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Message from the President



Dear friends:

Thank you for all your contributions so that from the Newsletter we can share and spread the news about the cochlear implant from different areas and compare different points of view and approaches.

Although we cannot consider that we have completely returned to normality, we note that ideas continue to flow and that different projects appear, which makes us optimistic and we realize that we must continue working so that there is better access to the hearing aid that it represents, the cochlear implant.

With a still summery climate, from Spain, receive a cordial greeting asking everyone to take care of your general and hearing health.

Teresa Amat (President EURO-CIU)

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[Message from the Newsletter Editor](#)



Many thanks for all your contributions - it's good to hear from you all. And we are also grateful to the cochlear implant companies for keeping us up to date.

Covid-19 has affected us all, one way or another, and things are just starting to improve. Sue & I have just been able to attend a friend's wedding, which had been postponed twice.

As always, there are a lot of articles and photographs in this edition.

Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to Members of Parliament, Members of the European 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!

The next edition will be due in December (where has the year gone?!), so please let me have your articles and jpg photos by Monday 6 December 2021. Just e-mail them to me at newsletter@eurociu.eu

It just leaves me to wish you good health.

Brian Archbold (Editor)

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EURO-CIU RESEARCH – BICYCLE HELMETS



EURO-CIU would like to know the situation in your country concerning the use and the reimbursement of bicycle helmets for CI-users.

It is our impression that because of the Covid regulations, more people started to use the bicycle. So, during the past year we received several emails from parents and adult CI-users concerning the problem of finding a good bicycle helmet. Some parents or adult CI-users find a good helmet after some searching, others try to cut a hole in the inner side of the helmet to make space for the magnet/processor. Others cannot find a solution themselves and go to a special company to design a 'personalized' helmet. But, of course, this last solution is an expensive solution and (as far as we know) it is not reimbursed.

So, I would like to have your answer to the following questions:

1. Did you find a commercialized bicycle helmet on the market which fits with a cochlear implant? If so, can you pass us the brand name and a photo?
2. If you have adapted a commercialized bicycle helmet so it fits now. What did you adapt and how did you do it? Adding a photo makes it always clearer.
3. In case of the creation of a 'personalized helmet'. What kind of helmet was constructed (add photo)? Was it reimbursed or not?

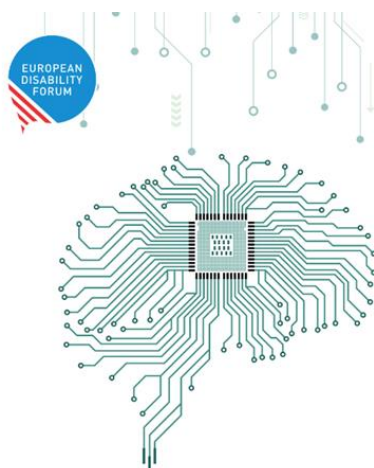
I really look forward to your reactions. You may send them to leo.de.raeve@onici.be (before 30th November 2021)

Best regards and keep safe,

Leo De Raeve
Scientific Advisor EURO-CIU

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EDF - Powering Inclusion through Artificial Intelligence and Assistive Technologies



EDF, (European Disability Forum) of which EURO-CIU is a full member, has sent us their

latest newsletter, and the following article may be of interest to you. It is reporting from a roundtable held around the topic of Artificial Intelligence and Assistive Technologies with important organisations and experts in the field.

Globally, over one billion people currently require Assistive Technology (AT). By 2050, this number is predicted to double. Lack of access to basic AT, such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, wheelchairs or, increasingly, mobile applications, excludes persons with disabilities and reduces their ability to enjoy independent living. Despite the proven advantages of AT for persons with disabilities and older people, their families, and society as a whole, there is still a vast and stubborn gap between the need and the supply; currently, only 10% of those who need AT have access to it.

Advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) offer the potential to develop and enhance AT, as well as the possibility of gaining new insights into the scale and nature of the need for ATs around the world. New tools that build on progress in the field of machine learning bring enormous possibilities for supporting and assisting persons with disabilities in their everyday lives.

[Click here](#) to read the full article on Artificial intelligence and Assistive technologies

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Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CIICA)

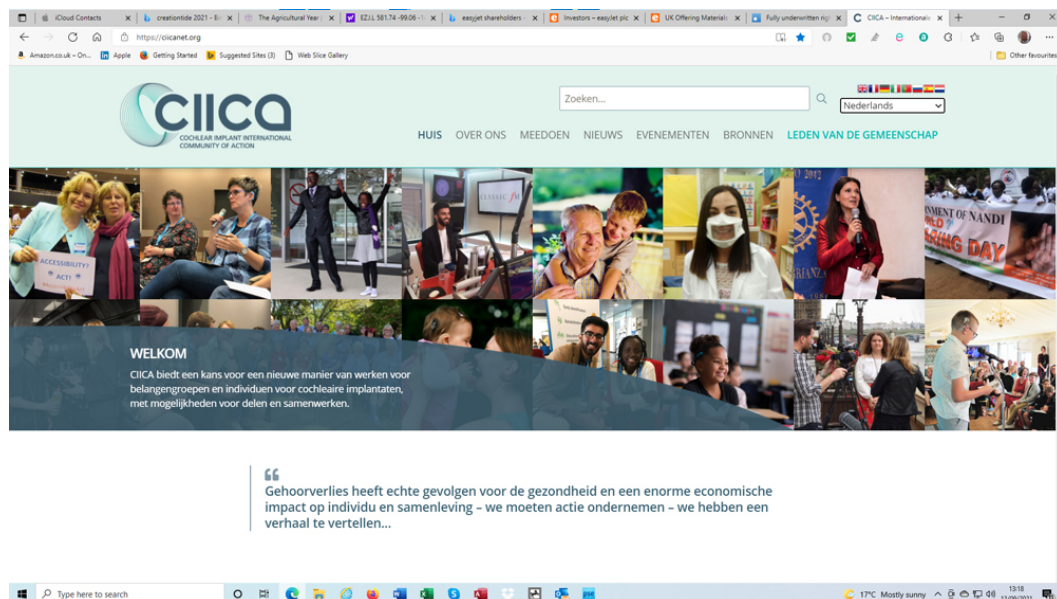


Image: *Webpage automatically translated into Dutch*

Greater accessibility for the CIICA Network

We had users of our website from 56 countries in the last three months and now can offer greater accessibility – if you go to our home page you can choose any one of 40 languages and the website, thanks to Google translate, will then immediately be transformed into the language you choose. See the example of Dutch in the image. We recognise that it's not perfect but it's good and those who have checked several languages are delighted with it. This will help the interaction we are promoting, and the sharing of stories, resources and advocacy news: www.ciicanet.org/community. You will also find the list of current members from across the globe.

In addition, our CIICA LIVE events have the option to choose captioning in other languages; our resources, including the great summaries of the World Report on Hearing CI evidence are now in other languages. Have a look! www.ciicanet.org/resources

Next CIICA LIVE event on 29 September, 19:00 UK time: **CI FUNDING: CHALLENGES**

AND PRIORITIES

An important topic in these challenging times as we seek to increase global access to cochlear implantation. We will share challenges and inspiring stories from across the globe as we learn from each other and clarify steps to action. Register at www.ciicanet.org/events

Coming soon: CIICA CONVERSATIONS

THE FIRST: THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON CI SERVICES

LED BY ANITA GROVER, CI USER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AUDITORY VERBAL UK

Wednesday 20 October, 19.00 UK time.

