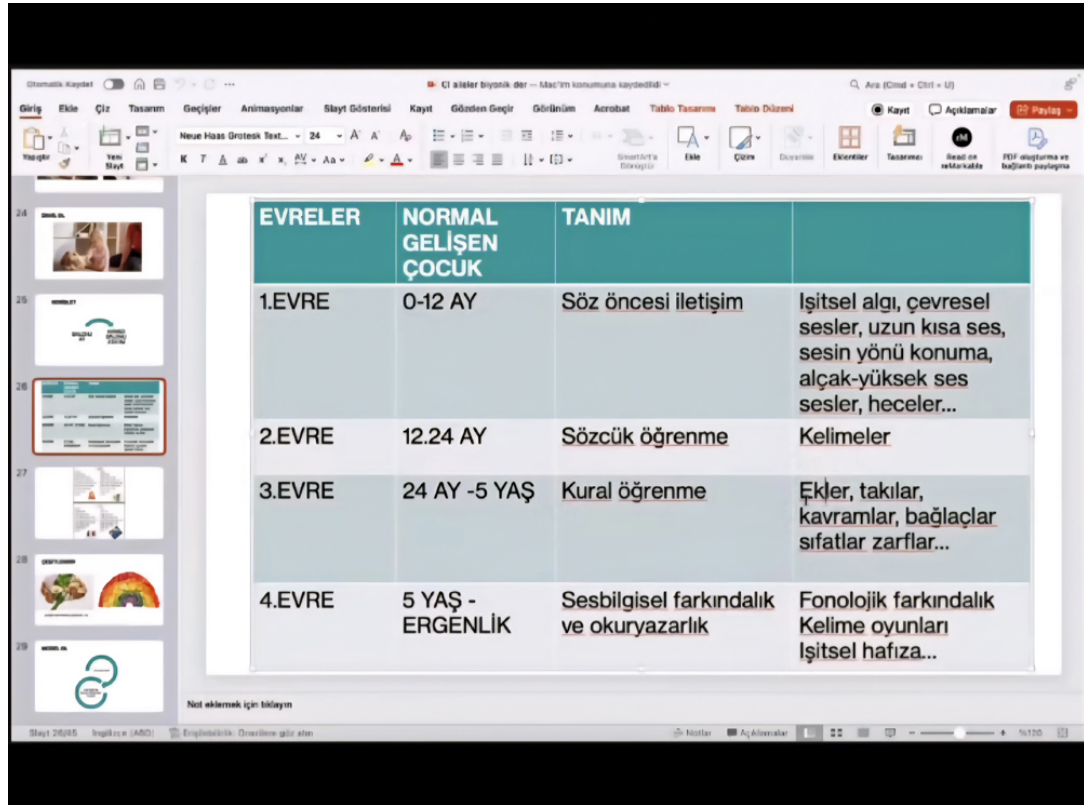
Now he has a big goal: to become a genetic engineer, research hearing loss, and be a guiding light for children like himself.

3. Traditional Goodness Awards

At the Traditional Goodness Awards Ceremony of the Social Reconciliation Platform, of which we are a member, on November 26, Mr. Cenk — who has covered the brainstem implant surgery costs of 33 children since 2019, provided device replacements for 10 of our children, and donated approximately 4 million TL (around 94,200 USD based on recent exchange rates) — has been deemed worthy of an award.

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[TURKEY – Türkiye Biyonik Kulaklı Çocuklar Derneği \(The Association Of Children With Bionic Ears\) – Family Education Program for Families with Children Aged 0–6](#)



EVRELER	NORMAL GELİŞEN ÇOCUK	TANIM	
1.EVRE	0-12 AY	Söz öncesi iletişim	İşitsel algı, çevresel sesler, uzun kısa ses, sesin yönü konuma, alçak-yüksek ses sesler, heceler...
2.EVRE	12.24 AY	Sözcük öğrenme	Kelimeler
3.EVRE	24 AY -5 YAŞ	Kural öğrenme	Ekler, takılar, kavramlar, bağlaçlar sıfatlar zarflar...
4.EVRE	5 YAŞ - ERGENLİK	Sesbilgisel farkındalık ve okuryazarlık	Fonolojik farkındalık Kelime oyunları İşitsel hafıza...

Following the pandemic, the uninterrupted family education program has entered its third term, which started in October this year. The association aims to be the strongest source of information for families in supporting the development of children with hearing loss.

- Weekly online training sessions are organized.
- The sessions are conducted by teachers of the hearing-impaired, audiologists, and expert professionals.
- All sessions are free of charge.

The goal of the third term is to raise family awareness and to best support children's language, communication, and academic development.

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[LEHNHARDT FOUNDATION – New Impulses for the Inclusion of Children with Hearing Loss – Kyrgyzstan](#)



In September, a group of specialists from Kyrgyzstan completed a two-week internship in Germany to learn about modern approaches to the education and rehabilitation of children and adults with hearing loss. The exchange took place as part of a project by the Lehnhardt Foundation, supported by the GIZ, the German Society for International Cooperation within the Clinic Partnerships Program, entitled "Developing a Sustainable Support Program for Hard of Hearing and Deaf Children in Kyrgyzstan".