CIICA CONVERSATIONS are a new opportunity to discuss issues important to you in a small group – maximum 20. They will be led by one person with a specific interest and experience in the topic who will begin the session and then facilitate discussion for one hour in total.

For our first CIICA conversation we will be discussing the impact of the pandemic on services – consider the issues faced by users and those who deliver services. We will explore some of the lessons that we learned in the pandemic – about different ways of reaching and supporting people and how we might build on those over the coming months and years. Join us to share your experiences and suggestions for the future and have a rare opportunity to talk about these issues in conversation.

You will need to book soon as numbers limited to promote conversation! Register at www.ciicanet.org/events

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[3rd International Music & CI Symposium](#)



(Photos: top - CI panellists (Sarah Smith, Gaelen McCormick, Joke Veltman, Kate Gfeller, Tim McKenzie, Christine Choi, Robert Mandara), bottom left double bass, bottom right dinner)

EURO-CIU was represented at this conference by Robert Mandara, Vice-President, EURO-CIU

The 3rd International Music & CI Symposium took place on 15th – 16th September, 2021, as a hybrid event with physical attendees at St John's College, Cambridge. It was hosted by the Cambridge Hearing Group and sponsored by the William Demant Foundation, Cambridge University, and Oticon Medical. Previous Symposia have taken place in Denmark (2016) and Canada (2018).

CI users interested in music were invited to submit music testimonial videos, from which eight of us were chosen to take part in the CI user panel. Six of us were there in person, while two participated online. I was present primarily as a CI user but also promoted EURO-CIU.

The CI user panel comprised a wide age range and a diverse range of hearing and musical histories, from Europe and the USA. Between us we have 52 years of CI use and 329 years of musical engagement! We had just over an hour in which to talk about our experiences and research wishes for the future, and also to take questions from the floor, with Kate Gfeller as the moderator. We could easily have filled many hours!

The session formed a bridge between the world of CI users and the rather detached world of academia. Researchers tend to study the many small variables that make up music whereas users tend to hear the bigger picture. We brought many different perspectives to the table, expressing wishes for some good mainstream music training tools for users, the

ability to make adjustments independently, and better music perception overall.

Drawing on recent personal experience, I stressed that outstanding maps are a pre-requisite for outstanding outcomes. Outstanding maps require a very high level of skill from audiologists. Maps that are good enough for speech perception may not be nearly good enough to enable great music perception.

In the evening we had a splendid meal in St John's College's historic dining hall. Before dessert was served, the CI user panel gave recitals on piano, guitar and double bass to demonstrate that, although we all grumble about how music sounds, we are still able to make music and enjoy doing so.

Presentations were mostly made by scientists for scientists. With so much difficult terminology and statistical data to digest, this was not a symposium for CI laypersons or parents. For accessibility, automatic captioning was employed but gave very variable results depending on who was speaking.

Most of the research around music perception is done with children, partly because it is relatively easy to access groups of CI-using children. Much more research needs to be done with adults though, so that they don't get left behind in rehabilitation programs. Many adults go deaf later in life and therefore have some musical memory and vocabulary with which to compare their perceptions.

This was the first live event that I have attended since the start of the pandemic. I had forgotten how much of importance happens during the breaks. Those who participated online unfortunately missed out on the vital aspect of networking which simply does not happen on Zoom. I had stimulating, energising and thought-provoking mutually-beneficial discussions with so many different people. Even now the event is over, those conversations and new friendships continue. The CI user panel exchange many emails per day as we explore ways to move forwards.

For all the scientists' years of research, it is clear that they still do not really understand exactly how music sounds to users. So, for example, I was asked *"When you play a piano note, does it sound like a piano?"* and *"When you hear a song, does it sound like a poem?"* In some ways, I think researchers have the impression that music sounds worse than it does. In my opinion, CI users are asking for better music perception because we believe that it is within reach and is not some impossible far off dream.

David Landsberger from New York University School of Medicine, asked me a seemingly simple question which has stuck in my mind and I hope will stick in yours. The more you think about it, the harder it becomes. He said, in essence, *"It's all very well to say that we need more tools to be able to measure music perception, but what is it that we actually need to measure?"* That is to say, a CI user may be able to tell one pitch from another, or one instrument from another, but still not be able to hear music like a hearing person.

For more information, visit <http://www.implantsandmusic.net/>

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[AUSTRIA – CIA – In Austria association meetings started again!](#)



(Photo: Gabi and Wody, the CIA Facebook-team ©Philipp Hicker)

In 2020, the CIA would have had a new board election, but pandemic, lockdown, and strict contact restrictions had prevented all meetings at the time. Since it would have been very hard for some older, less tech-savvy members to attend an online meeting and election, the CIA decided to postpone both events. This year, finally, loosened measures allowed a General Assembly in July.

Unfortunately, the meeting was held during the school vacations. In addition to that, many members of the association are still unsure about attending larger meetings. Nevertheless, around forty participants from Vienna and the surrounding area were finally able to hear first-hand about association news since the outbreak of the pandemic. The news has also included the CIA's social media appearance, more precisely on Facebook, supervised by Gabi (Gabriele Saxa) and Wody (Gabriele Woditschka).

The next wave of the pandemic is probably coming, and maybe restrictions might be necessary again. Nevertheless, we are now confident that regional CIA Groups in Austria will be able to resume their regular meetings again.

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AUSTRIA – CIA – Musical instrument in a form of cochlea



(Photo: Heinz Kirchschrager in the middle)

Heinz Kirchschrager, a CI user and CIA member from Lower Austria, has built a completely new musical instrument: an alphorn in a shape of cochlea!

The 58-year-old folk music lover has been a cochlear implant user for almost three years. Thanks to CI, CI rehab and music therapy, he plays the button accordion in a folk music ensemble again. After the implantation, he also learned to play the alphorn. This special wind instrument from the region of the Alps has no keys or buttons to determine the tone. This means that the pitch depends on the tension of the lips and can be found solely by hearing. Kirchschrager explains it like this, *"If you want to produce a correct tone there, you have to be able to hear it."*