The first week brought the delegation to the State Education Centre for the Hearing-Impaired Children in Osnabrück. Under the guidance of Katrin Stotzka, the participants gained insights into the work of the kindergarten, the school, the pedagogical audiological counselling centre, the mobile support service in mainstream schools and the early intervention program for preschool children. They observed classroom instruction, diagnostics and individualized support planning.

The second week took place at CIC Rhein Main in Friedberg, a specialized rehabilitation centre for children, adolescents and adults after cochlear implantation headed by Dr. Yvonne Seebens. One of the highlights was the Sibling Day, a family-oriented program for children whose siblings have a disability or a serious illness. In a safe environment, the children were able to speak openly about their emotions and received support from peers, offering valuable insight into the psychosocial support of families. The participants also learned about interdisciplinary therapy concepts, therapy planning, documentation, quality management and family counselling. A key aspect is the active involvement of parents as essential partners. Methods such as the video based Marte Meo analysis, a developmental support approach that uses video sequences to identify and strengthen positive interaction patterns, and natural auditory oral approaches were introduced.

Both internships provided practical experience and recommendations that will be highly valuable for the further development of early intervention and inclusive education in Kyrgyzstan. Particularly important were the approaches to parental participation, interdisciplinary teamwork and the use of digital tools for planning and documentation.

Overall, the internship offered the delegation not only professional knowledge but also inspiration for designing support services that sustainably assist children with hearing loss and their families. This remains a central objective of the project of the Lehnhardt Foundation.

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[LEHNHARDT FOUNDATION – The first interdisciplinary Cochlear Implant Conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan](#)



For several years now, the Lehnhardt Foundation has been working in the Central Asian country of Kyrgyzstan to establish care for children with hearing loss. With the help of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), support concepts have been implemented on the topics of universal newborn hearing screening and comprehensive care with cochlear implants. The current support program focuses on the further training and education of Kyrgyz medical and therapeutic specialists. Within this framework, several doctors and therapists also completed internships in Germany. Prof. Tino Just, Chief Physician at KMG Klinikum Güstrow and member of the Lehnhardt Foundation's Executive Board, has also already fitted several children with cochlear implants in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, under the eager gaze of the budding CI surgeons on site. Corresponding reports have been or will be published here in the newsletter.

At the conclusion of the Lehnhardt Foundation's highly successful project 'Development of a sustainable program for the treatment of hearing-impaired/deaf children in Kyrgyz', Liubov Wolowik, also a member of the Lehnhardt Foundation's board, organized the first cochlear implant conference in Kyrgyzstan from Germany. In close cooperation with the Arbaeva Pedagogical University in Bishkek and local support organizations and self-help groups, a very varied two-day program was put together. In addition to Ms. Wolowik, the Lehnhardt Foundation sent other participants from Germany and Russia to speak at the conference in order to support its international and interdisciplinary character. Other members of the Lehnhardt Foundation who took part alongside Liubov Wolowik were Peter Zoth (online), Marina Gureva and Dr Yvonne Seebens. Katrin Stozka and Varvara Oleshova also enriched the event with their contributions, thanks to the Lehnhardt Foundation.

The first day began with a video message from Dr. Dr. Monika Lehnhardt-Gorjany. The issue of providing children with cochlear implants is taken very seriously in Bishkek, not least thanks to the commitment of the Lehnhardt Foundation. The goal must be to make the country self-sufficient in the future, which requires, among other things, the state to assume financial responsibility. This made it even more important that an employee of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Social Affairs attended the conference and pledged state support for the future. The media also took note of this important event, with video reports running on the social media channels of Bishkek University and on Kyrgyz TV.

The GIZ project was thus completed very successfully. The conference was a great success – the participants were particularly interested in the practical aspects of working with children who have cochlear implants. Of course, there is still a lot to be done. Hearing screening must be further established and a reliable tracking procedure introduced. In future, the provision of hearing aids must also become a government responsibility in order to give all those affected access to hearing. The Lehnhardt Foundation has created a solid foundation here – now it is up to the trained specialists on the ground to raise awareness of the issue within society.

Dr. phil. Yvonne Seebens

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[CIICA: CI Advocacy in Action 2025, Brussels: Where Science Meets Experience](#)



"Very grass roots and impactful. Love how intentional each panel is to address different angles, yet in a cohesive fashion."

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's conference, which brought together 120 delegates from 32 countries, for an inspiring, impactful and inclusive event in Brussels, Belgium on the 16th & 17th October 2025. Global collaborations were shared and made with CI users, families, professionals, researchers, politicians and industry planning to meet our goal of increasing access to CI services globally: ***"I went home buzzing with ideas!"***

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW & DOWNLOAD ALL PDF PRESENTATIONS](#)

If you weren't there you can get a flavour of it and if you were there you can hear speakers take the discussion further at our next CIICA LIVE event: **CI Advocacy, What do we need?** How we can explore what makes cochlear implant advocacy effective – and how we can work together to drive real change. Together with experts and advocates including [Sara Rubinelli](#), [Brian Lamb](#), [Lidia Best](#), [CPACC](#), [Mark Laureyns](#), plus CI users and advocates from around the world.

CIICA LIVE: CI ADVOCACY, WHAT DO WE NEED? 22 January 2026 18:00 UK / 19:00 CET

More information and to register: <https://ciicanet.org/events/ciica-live-ci-advocacy-what-do-we-need/>

Please share the information!

SAVE THE DATE! CI ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2026: 22/23 OCTOBER, BRUSSELS

NEW FREE RESOURCES FROM CIICA LAUNCHED IN BRUSSELS

INVESTING IN OUR HEARING IMPROVES LIVES & IS COST EFFECTIVE

This update of our popular Spend2Save briefing has important recent additional evidence showing that CIs are both life-changing and cost effective for society. Advocating for services begins with Awareness and Information – and it's all here. With EHIMA, EURO-CIU, EFHOH and AEA.

TEN TOP TIPS ON EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY;

Involved in advocacy work as a parent or user? Our ten top advocacy tips are just for you!

Our top tips will help you focus when you have an opportunity with a funder or decision maker – and time is short! What might work and influence the decision? Be prepared to persevere.

"Advocacy is a marathon not a sprint!" [Sara Rubinelli](#)

THINKING ABOUT CI: 20 QUESTIONS TO ASK

The CIICA Conversation series, led by Kris English, explored person centred CI services for adults, with the question "What do you wish you had known before CI?" This has led to this new resource for those thinking about CI – the 20 questions to ask. We hope this will be shared by patient groups and by CI services to help smooth the journey.

DOWNLOAD ALL OF THESE RESOURCES & MORE HERE

<https://ciicanet.org/>

EURO-CIU is a founding member of CIICA

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[RELATED CONGRESS – BCIG – 21 & 22 April 2026](#)



SAVE THE DATE

21st and 22nd April 2026

Glasgow, Crowne Plaza Hotel

Sound Futures:
Innovation, Access and Collaboration



BCIG Trustees are gearing up for the launch of the BCIG 2026 conference website and call for abstracts!

The meeting will be held in Glasgow on 21st and 22nd April 2026. The theme of the meeting reflects current 'hot topics' in cochlear implantation: Sound Futures: Innovation, Access and Collaboration. BCIG Chair, Jane Gallacher, and the Scottish Team have secured an impressive Faculty of keynote speakers covering topics from all the professional disciplines involved in cochlear implantation. They are also looking forward to welcoming an array of exhibitors and delegates. The inclusive programme will involve greater representation of cochlear implant users this year – funding has been secured to aid their participation. More details to follow! https://www.bcig.org.uk/events/189/bcig_2026

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[RELATED CONGRESS – In 2026 BATOD is 50 – 24 & 25 April 2026](#)



Join us at the two-day conference event (including an optional entertainment and dinner event on Friday night).

Theme: Back to the future – transforming what we know now ready for tomorrow's world

This year's theme reflects on how past learning, experiences, and knowledge – alongside evaluations of current practice – inform our future practice, improving outcomes through evidence-based, person-centred interventions. Together, we will consider how these insights shape the lives of deaf children, young people, and their families in a rapidly changing world.

The conference provides a platform to share expertise, showcase innovation, and explore how our collective past and present practices can enhance the future.

- BATOD members Early bird 2 day – £210
- BATOD non-members Early bird 2 day – £250

The conference will run for 2 days, with limited 1-day tickets also available to purchase.

- BATOD members Early bird 1-day – £130
- BATOD non-members Early bird 1-day – £160

Ticket registration live on [Eventbrite](#)

Early bird closes 31 December 2025

Evening event

As BATOD are celebrating their 50th birthday during the conference, there will be related events hosted during the 2 days, including an optional 2-course celebration dinner and entertainment on Friday night (24.4.26). **Tickets for the dinner are available as an add on (set price £40) at the same time as the ticket purchase.**

Call for contributions

BATOD warmly invites teachers, professionals, researchers, service providers, developers, manufacturers, policymakers, students, and all those with an interest in the education and lives of deaf children and young people to present and share their work.

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

Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Submission address – Please send your proposals to exec@batod.org.uk

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[RELATED CONGRESS – ACI Conference on Cochlear Implants – Chicago USA – 6–9 May 2026](#)



CI2026 CHICAGO



Planning for the upcoming meeting is ramping up. They are grateful for the strong participation of the Program Committee and look forward to building a program that reflects the continued growth and innovation of their community. They plan to feature even more panels designed for active engagement, case-based discussions, and practical take-aways for clinical practice. The scientific content will be high quality, relevant, and engaging. An exciting lineup of keynote speakers will bring valuable insights and thought-provoking discussion. Additionally, the highly anticipated (Re)Habilitation Connect Forum will cover current topics impacting children and adults.