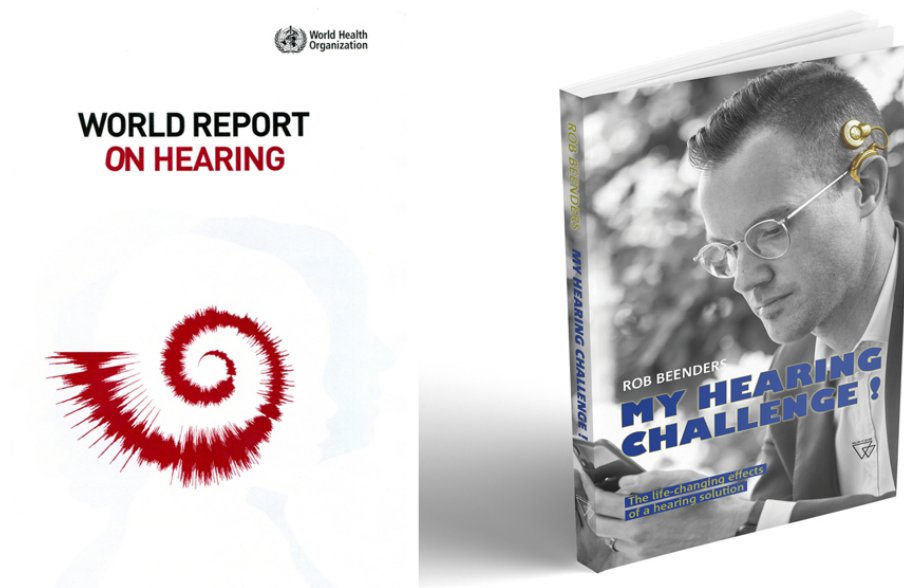
Out of joy and gratitude for his CI, Kirchschrager came up with the idea of building a special alphorn: not in the usual straight shape, but in the shape of a cochlea! *"I wanted to make something special to celebrate my CI. Besides, I've always liked to do something a little crazy."* In the meantime, he and his friend Gerhard Hadinger have made three prototypes, which he presented at a meeting on Geißenbergalm in Lower Austria at the end of June. More than 100 participants – CI users, folk music fans and residents of the Alpine region – were able to enjoy the music together while exchanging information about hearing and hearing implants.

Photo ©Manfred Neumann

More details and photos will be available in October in the CIA's online magazine at www.ci-a.at/magazin-neu/.

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BELGIUM – ONICI – Webinar ONICI (B) on the Implications of the World Report on Hearing (WRH) for Belgium and the Netherlands was a big success.



On 8 July 2021, Leo De Raeve, director of ONICI (Independent Information and Research Centre on Cochlear Implants) organised a Webinar on 'The Implications of the World Report on Hearing (of the WHO) for Belgium and the Netherlands'.

The aim of the Webinar was to give a summary of the content of the World Report on Hearing, to focus on the Make Listening Save Campaign, on the implications of the WRH

for Belgium and the Netherlands especially on the topic of 'cochlear implants', and to stress on the importance of the voice of the CI-users themselves.

The first speaker was **Mark Laureyns**, who is co-chair of the Make Listening Safe steering group of the WHO. The aim of his presentation was to focus on how we can leverage the WRH to minimize the impact of untreated hearing loss.

The best speaker we could invite to focus on the voice of the CI-user was **Rob Beenders**. He is a bimodal user (cochlear implant + hearing aid), was a member of parliament in Belgium and has recently published a book on his hearing journey and challenges. Not only Rob's story is published in the book, also the story of 6 other CI-users (children and adults). The book is very successful in Belgium and the Netherlands. In one month already 1,000 books were sold, there is already a second press and the book is already translated into English. An e-book is free and downloadable from the [Adult Hearing website](#).

Finally, **Leo De Raeve** (ONICI) focused on the implications of the World Hearing Report on Cochlear Implantation, as published in the documents of CIICA: the Adult CI evidence and the Children's CI advocacy evidence from the World Report on Hearing.

The Webinar was a big success with nearly 100 participants and a lot of downloads afterwards. You can still look at the (Dutch) Webinar or download the handouts [from the website of ONICI](#).

It was also nice to read the reaction of Shelly Chadha (Technical lead for ear and hearing care at WHO) who wrote *"Great initiative! Thanks Leo De Raeve for this step to operationalize the recommendations of the World report on hearing."*

We hope that more organisations all over the world will take the initiative to come to action on the implication of the World Report on Hearing, for their country.

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[CZECH REPUBLIC – SUKI for young CI users – two different summer camps in the Czech republic](#)



Photos: SUKI goes to summer camp (top) and “SUKI at your own risk” (bottom)

"SUKI jede na tábor" (means "SUKI goes to summer camp"), and **"SUKI na vlastní triko"** (can be translated as **"SUKI at your own risk"** which reflects the aim of the camp) are two events organised by the Association of Cochlear implant users of the Czech Republic (SUKI) for children and young adults.

"SUKI goes to summer camp" aims at children with cochlear implants and their siblings and friends at the age between seven and fourteen. The idea of such an event emerged from parents of children with cochlear implants, who were in trouble searching for suitable and safe summer camps. There were several bad experiences from common camps, mostly due to lack of understanding by camp leaders. That is why SUKI started to organize these events five years ago and it has experienced a huge success ever since. The theme this year was "Pirates", it was a fantastic adventure that lasted one whole week. Children enjoyed a lot of fun playing games and spending time with their friends. Look at our Facebook page @SUKIjedenatabor how much fun we had. The summer camp happened for the fifth time this year, and we are looking forward to our next adventures.

"SUKI na vlastní triko" or **"SUKI at your own risk"** is inspired by the European Friendship Week we once participated in with the Czech group. We were so amazed by the event that we realised we needed something for a Czech young adult. This summer, for the first time, twenty teenagers with cochlear implants gathered for one week in the beautiful nature of North Bohemia. One part of the programme was summer activities such as swimming, hiking, climbing and just being together. The other part of the programme was focused on personal growth. The aim was to find the best abilities of each participant and to learn to defend their own rights and needs. We had a lovely time together, and we are

going to meet again next summer. Look at our Facebook page @SUKInavlastnitriko for more summer vibes.

Marína Štibrányi and Leona Pejcharová

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ROMANIA – Ascultă Viața – WaveforMe



Asociația națională a persoanelor cu deficiențe de auz din România Ascultă Viața

The Romanian Association “Hear Life”, together with our partners from VAR Cultural NGO, is in the process of submitting the project WaveforMe to the Romanian Administration of National Cultural Fund for funding.

We kindly ask you to have a look at the project's summary below. If you are interested to become partners, please e-mail Asociația Ascultă Viața asociatiaascultaviata@gmail.com. You are kindly asked to send us a signed partnership agreement no later than 01.10.2021. Due to the rules of the funding agency, the partnership agreement is written in both Romanian and English.

We are also looking for hearing-impaired adults, recipients of cochlear implants / hearing aids from abroad, working in the cultural field to become actively involved in the project through podcasts which shall be distributed through the project's platform.

WaveforMe is a cultural and educational mechanism, an online platform dedicated to hearing-impaired pre-teenagers and teenagers – recipients of cochlear implants / hearing aids (10-18 years).

During the 6-month implementation period, the platform will be developed in 3 directions:

1. Social – creation and dissemination of video materials (podcasts) with hearing-impaired adult guests recipients of cochlear implants / hearing aids from Romania and abroad, who work in the cultural field;
2. Educational – organizing and holding 3 workshops in Romania for hearing-impaired teenagers (14-18 years): public speaking, visual arts and music;
3. Cultural – creation and development of a virtual gallery, an exhibition space dedicated to hearing-impaired pre-teenagers and teenagers from Romania and abroad (12-18 years).

In the last stage, there will be a travelling exhibition that will contain a selection of the works exhibited in the virtual gallery and will artistically summarize the entire project. It will be presented to the public in four cities: Sibiu, Timisoara, Iasi and Bucharest, where members of the deaf community, experts in the field of education, social and cultural field will be invited.

The discovery and promotion of these young people offers them a huge chance for social and cultural integration in the national and international cultural circuit.