The conference will foster dissemination of multi-disciplinary scientific information applicable to audiologists, physicians, speech pathologists, psychologists, scientists, engineers, educators, students, advocates, and others involved in cochlear implantation. Attendees will be provided with opportunities to explore current global topics for CI patients across the lifespan.

Meeting themes include:

- Optimizing clinic efficiency and program growth (telemedicine, patient navigators, others)
- Emerging technologies in cochlear implantation
- Unique challenges in SSD/AHL patients (paediatrics, tinnitus, Medicare)
- Management and rehabilitation of challenging hearing loss etiologies (ANSD, CN hypoplasia/aplasia, others)
- Mental health comorbidities in CI care
- Speech perception testing for non-English speakers
- Cognition and CI in aging patients
- Socioeconomic factors and health disparities in CI care

[Please click on website for more information.](#)

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[RELATED CONGRESS – HeAL 2026 – Where Science and Innovation in Hearing Care Meet – 4–6 June 2026](#)



HeAL 2026, the Biennial International Conference on Hearing Across the Lifespan, will bring together researchers, clinicians, and professionals from around the world to share advances in hearing science, technology, and patient care.

With over 400 delegates from 45+ countries, HeAL has become a leading international forum for innovation and collaboration in audiology.

The upcoming edition will be held in **Padova, Italy** – a city of history, culture, and learning, just steps away from Venice.

We warmly invite you to submit your abstract and join the global community shaping the future of hearing care. **The deadline for abstract submission is January 31, 2026.**

Join us in Padova for HeAL 2026 – an opportunity to contribute, connect, and advance the science and practice of hearing care worldwide.

Topics that will be addressed at HeAL2026, include, but are not limited to:

- Speech perception
- Speech-in-noise testing
- Self-administered hearing tests
- Epidemiology
- Genetic issues
- Early identification – novel techniques and methods
- Auditory Processing Disorders
- Speech and language development
- Listening effort
- Cognitive decline
- Quality of life and hearing loss
- Computational Audiology
- e- and m-health solutions
- Auditory modelling
- Auditory Neuroscience
- Artificial Intelligence applications
- Data-driven hearing models
- Effects of occupational and recreational noise
- Tinnitus
- Amplification – technologies and strategies
- Implantable devices
- Auditory training
- Improving Hearing Care and Services
- Remote Care Solutions
- Intervention and Rehabilitation: strategies and methods
- Patient Care

Save the date. Come and join us for another exciting conference in Padova in 2026!

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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[WORLD NEWS – World Hearing Day 2026- 3 March](#)



From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children

Act now so no child is left behind due to ear or hearing problems

Why focus on children's hearing?

Globally, school-age children with hearing loss often remain undiagnosed and without access to needed services (World report on hearing, 2021). Hearing loss affects around 90 million children and adolescents aged 5-19 years, across all parts of the world (Global burden of disease study, 2021). However, it commonly remains undetected, especially in low-resource settings.

Common, preventable and treatable causes of hearing loss – such as otitis media with effusion (OME), chronic suppurative otitis media (CSOM), and impacted ear wax – remain widely prevalent in children. At time, hearing loss begins insidiously but progresses and worsens over time.

Left unaddressed, this not only affects a child's ability to hear but significantly impacts speech, language, cognitive and social development, commonly leading to poorer educational outcomes, reduced employment prospects and long-term economic disadvantages.

How?

This year, WHD highlights the theme "**From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children.**"

The campaign focuses on two imperatives:

- Preventing avoidable childhood hearing loss
- Ensuring early identification of and care for children with ear or hearing problems

Communities and classrooms are natural entry points to reach children, parents, and teachers. By integrating hearing care into school health and child health programmes, we can help children hear, learn, and succeed.

What is the campaign aiming to achieve?

- Promoting routine ear and hearing screening as part of school health programmes.
- Encouraging cross-sector collaboration in primary care, education, eye health, and newborn health.
- Improving early detection, treatment, and referral through community-based and educational initiatives.
- Empowering teachers, parents, and children with accessible information and awareness materials.

Explore [here](#) WHO technical resources to support national and local efforts to promote ear and hearing care for all children.

Join the [global World Hearing Day 2026 campaign](#).

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WORLD NEWS – PORTUGAL – OUVIR – Portuguese Association of Hearing Aids and Implants Users – the Week of Sound – 15–21 February 2026



WEEK OF SOUND PORTUGAL 2025

We are excited to share an inspiring international initiative — the Week of Sound – Portugal 2026, taking place from February 15 to 21, 2026, under the theme “Hearing Health and Inclusion.”

In collaboration with UNESCO and the global movement La Semaine du Son, this event — promoted by the OUVIR Association — raises awareness about hearing accessibility, sound environments, and the empowerment of people with hearing disabilities.

🎤 International Conference – February 20, 2026
Belém Cultural Center (CCB), Lisbon

Experts, healthcare professionals, researchers, educators, and policymakers will come together to explore inclusive solutions for hearing health, sound accessibility, and universal design.

🎵 Closing Music Celebration – February 21, 2026
Capitólio Theater, Lisbon

A unique performance blending music, culture, and inclusion — celebrating sound as a bridge between communities and abilities.

📍 Local Activities Across Portugal:

February 16 – Braga

February 18 – Porto

February 19 – Coimbra

🌐 Join Us!

Register now at <https://weekofsoundportugal.com>. The detailed program will be available soon.

Let's celebrate sound as a universal connection — empowering every voice, every sense, every person.

For more information, please contact: weekofsoundportugal@gmail.com

António Ricardo A. Miranda

Event Ambassador

President and Founding Member of OUVIR – Portuguese Association of Hearing Aids and Implants Users

Website: <https://ouvir.pt>

WhatsApp (text only): +351 969 917 317

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[WORLD NEWS - UK - AVUK - Claire Campbell Awards for Outstanding Achievement – winners announced](#)



Photos (left to right): Jasper Loten, Rosie Gardner and winners & finalists

Jasper Loten and **Rosie Gardner** have been announced as the winners of the Claire Campbell Outstanding Achievement Awards 2025.

Sarah Adedeji, Sam Callaghan and **Harriet Rice** and the **Deaf Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) London Team** have also been honoured for their huge efforts as they are announced as Highly Commended recipients.

Plus, in recognition of her dedication to supporting countless families with deaf children and the professionals who support them around the world, **Elizabeth Tyszkiewicz** has presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The awards were launched in 2023 in tribute to Claire, a mum of three, two of whom are profoundly deaf, honouring her legacy championing the vital need for early and effective support for deaf children to achieve their potential. Claire was, and remains, a source of inspiration to many families with deaf children across the UK and internationally.

This year's awards reflect Claire's dedication, celebrate the diversity of deafness and continue to challenge expectations of what deaf children and young people can achieve. They recognise young people who have gone above and beyond to prove deaf children can achieve their potential and the adults who have supported them.

Jasper (18) was born prematurely and lost his hearing after contracting meningitis as a baby, but his hearing loss was not diagnosed until he was two and a half. He received cochlear implants and was supported to learn to listen and speak with Auditory Verbal therapy at AVUK and is now excelling and thriving at school and beyond. On receiving his award Jasper said: *"It really is an honour to receive this award and be celebrated as a role model for other deaf young people. I have had such amazing support and help to get where I am and have always been encouraged to have high ambitions of what I can achieve. I hope that support for deaf children is increased and attitudes for what is possible for people like me continue to change."*

Rosie is Northern Ireland's first qualified Auditory Verbal Therapist and a Teacher of the Deaf. She supports deaf children and their families in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. On receiving her award she said: *"I feel honoured and humbled to receive this award. Deaf children deserve to have the same opportunities in life as hearing children and I know that being ambitious about their potential is key to ensuring deaf children can thrive ready to start school and beyond."*

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[WORLD NEWS - UK - AVUK - Celebrating deaf achievements in UK Parliament](#)



Photo: Tasha Ghouri joins the Chief Executives of the host organisations with Members of the UK Parliament

In November inspiring deaf role models who have achieved so much across sport, culture, media and business attended an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Deafness.

The event, which celebrated the diversity of deafness, was hosted by Catherine Atkinson MP, and supported by RNID, National Deaf Children's Society, Convo, SignHealth and Auditory Verbal UK. The event spotlighted how together we can champion change and improve services and support to ensure

all deaf people across the UK can thrive.

Guests included cochlear implants users – model and dancer Tasha Ghouri, as well tennis player Charlie Denton, and Janine Roebuck - the world's only profoundly deaf opera singer alongside many more advocates and champions.

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[WORLD NEWS - UK - AVUK – Other News](#)



UK Deaf Sports Stars interviewed on BBC ahead of Deaflympics

Two deaf sports stars and cochlear implant users Charlie Denton and Thomas Harvey appeared on the BBC's Breakfast show in advance of flying to Tokyo to take part in the Deaflympics representing the Team GB.

Both teenagers who were supported to listen and speak with Auditory Verbal therapy explained how being deaf had not prevented them from following their sporting dreams.

[Watch the piece here](#)

Kingdon Review

The UK Government Department of Health and Social Care has published an independent review into the country's children's hearing services – [The Kingdon Review](#).

In response Auditory Verbal UK Chief Executive, Anita Grover said:

"Auditory Verbal UK welcomes the publication of the independent review by Dr Camilla Kingdon and the recommendations which have been put forward.

"This is a watershed moment, not only for paediatric audiology but also the future of early support and services for deaf children, which are vital in enabling them to have the same opportunities in life as their hearing peers.