Through its purpose and activities, the WaveforMe project has the ability to bring together people with similar experiences, interests and / or needs, from different geographical contexts. A much-needed virtual space that comes both in support of the deaf community – recipients of cochlear implants / hearing aids, and in support of experts in the social, educational and cultural fields.

The platform will be further developed after the end of the project, by creating podcasts with new guests and by developing the virtual gallery with new contributions from the

beneficiaries, thus becoming the result of an unlimited collective contribution in time.

From more information, please contact us via email or by phone : Anamaria Brasov, +40.720.045.225.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

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SPAIN - YOUNG SUMMER CAMPAICE a success



COVID changed our lives, but it has not stopped youth from growing up and needing their time for leisure. Even in these challenging times, Federación AICE decided to organize their young cochlear implant summer camp. 9 days filled with activities prepared specially for deaf kids in mind, following all health department recommendations. And with a smaller group than usual, we could do personalized meetings with an audiologist who explained how get the most out of their own CI devices, which most of the teens did not really know.

CAMPAICE fulfilled all expectations. Kids enjoying themselves, making friends, playing, even falling in love, facing their fears and succeeding in achieving new challenges.

"Masks make everything so difficult. These communicative masks the leaders are wearing at the house for lipread or the microphone and speaker they are always carrying around allowed me to understand everything and not be frustrated all the time." 14-year-old girl.

"Heights frighten me a little. But today I ascended 3 times the climbing wall. I feel amazing right now." 17-year-old girl

"I had a really horrible year. I needed time to decompress, to just be." 17-year-old boy.

"I love to wake up with so many friends around. I want to come back next year." 10-year-old boy.

CAMPAICE's videos with activities:

Adventure activities: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5adyiGhIbU>

Workshops and games: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHm0EMnDYww>

Karting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZ2RgkLwVG4>

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SPAIN – Comodato: a new way of approaching the updating and maintenance of cochlear implant processors



The Spanish law (Order SCB / 480/2019, of April 26, of the Ministry of Health, Consumption and Social Welfare) establishes that each competent health administration (of the different autonomous communities or the country) will include the mechanism that it considers most appropriate for activation, programming and revisions that are required. In accordance with this, the Andalusian Health Service has decided to use the legal form of the comodato, with the cochlear implant processors, which has important advantages for both parties.

The comodato is a contract that consists of a loan for use, free of charge, by means of which one of the parties leaves the use and enjoyment of something non-expendable to another, which will be returned at the time that was stipulated in the agreement in question.

It is a real contract (located on one thing- the external part of the cochlear implant), unilateral (the agreement can only be established towards one party - the user), free (the borrower does not receive anything in return), and of mere possession, since the borrower or user is aware that what they have loaned does not belong to him.

This is a new way of approaching the updating and maintenance of cochlear implant processors, which for the moment we see very interesting.

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[WORLD NEWS - Professor Graeme Clark reflects on his life's work in new memoir 'The cochlear implant has changed my life in ways that I never expected'](#)



When Professor Graeme Clark, Australian inventor of the multi-channel cochlear implant, reflects on his life's work, his attention doesn't focus on his achievements – or even the technology.

His focus remains firmly fixed on the importance of human connection – and how his work has helped people of all ages stay connected with each other.

"When I think about the implant and what it does... they have enabled adults to communicate with each other, taking them out of their loneliness and their isolation, and depression. And it's had a dramatic effect on children. They are able to communicate with their peers. They can... develop their true potential. It's been dramatic," he says.

Now, you can read the full story of Professor Clark's remarkable life and the incredible development of the multi-channel cochlear implant in his new memoir, ***I want to fix ears – Inside the cochlear implant story***, which is available [online](#) through Amazon.

Looking back over 40 years, Professor Clark reflects on the moments and people who have left their mark. The memoir features many anecdotes, from his first inspirations to meeting the Queen of the United Kingdom. It also celebrates the people who rely on the technology to hear, including the first people in the world to receive the technology.

While early success came with adults who had previously had hearing and lost it, Professor Clark's attention turned to the challenge of how cochlear implants could help children who were born deaf.

"Would they hear these strange electrical signals and be able to understand speech and language? In due course, from adults to children, I found that it was possible... I just was blown away," he says.

Herein lies Professor Clark's motivation to write his memoir: to support ongoing research and initiatives to help more people access cochlear implant technology – particularly children in countries where this still remains a challenge.

One quarter of the book's proceeds will go to the [Graeme Clark Research Institute](#) and another 25% will help fund Professor Clark's charitable foundation, [The Graeme Clark Foundation](#), which supports direct giving initiatives and research that help people with sensory disorders to reach their true potential.

The Foundation recently supplied cochlear implants for two young brothers with hearing

loss in India via its direct giving program, which gives people access to cochlear implants who are unable to afford them.

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WORLD NEWS - Malala Fund - Every child and young person deserves the opportunity to hear and learn



(Image courtesy of Malala Fund, Malin Fezehai)

In a world-first, Malala Fund and Cochlear Foundation have partnered to raise awareness of the barriers keeping millions of children and young people with hearing loss worldwide from accessing a quality education and early access to hearing healthcare and support.

Worldwide, 34 million children have disabling hearing loss. **(1)** Without equal rights to an education and early access to hearing healthcare and support, these children may not realise their full potential.

Supported by Cochlear, this three year collaboration between the two not-for-profit organisations will address this global issue.

If children with hearing loss do not receive hearing health care and support in a timely manner, they often experience lower school performance, higher risk of dropping out of school, and less likelihood of accessing higher education. Ultimately, this can impact their lifelong career prospects. **(2)**

In some countries, this problem is exacerbated - especially for girls - due to unequal access to education. **(3)** In India, only one in three girls complete their secondary education. **(4)**

Co-founder of Malala Fund, Malala Yousafzai who has hearing loss understands this issue all too well. Malala started speaking out for girls' education after the Taliban banned girls from going to school in her hometown. In 2013, she co-founded Malala Fund with her father, Ziauddin. A year later, Malala received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her efforts to see every girl complete 12 years of free, safe, quality education. The organization continues to champion this mission.

"Hearing loss is a crucial factor that you cannot ignore when you want that child to have

access to learning,” says Malala. “There are ways we can make sure we are creating an equitable and equal society in which nobody is missing out or being left behind.”

How you can help

We invite you to **share this video** featuring Malala and cochlear implant recipient, Alana Nichols.

For more information about the partnership and how you can get involved, click on the **Malala Fund** website, or visit the Cochlear Foundation's website, www.cochlearfoundation.org

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WORLD NEWS - AUSTRIA - EXCELLENCE dedicated to HEARING IMPLANTS



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

Music training boosts music enjoyment in cochlear implant users

Cochlear implants have shown to be effective in restoring speech perception in a myriad of clinical studies. Music enjoyment, however, is still challenging for cochlear implant users. Postlingually deafened adults, in particular, tend to describe music perception as unpleasant, out-of-tune, and dissonant. This is attributable to the limited ability of cochlear implants to cover the entire natural frequency range and to process fine spectro-temporal information, which is essential for complex sound processing (i.e., speech understanding in noise and music perception). Furthermore, music listening requires more complex cognitive processes than speech understanding does. To overcome the obstacle to successful music perception in cochlear implant users, a focus has been placed on fine structure processing research in the last decade and also on strategies that the users themselves can apply to increase music enjoyment. These strategies involve listening to individual instruments and familiar pieces of music first, playing or starting to play an instrument, and constant training.

Several studies demonstrated the positive impact of music training on the structural and functional development of the auditory system. To date, a series of music training apps

have been developed:

1. **Auralia®** offers a series of apps dedicated to different aspects of music perception (pitch discrimination, recognition of intervals, recognition of chords, scales, etc.).
2. **Lyrics Training** offers users the opportunity to train word recognition in lyrics by selecting their favourite song and their hearing level. The app will then ask the user to fill the created gaps in the lyrics.
3. **Touch Pianist** allows users to perform hard-to-play classical piano music favourites by touching the bubbles appearing on the screen. This tool lends itself to work on the sense of rhythm.
4. **Clapping Music** is a free app for iPhone and iPad. It is based on the idea that the user trains the sense of rhythm by clapping a simple rhythm and competing with the software which provides the correct rhythm.

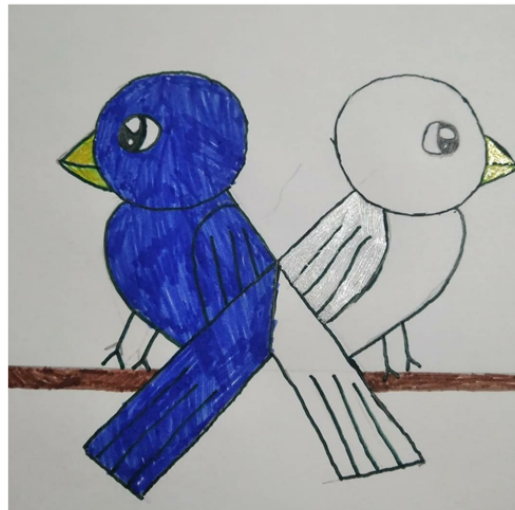
Univ. Prof. Dr. Wolf-Dieter Baumgartner, MBA

Reference:

Jiam & Limb. *Music perception and training for pediatric cochlear implant users* (2021)

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WORLD NEWS – BELARUS – Violetta – the sole recipient of a cochlear implant from the company Advanced Bionics in Belarus – was in need. With united forces we could help.



(Photo: Andre A. Razhko and Julia V Razhko (parents), Evgenija V. Burak and Violetta; and photo of a picture painted by Violetta who pursues her hobby of painting with great enthusiasm - "Spring has come")

One year – this can be a short but also a long time. For Violetta Kovreckaja from Vitebsk – the cultural capital in the North of Belarus, close to the border with Latvia, where Marc Chagall was born – it meant 12 long months of waiting. It finally took that long until we could provide her with a replacement speech processor and an Online fitting session.

Violetta experienced her cochlear implantation at the University clinic in Ferrara in 2012. For the parents this meant a big financial effort. Luckily a few foundations contributed to cover the costs. For a couple of years Violetta and her parents travelled to Italy again and again to have the fittings of her speech processor. However, 5 years ago it was for the last time.

For over 8 years the now 13 years old schoolgirl has been wearing her Harmony, all this time it was serving her well, but now it was not functioning properly any longer.

In Belarus there is an established CI programme financed by the government. Within the framework of the annually advertised tenders, however, cochlear implants were bought from two manufacturers but not from Advanced Bionics so far. Consequently, there is no chance to get an upgrade speech processor from Advanced Bionics under the programme financed by the government.

We – the Lehnhardt Foundation – effectively supported by Jan Röhrig (Deaf Ohr Alive – Hessen Rhein Main), found a donor who was ready to pass his Naida Q 90 which he did not need any longer to Violetta. We sent it to Vitebsk.

The “only thing” that was needed to organize was the fitting of the SP. Natalya Kalintscheva, a representative of the company Advanced Bionics, helped to arrange it. She also sent the necessary equipment from Moscow to a business partner, Timur Nurseitov (Fonamed) in Minsk. Technical questions concerning the remote fitting and the programming were solved by Ruslan Kertiev, also from Moscow. Already, before that, he offered a preparatory training for the personnel in Minsk, so that the session could happen without any problems.

Ing. Evgenija V. Burak and the surdopedagog Liubov A. Proschina from the ENT scientific-practical Center of the Republic of Belarus (RNPZ) in Minsk (<http://www.lor.by>) supported the family professionally and with a high level of empathy.

With united forces we succeeded: Violetta is happy and can continue to attend and thanks to good hearing perform well in normal school.

[Dr. Monika Lehnhardt-Gorjany](#)

www.lehnhardt-stiftung.org

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[WORLD NEWS - FINLAND - Russ Palmer, Deafblind music therapist](#)



[\(Photo: Russ Palmer playing a keyboard\)](#)

In an interview with the ADBN Chair Dr. Peter Simcock, Russ talks about his life and

career, and treats the listener to an impromptu performance of his song 'Deafblind Blues'.

Russ Palmer is an international music therapist, songwriter, musician and writer. His first CD was released in 2009, titled 'Warm Summer Days', followed by his DVD titled 'Pulse' and a further DVD in 2012 titled 'Musical Perception of a deafblind cochlear implant user'. Russ has published academic articles on musical perception using cochlear implants and musical haptics, and was involved in the development of a portable music floor known as the Tactile Sound System TM.

ADBN Celebrating Contributions Website: <http://adbn.deafblindinternational.org/contribution/russ-palmer-uk-international-music-therapist-songwriter-musician-innovator-and-writer/>

Russ is also involved with SUITCEYES - University of Borås, Sweden; Offenburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany; Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands: Developing a system designed for communication by, and with, people with deafblindness. They have been nominated for the Innovation Radar Prize 2021. As in previous years of the Innovation Radar Prize, the public will have the opportunity to assist the jury on their search for the best innovation of 2021! Now is your chance to vote for your 3 favourite innovations from the 24 selected innovations, out of a tremendous number of applications for the 2021 Innovation Radar Prize. You can vote for up to 3 innovations, but the voting will end on the 30 September and the outcome will be considered by the jury for their selection of the 12 Innovation Radar Prize finalists. If you wish to vote, [click here](#).

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WORLD NEWS - FRANCE - Cannes Film Festival 2021



[#HearingLoss](#) is not always accurately represented in mainstream media. At the 2021 Cannes Film Festival, "We hear you", a documentary about 4 women facing the challenges of [#HearingLoss](#), has been voted best film in the World Focus-Disability section. [#Disability](#) [#livingwithhearingloss](#)

https://twitter.com/hashtag/livingwithhearingloss?src=hashtag_click

<https://livingwithhearingloss.com/2021/08/03/we-hear-you-wins-best-film-on-disability/>

(Note from Editor: this 45-minute film can be seen by [clicking here](#))

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WORLD NEWS – Celebrating AVT Qualifications in Italy and Lebanon



(Photos: Yara Harb & Maria Nicastri)

Congratulations to two more people who have qualified as Certified Auditory Verbal therapists and both only the second in their respective countries.

Yara Harb was inspired to become a Speech Pathologist after growing up with a younger deaf brother and watching her family struggle to help him.

Yara heard about Auditory Verbal UK through a colleague and was especially attracted to the training as she could complete it online from her home in Lebanon. Her training with AVUK took three years and she battled with the instability in her home country and a temporary move to Canada where she currently lives. She has continued to support families in Lebanon despite the time difference.