"The Government must now implement these recommendations swiftly to ensure there is no repeat of the issues with paediatric audiology which have put at risk the futures of so many deaf children. It is absolutely vital that deafness is identified early to maximise the critical early years. We stand ready to work alongside Government to ensure all deaf children can thrive."

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[WORLD NEWS – UK – BATOD](#)



Articulating the specialism – new addition

In October 2025, a group of QToDs who work in auditory implant centres coproduced a new document 'The role of the Qualified Teacher for Deaf Children and Young People working in an auditory implant centre (ICQTOD)'.

Quality Standards for Assistive Listening Technology

BATOD hosts the National Deaf Children's Society *Quality Standards for Assistive Listening Technology: The use of wireless remote microphone systems to support easier listening*. The revised publication was created in collaboration with the Assistive Listening Technology Working Group in September 2025. It can be accessed from this [webpage](#) or downloaded as [PDF here](#).

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[WORLD NEWS – UK – BCIG](#)



British Cochlear Implant Group

The annual release of the data collected by BCIG from cochlear implant centres across the UK and Eire has garnered a lot of interest. Both Adult and Paediatric referrals to cochlear implant centres have increased although the number of new implantations is still not yet at pre-COVID levels. BCIG is overseeing research into possible bottlenecks in people obtaining cochlear implants with the INDICIA study (Improving Navigation and Decreasing Inequality in Cochlear Implant Access). This important research is being led by Jameel Muzaffar, an ENT surgeon based in Birmingham. Details of the 2024-25 BCIG data collection is available on the [BCIG website](#).

Following on from the success of this year's BCIG webinars promoting current research and sharing the range of support given to patients by cochlear implant centres, BCIG are planning to continue them into 2026. There may well be TWO webinars planned for January 2026 as they are so popular! More details on how to register for these free events may be found on the [website](#). BCIG members have access to a library of past webinars in the Members' Area.

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[WORLD NEWS – USA – ACI Alliance Expands Special Interest Groups \(SIG\)](#)



AMERICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT ALLIANCE

Research. Advocacy. Awareness.



One of the most significant aspects of our organizational growth is the member-driven push to establish and own special interest groups or SIGs, allowing members to meet to explore and act on important issues. These groups meet virtually throughout the year and in-person at the annual conference. The Adult Rehabilitation SIG collaborated on research, which they presented on at CI2025Boston, and used as a tool to inform future research and provide suggestions on best practices in CI care.

Expanding our focus beyond a simple definition of access to cochlear implantation is an important aspect of the organization's current set of activities. Indeed, these five SIGs demonstrate how ACI Alliance can engage with a broader group of individuals and organizations who can help all of us expand knowledge of, and support for, cochlear implant access.

• Educators of Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

This diverse group included teachers of the deaf from school-age programs, early interventionists, college professors from teacher preparation programs, speech-language pathologists, and students preparing to enter the field.

Discussions addressed educational outcomes, eligibility criteria, and the importance of providing parents with comprehensive information during early intervention. Another significant theme was the growing teacher shortage and the decline in teacher preparation programs nationwide. Many regions are already experiencing the impact of this shortage, which poses challenges to maintaining quality education for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. The group also discussed uncertainties surrounding federal funding for K-12 and postsecondary education. Concerns about resource availability underscored the importance of advocacy and strategic planning to secure sustained support for educational programs.

• Members with Hearing Loss

Our members range from trainees to established professionals. They represent different facets of our profession, including audiologists, speech-language pathologists, physicians, scientists, teachers of the deaf, and psychologists. Our primary goals are to serve as a safe space for our colleagues in ACI Alliance who have hearing loss and to serve as a support system as they address accessibility-related challenges and navigate interprofessional relationships. As the group expands, we have immediate goals of establishing a mentorship program and hosting virtual meetings in between the annual SIG meetings at ACI Alliance. We will also advocate accessibility as we collaborate with ACI Alliance leadership and are grateful for their support as we grow our SIG and address these important topics.

• Adult Aural Rehabilitation

Our multidisciplinary lunch hosted over 50 professionals from the US, internationally, and the online group continues to expand. As a result of the ongoing collaboration between our members, we ran our first research study to better understand how CI recipients are being offered and receiving AR services. The results were shared via a poster at CI2025, and we continue working on the manuscript in development.

These accomplishments are the result of time and energy volunteered by members who are dedicated to the expansion of this service. Members share and recruit for research studies, support state and federal initiatives necessary for CI & AR coverage and facilitate transparent communication for how to

evaluate and provide direct AR therapy.

• Mentorship Luncheon Empowers Students with Career Guidance

Students, fellows, and residents attending CI2025 Boston had the valuable opportunity to participate in a mentorship luncheon designed to support them as they navigate the early stages of their professional journeys.