Louise Aston, Senior Auditory Verbal Therapist and AVUK Training Lead said: *"I am in awe of what Yara did over the last few years, despite so many barriers in her way. It is such a fantastic achievement for the LSLS Cert AVT global community, especially in a region where there is not a lot of availability of qualified AVTs. Yara has such high ambitions for changing the face of deafness in Lebanon and will be a trailblazer for families and the profession in the middle east. I can't wait to see what she is going to achieve!"*

Maria Nicastri is the lead Speech and Language therapist at the Centro Impianti Cocleari del Policlinico Universitario Umberto I in Rome, Italy. She described her AVT training journey:

*"In 2018, I began my training with Auditory Verbal UK to become a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist. As part of the program **Advanced Training Course in Auditory Verbal Therapy: Auditory Verbal Principles in Everyday Practice** and now I have finally realised my dream to become a LSLS cert AVT!"*

"Three years have passed together with the AVUK team, that followed me step by step, with attention, patience, dedication, and passion, changing my practice through their effective coaching and supporting me even in most difficult moments. It has been an exciting journey, which has made me a better practitioner. Now I feel I will be able to give much more to all my families and their children."

There are currently 73 professionals from 14 different countries on **AVUK's Foundation and Advanced courses**.

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WORLD NEWS – RUSSIA – ПОРА! ПОРА! – in English "It is Time!"

Themes PORA! 2021		
Date	Expert	The topic
12.09.	Varvara Oleshova (National research center for audiology&hearing rehabilitation Moscow, Russia)	Regulatory moments in the family life of a child with hearing impairment
26.09.	Nailya Galeeva (foundation "Melody of Life" Moscow, Russia)	Experience of the foundation "Melody of Life" and their role for children with hearing impairment
10.10.	Oksana Dzhanyach (Aksai Clinic Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan)	Experience of an audiologist and teacher for the deaf - what is important for parents to know about successful fitting
24.10.	Maria Boboshko (Laboratory of Hearing & Speech St.Petersburg, Russia)	Hearing aids for school children
31.10.	Olga Suchova (Moscow, Russia)	The first games after fitting a speech processor
14.11.	Olga Zontova (Research Institute of ETN and Speech St.Petersburg, Russia)	Remote training sessions for auditory-oral development für children with hearing impairment and after cochlear Implantation
21.11.	Sue Archbold, Eulalia Juan, Yvonne Seebens, Monika Lehnhardt-Gorjany (UK, Spain, Germany)	Round Table with Parents
28.11.	Tatiana Bogdanovich (Aurora Center Kiev, Ukraine)	Forum Discussion
5.12.	Emma Rushbrooke and Jayne Simpson (Hear&Say Center Brisbane, Australia)	Not yet defined

Image: Programme PORA September to December 2021

Time to get started again and meet in our Online Webinars.

Another summer has passed under unusual circumstances, and it looks as if we need to cope with the current situation for another couple of months.

At the same time, we strive for normality, and this is also why we are starting our new cycle of PORA! Webinars.

As you can see from the current programme, we will have many highly experienced and some world-renowned speakers to present on "hot topics" until end of 2021. They come from different countries, e.g., Russia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Spain, Germany and Australia.

PORA is targeted mainly at Russian speaking professionals and parents, but not only!

Parents all over the world are confronted with the same or very similar issues, feelings, concerns, fears, questions and expectations when they get the diagnosis that their child is severely hearing impaired or deaf and this continues over many years when they want to support the development of their child to the best of their abilities.

Professionals all over the world have similar needs and are or should be on a learning curve all lifelong.

Since 2009 already we are Online with PORA twice a month – presentations and equally important forum discussions. All you need to do is register – participation is free. LINK to register <https://earbook.online/pora/ru/en/>

We also make recordings which are easily accessible. It is worthwhile to have a look here LINK to recordings <https://earbook.online/pora/ru/en/category/presentation/>.

For some time, we have been offering additionally counselling for parents in groups or on an individual basis. Should you be interested please contact us.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you soon!

Dr. Monika Lehnhardt-Gorjany

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



AMERICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT ALLIANCE

The Incredible Hulk Lou Ferrigno Shares Early Thoughts on his Cochlear Implant

Actor and bodybuilder Lou Ferrigno received a cochlear implant in February 2021. In a 20-minute interview with ACI Alliance Executive Director Donna Sorkin, he discusses his lifelong hearing loss and why he went forward with a cochlear implant at age 69. He is candid about the challenges he faced during childhood and how he overcame them using amplification, lipreading, and his determination to not let challenges stand in his way of moving forward in life. A friend's recent success with a cochlear implant provided the impetus for Lou to explore one for himself as means of staying vital and connected to others. Children and adults alike note how inspirational they found Lou's comments and his determination to overcome adversity. [Click here](#) to watch the video.

How Recent Scientific Discoveries are Advancing Cochlear Implant Benefits —Recording of a Workshop for Adults, Parents, and the General Public

This recorded event, held live in May 2021, is for anyone who wants to learn more about cochlear implants. Featured speakers are internationally recognized cochlear implant scientists and clinicians who share and engage on up-to-date research and clinical experience in an accessible manner. It is appropriate to both those individuals (or family members) who have, and those who are exploring, cochlear implants. Session run is 3 hours, free, and captioned. [Click here](#) to watch the workshop.

CI2022 DC | May 18-21

ACI Alliance hosts an annual clinical research conference focused on cochlear implantation that brings together clinicians and scientists from across the care continuum to share current research and clinical outcomes. CI2022 DC will be held in-person in Washington, DC and will cover wide-ranging topics on CI in children and adults. Students, fellows and interns are encouraged to pursue scholarship opportunities and participate in the student poster competition. [Click here](#) to view details on Emerging Issues and other topics to be explored.

Listening @ ACI Alliance Launches September 1

To expand awareness about cochlear implants and our own research and advocacy activities, ACI Alliance launched a new monthly free online publication—Listening @ ACI Alliance. Listening is intended for a broad audience and is suitable for your patient community and professionals who are interested in cochlear implants but not intensively

involved. [Click here](#) to sign up and view the September issue.

What can an experienced cochlear implant recipient do to further improve hearing outcomes and quality of life?

Naama's latest blog post answers this question with tips on talking on the phone, listening to music, optimizing options for different environments on the sound processor, and staying up-to-date on advances in speech-to-text technology. [Click here](#) to read the full blog.