Together, they facilitated an engaging and interactive discussion with over 50 students and early career clinicians representing diverse career paths within the cochlear implant field. The conversation centered on helping students identify and actively pursue their individual career goals. Topics included effective strategies for job searching, resume development, and building meaningful professional networks. The mentors also shared personal stories from their career paths, offering real-world insights into overcoming challenges and staying motivated throughout the job search process.

The luncheon offered students a deeper understanding of the skills and qualities that can distinguish them in a competitive job market. It provided a supportive and welcoming environment for peer connection and professional learning.

• Cochlear Implant Care within Governmental Services

This new SIG will focus on navigating the VA system pertaining to hearing loss benefits - the number one disability by prior service members.

Read more about the our Special Interest Groups here: [Special Interest Groups - American Cochlear Implant Alliance](#) . These groups will all meet during [CI2026 Chicago](#).

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ADVANCED BIONICS – Take Control of Your Hearing Journey



The new AB ListenFit app from Advanced Bionics let you experience the ease of tracking your hearing performance at home or on the move!

Track Your Hearing Progress Anytime, Anywhere

AB ListenFit offers a range of self-assessments, including the Phoneme Test and Matrix Sentence Test, allowing users to evaluate their ability to hear and understand in various everyday situations. Set goals, receive instant results, and track your hearing progress over time. It's easy to stay motivated to continue training your hearing and stay involved in your hearing care!

A simple, exciting way to stay involved in your hearing care.

Checking your hearing progress from wherever you are: Choose from a list of quick and simple tests. Check how well you're hearing different sounds and numbers or discover your ability to understand sentences in noise.

Stay Confident: AB ListenFit allows you to track your personal goals over time, making it easy to stay motivated to continue training your hearing. With results that you can see, you are in control of your hearing journey.

Easy to Use: AB ListenFit requires no login and is available in many languages. Get helpful information and support through links in the app.

Download AB ListenFit Today

Begin your journey towards better hearing today! Download now on the App Store or Google Play.

AB ListenFit is compatible with Marvel CI and/or Phonak Link M Hearing Aid. AB ListenFit is designed for adults and children aged 13 and older, and for younger children with caregiver assistance. This app is to be used as an educational resource for tracking your hearing journey. It is not intended to substitute professional medical advice or be interpreted to contain treatment recommendations. Contact your healthcare provider if you have any medical concerns about managing your cochlear implant(s).

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ADVANCED BIONICS – Find knowledge and support with AB's Advanced DigiCare resources



Getting a cochlear implant is a big step toward better hearing. But sometimes it can still pose challenges. You're not alone in this. Many people of all ages are learning to hear again or for the first time with cochlear implants. Think of listening as a skill that gets stronger with time and practice—just like exercising a muscle.

On our blog AB Connections, we grouped together 10 simple ways to support your journey, using easy-to-use digital tools that can help you practice, track progress, and stay motivated.

Did you know?

AB offers free resources through our **Advanced DigiCare** portfolio, which is designed to help you stay connected and feel supported in managing your or your child's hearing loss. You can check your hearing progress with your cochlear implant, talk to others in a private community forum, or connect with your audiologist to program your hearing technology remotely.

Some of the Advanced DigiCare solutions include:

- **HearingSuccess:** a free online tool for anyone using hearing aids or cochlear implants to get support and have better conversations
- **BabyBeats™:** an early intervention resource filled with motivating and fun musical activities for babies and toddlers with hearing loss
- **AB Remote Support app:** a remote fitting tool that allows audiologists to offer complete, remote CI programming
- **AB ListenFit app:** the new mobile app designed to empower, educate, and assist users in tracking their hearing progress
- **MyHearingGuide app** - this app will show you how hearing loss does not need to be a barrier to connections, confidence and participation.
- **AB Remote app** - designed to provide user control over volume and program changes as well as provide access to help information.

To learn more about AB ListenFit and the collection of Advanced DigiCare solutions from AB, visit AdvancedBionics.com/AdvancedDigiCare.

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[COCHLEAR – What You Need to Know: Living Guidelines for Adult Cochlear Implant Care](#)



Recently, international experts, including surgeons and audiologists from around the world, came together to discuss the latest guidelines for adult cochlear implant (CI) care. These guidelines are designed to make sure every patient, no matter where they live, receives the best possible care at every stage of their hearing journey.

Why Regular Hearing Checks Matter

- If you're 50 or older, it's recommended to have your hearing checked every 1 - 3 years. But if you notice any changes in your hearing at any age, don't wait - get checked sooner.
- Simple questions like "Do you feel you have hearing loss?" can help start the conversation. If you answer yes, your care team will guide you through the next steps.
- Early detection is important because untreated hearing loss can affect memory, increase the risk of falls, and lead to social isolation.

What Happens After a Hearing Loss is Detected?

- If your screening suggests hearing loss, you'll be referred for a full hearing evaluation.
- If you experience sudden hearing loss, seek help immediately – it's considered an emergency.
- You may be referred for a cochlear implant evaluation if your hearing test shows certain results (for example, if your hearing is 60 dB HL or greater in key frequencies, or your word recognition is 60% or less). These criteria now also include people with hearing loss in just one ear or with uneven hearing between ears.