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RELATED CONGRESS – Support and development continues in an online world

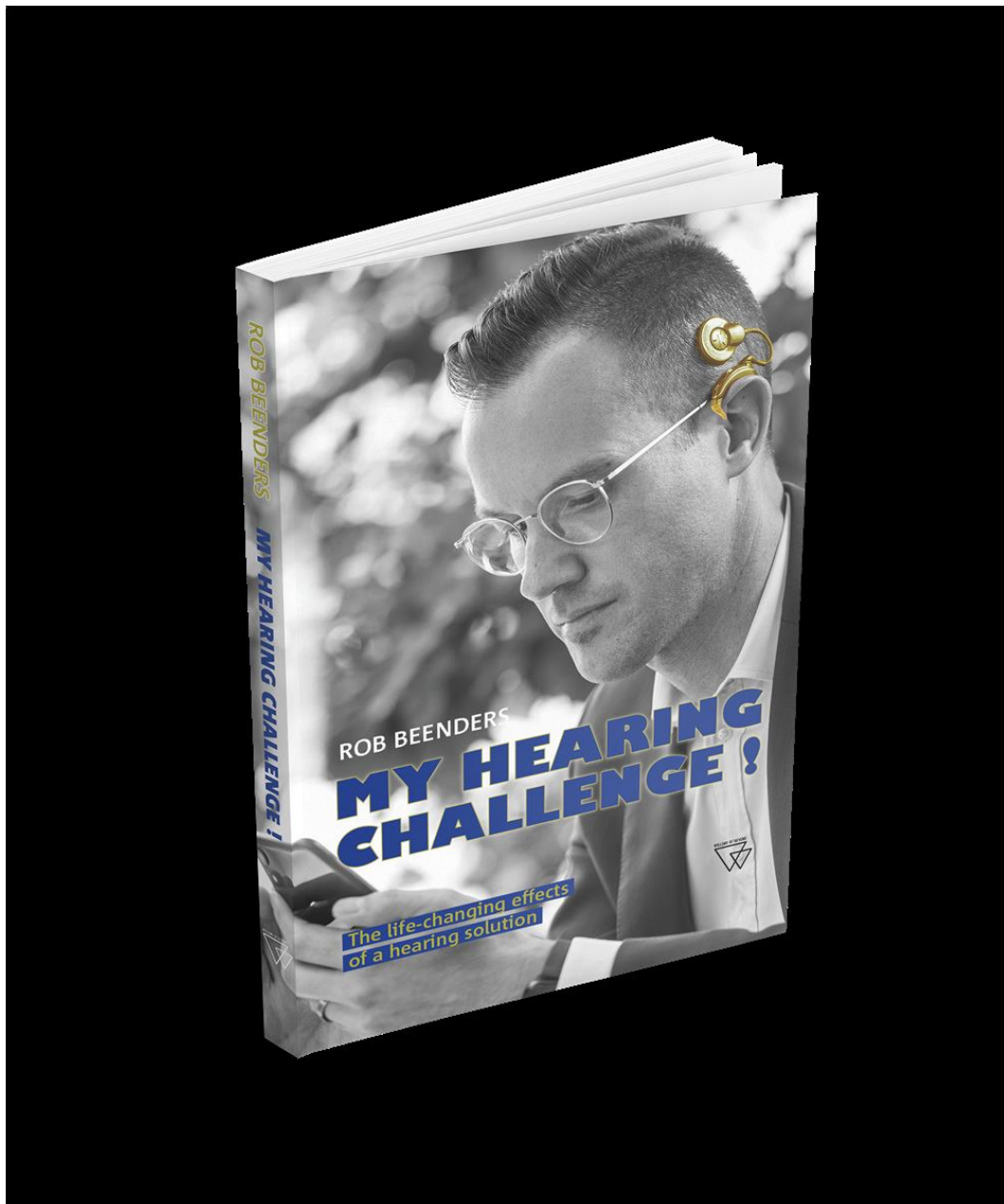


Continuing to support colleagues working with deaf children through online platforms, we have several new training opportunities for speech and language therapists, Teachers of the Deaf and audiologists. There's another chance to take part in our popular webinar on 'Developing speech & language through book sharing' on 5th October, 'Developing verbal humour' on 11th November and 'Parent-coaching in early intervention' on 27th January.

Keep up to date with all upcoming AVUK events [here](#).

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WORLD NEWS - "My Hearing Challenge" - Rob Beenders



Why this book?

Hearing impairment is still all too often located in a world of 'shame'. Hearing aids are synonymous with 'old' and a cochlear implant is synonymous with 'deaf and dumb'. I have experienced this all too often since I have been hard of hearing. Of course, this is not true and I would like to change this.

The number of people with hearing problems is increasing significantly, but on average, people only choose a solution after about seven years. It is high time to tell a positive story about hearing loss. By showing that solutions do exist and that you can function perfectly well at work, pursue your hobbies and hang out with friends.

I am so convinced that hearing solutions need to be better known that I quit my job in politics and got the opportunity to work for an international company that specialises in making hearing implants. Every day, I am in the world of hearing solutions and see how people's lives are improved. The time has come for my story to provide inspiration. So that, hopefully, even more people will choose customised hearing solutions sooner.

My story should complement the medical explanations given by doctors, audiologists ... It is a story that explains the experience and perception of hearing loss and hearing solutions. I would like to open up a public debate and advocate that the government should continue to invest in hearing solutions because they enable people to work according to

their talents, to be active in social life and because choosing hearing solutions slows down cognitive decline and dementia.

My story should also encourage other people to share their experience with others. Everyone who chooses a hearing solution has a unique story: if we all spread the word, we will inspire those people who are in denial today.

This book also tells the stories of other people with hearing loss. They each describe their experiences with tinnitus, unilateral deafness, deafness at birth, DFNA9,... It is amazing how they cope with this and show that life does not stop at hearing loss.

The proceeds of this book go entirely to the good cause of hearing.

My Hearing Journey is for sale as an E-book for € 14 via <https://bookbar.be>

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[WORLD NEWS - Australian Usher Syndrome Research Webinars](#)



UsherKids Australia update their community on the various Australian research projects currently working on treatments for retinitis pigmentosa and Usher syndrome.

USHER IN FOCUS Webinar Series is now available to be viewed online!

The webinars include the latest updates on global clinical research efforts, clinical guidelines, how to support your Usher syndrome student in the classroom and more. You can now access the recordings and Q&A sessions to watch in your own time, as well as view the presentation slides, resource lists, transcription and Q&A recordings.

With a range of Australian and International leaders in support for children with Usher syndrome joining us to present, we believe this is a must for families and health care professionals caring for children with Usher syndrome in Australia.

Your registration allows access to all 15 presentations, 7 Q&A sessions, presentation slides, resource lists and transcriptions. All videos include captions and Auslan

interpreting.

For more information and for registration, [click here](#).

Dominique Sturz, Patient Advocate Usher Syndrome & Rare Diseases

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RELATED CONGRESS - European Symposium on Paediatric Cochlear Implantation (ESPCI, 2021)



ESPCI 2021 was planned for Budapest in October several years ago – however, times have changed, and the Symposium will now be entirely online. What a pity not to visit Budapest, but Prof Jozsef Kiss of the University of Szeged, Hungary, and his professional organiser, Dóra Horváth, now have plenty of experience in making online meetings exciting and accessible to more people than ever. So, we invite you to the 15th European Symposium on Paediatric Cochlear Implantation (ESPCI 2021), to be held online (Budapest, Hungary), 27 – 30 October 2021.

ESPCI began in Nottingham in 1992 and is the only international CI conference which is dedicated to children and their families and has as part of its mandate the involvement of families and the young people themselves.

For further information please visit the official website (<https://espci2021.org/>) of the event, where you have the opportunity to register for the event.

We look forward to welcoming you on ESPCI!

Prof. Dr. habil. Jozsef Géza Kiss, President of ESPCI 2021
Dóra Horváth, Professional Organiser,
Sue Archbold, General Secretary of ESPCI

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[RELATED CONGRESS - Usher 1B Virtual Workshop](#)

FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

This meeting was held in virtual format on 13 September, was hosted by the Foundation Fighting Blindness and supported by Save Sight Now. It was co-chaired by Dr. Shannon Boye and Professor José-Alain Sahel, leaders in the USH1B field, and brought together leading experts from academia and industry and affected individuals and their families.