Ongoing Assessment and Timely Care

- If you don't qualify for a cochlear implant right away, your hearing should be reassessed every 1 – 3 years.
- It's important to talk about cochlear implants early in your hearing loss journey. On average, people wait about ten years from becoming eligible to receiving an implant; these guidelines aim to reduce that wait.

What to Expect After Your Implant

- Your implant is usually activated within a few days to a month after surgery.
- You'll have four to six programming ("mapping") sessions in the first year, with two to three in the first three months.
- Your care team will include an ENT surgeon, a CI audiologist, and a speech-language therapist. Other specialists may be involved as needed.
- Rehabilitation includes therapy to help you get the most from your implant, plus regular device checks.
- Your quality of life will be monitored before and after surgery to make sure you're getting the support you need.

The Big Picture

These guidelines are here to make sure your cochlear implant journey is smooth, timely, and supported at every step. They help standardize care so you can feel confident you're getting the best possible treatment, no matter where you are.

Want to learn more? You can watch the full webinar here: [IFOS 2025 Webinar on Living Guidelines](#).

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[MED-EL – Impressive Growth for Hearpeers in its 10th Anniversary Year](#)



Throughout 2025, Hearpeers has strengthened its global Mentor network, connecting more hearing implant candidates with valuable peer support.

Hearpeers Mentors are dedicated volunteers who share their personal hearing implant journeys, answer non-medical questions, and help candidates feel more confident in their decision-making. Their stories and support can make a real difference for those considering a hearing implant.

This year, 50 new Hearpeers have joined from several newly participating countries, including China, Estonia, Bulgaria, Canada, Romania, Lithuania, Turkey, and Kazakhstan.

We are proud to now have over 200 Hearpeers Mentors representing 45 countries and speaking more than 33 languages, as the project continues to foster global connections.

Discover how Hearpeers is helping support candidates in the hearing implant journey at hearpeers.com.

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MED-EL – IDEASforEARS 2026 – Children’s Invention Contest Kicking Off Again!



On World Inventors Day, MED-EL launched the 9th edition of the IDEASforEARS children’s invention contest. Kids around the world are invited to submit their ideas in any creative format — from sketches and models to videos and stories. By taking part, children learn about hearing loss while discovering how their creativity can help shape real-world innovation.

Technology Meets Creativity

For the third year in a row, MED-EL is proud to collaborate with Microsoft as the official Technology Partner of IDEASforEARS. This partnership brings cutting-edge tools to the contest, helping young inventors communicate, create, and connect across languages and borders. With live translation, interactive content, and accessibility features powered by Microsoft technology, the contest experience becomes even more inclusive and inspiring for

children with hearing loss.

A Life-Changing Opportunity

Parents, teachers, and mentors are encouraged to support children in joining this adventure. Winners will have their ideas celebrated and will earn a once-in-a-lifetime trip to MED-EL headquarters in Innsbruck, Austria.

Key Details for Participation

- Children aged 6 to 12 years
- Submit ideas to help improve the lives of people with hearing loss
- Submissions open until 17 January 2025
- More information: ideasforears.medel.com

Do you know a child who would love to participate? Let them know and help us spread the word!

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MED-EL – EUHPP Webinar “Beyond Ageing” hosted by the European Commission



HEARING HEALTH FORUM EU



MED-EL

On 27 November, the Hearing Health Forum EU and the European Commission's Health Policy Platform co-hosted the webinar “**Beyond Ageing: A European Hearing Health Agenda for Inclusion and Economic Participation.**”

The event brought together stakeholders from organisations on ageing, patient advocacy, clinical practice, and industry to examine the role of hearing health in promoting active ageing, social inclusion, and economic resilience.

Structured around the four pillars of the HEAR Strategy, Hearing loss awareness, Early prevention, Access and care, and Research, the agenda echoed the priorities of the Policy Manifesto on Hearing Health.

Agenda Highlights

- **Carolina Klotz** (Hearing Health Forum EU) called for stronger public awareness and destigmatisation of hearing loss.
- **Philippe Seidel** (AGE Platform Europe) stressed the need for prevention and life-course hearing screening.
- **Tobias Fischer** (EURO-CIU) shared a patient's journey, identifying challenges and gaps in access to cochlear implants and hearing care.
- **Dr Patrick D'Haese** (MED-EL) underlined the need for EU-level data and research to inform policy action.

Join the Momentum

With over 57 million Europeans affected by hearing loss, the webinar reaffirmed the urgent need for a comprehensive European Hearing Health Strategy that promotes equal participation, quality of life, and healthy ageing for all.

Read and endorse the Policy Manifesto to add your voice and bring hearing health into the heart of Europe's health agenda: hearinghealth.eu/hearing-manifesto

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



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