The goals of the Workshop were to review the Usher 1B landscape, energize the clinical and research community through shared learnings, and identify knowledge gaps for future work. Importantly, the Foundation seeks to understand how it can facilitate next steps. They also looked forward to hearing from affected individuals and patient advocates.

For further information, [click here](#).

Dominique Sturz, Patient Advocate Usher Syndrome & Rare Diseases

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[RELATED CONGRESS - International Usher Info Scientific Symposium](#)

International usher info Symposium

The 2021 International Usher info Symposium is organized as a free digital event. It is open to scientists, patients, and their families. It is scheduled as follows:

International Usher info Scientific Symposium (official language: English) from October 6 to 8, 2021 – 3 to 6:30 pm Paris time each day

International Usher info Patient Symposium (official language: French) on October 9, 2021 – 2 to 6 pm Paris time

For Information on the programme in English, [click here](#). For registration in English, [click here](#).

For information on the programme in French, [click here](#). For registration in French, [click here](#).

Dominique Sturz, Patient Advocate Usher Syndrome & Rare Diseases

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[RELATED CONGRESS – UK – BATOD Webinar Series](#)



The BATOD webinar series features a broad range of themes and speakers related to deaf education and early intervention for cochlear implanted, hearing aids and non-aided deaf children and young people. Click this link for presentation topics –

<https://www.batod.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/BATOD-webinar-series-Sept-2021-March-2022-summary.pdf>

The specialist topics, additional professional updates and information from a range of sponsors would be of interest to staff supporting deaf learners in all settings. The series can be accessed as a five-session package, at a discounted price, or as standalone sessions.

These quality evidence-based CPD sessions, available at the touch of the fingertip, are captioned with BSL interpretation and 21-day post-event on-demand access.

To book your place visit <https://aesculap-academia.eventbritestudio.com/>

BATOD Conference Committee (conferencecommittee@batod.org.uk)

Teresa Quail

Co-National Executive Officer and Magazine Editor

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[ADVANCED BIONICS - Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence for Your Listening Needs](#)



AutoSense OS 3.0

The sounds on the beach differ greatly from family movie night or dinner at a restaurant. AutoSense OS™ 3.0 operating system **automatically senses the sound and setting you are in and makes the appropriate adjustments instantly**. This is designed for both better performance in noise, and also to eliminate the need for manual adjustments, allowing you to move throughout your day without worrying about your sound processor.

First introduced in Phonak hearing aids, AutoSense OS 3.0 is an operating system designed to automatically steer sound processing, optimizing hearing performance and recipient comfort while minimizing the need for manual changes **(1,2)**. AutoSense OS 3.0 works by analyzing the sounds around you **every 0.4 seconds**. And based on the analysis, it uses artificial intelligence to automatically activate the appropriate blend of settings, programs, and features to help you hear your best.

In fact, **it can create over 200 distinct sound settings**. Even when you're streaming audio into your devices, it can optimize streaming settings depending on if you're listening to a newscast or a song.

Visit [AdvancedBionics.com](https://www.advancedbionics.com) and find out more about our new AutoSense OS 3.0

(1) Rodrigues T, Liebe S. (2018). Phonak AutoSense OS™ 3.0: The New & Enhanced Automatic Operating System. *Phonak Insight*, retrieved from www.phonakpro.com/evidence, accessed Jan 22nd, 2021.

(2) Rakita L, Jones C. (2015). Performance and Preference of an Automatic Hearing Aid System in Real-World Listening Environments. *Hearing Review*, 22(12): 28.

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[ADVANCED BIONICS - Building The Gift Of Sound – How Cochlear Implants Are Made.](#)



Cochlear implants are small, yet incredibly intricate and sophisticated devices. Have you ever wondered what it takes to make one, from raw material until the product is finished? Needless to say, manufacturing a cochlear implant is no simple process: as Class III medical devices, CIs are stringently regulated and scrutinized.

We caught up with **Ali Kashen, Advanced Bionics Vice President of Global Operations**, to tell us about how his team creates each one of AB's implants and sound processors: *"It is a highly complex process that involves hundreds of steps. – Ali explains – These steps include receiving and inspecting raw material, assembly of the various parts into a finished product, testing, sterilization, packaging and delivery. Making each cochlear implant or sound processor is a very rigorous process that can take weeks."*

Read the entire story on our blog, [CONNECTS](#), explore it to find the powerful stories CI experts, CI recipients, or parents of children with CIs are sharing with us about their hearing journey and other helpful articles on hearing loss and cochlear implant technology.

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COCHLEAR - How one man's courage helped countless people hear



Photos: Left: Jim Patrick (on the bottom row, 4th from the right) in the 1970s with the University of Melbourne bionic ear research team. Right: Jim Patrick as Cochlear's Chief Scientist – Emeritus.

Professor Graeme Clark, inventor of the multi-channel cochlear implant, set out to achieve the impossible — to find a treatment that restores hearing. He knew he couldn't do it alone. His drive for progress led him to collaborate with other aspirational researchers.

That's where **Jim Patrick** came in.

It was the 1970s and Jim was an amateur radio enthusiast, finishing his PhD in

communications systems and data transmissions for telephone lines. Jim was looking at what career he would move into when he heard about a new field of research in 'bionic ears' at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

"My job search wasn't going well, and I thought I should at least speak to Graeme and find out what it was all about. And things went from there," he says.

Professor Clark knew this research had never been done before and he needed someone who could think outside the box, and beyond the speciality of engineering.

"I asked questions that you wouldn't expect in an interview in those days," Professor Clark recalls. "I asked the candidates how they would cross a stream with only a stick or two, and Jim clearly showed he had lateral thinking. I knew he was going to be the right person."

"Crossing the stream wasn't the problem. I remember answering, 'If it was narrow enough, you could just jump!' The big question I had for Professor Clark was, 'Do you think it will work?' and he said, 'I don't know, but if it does, you might have a job'."

Jim decided to take on the job in Professor Clark's team and was integral in engineering the cochlear implant and deciding how they were going to study it. But there were still many challenges to the role.

"There was no way that conventional research funds were going to support the project. They thought it was too risky. In addition to our own jobs, we all had to help with public appeals and fundraising. I shook a tin on the high street asking for donations."

"The whole team worked incredibly hard and long hours."

After years of hard work, Professor Clark successfully implanted Rod Saunders with the first multi-channel cochlear implant in 1978. At that point the team realised this could be a success.

Three years after Rod's operation and seven years after joining Professor Clark's team, Jim signed a 50-word contract setting him the lofty goal of starting the world's first commercial cochlear implant program.

Jim spent more than 35 years with Cochlear and laid the foundations to help hundreds of thousands of people to hear. He went on to hold many senior management roles in quality, manufacturing and research and development and is now Cochlear's Chief Scientist – Emeritus.

[Watch a video of Jim Patrick in conversation with Professor 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 read the instructions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Views expressed are those of the individual. Consult your health professional to determine if you are a candidate for Cochlear technology. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information.

Cochlear, Hear now. And always, Nucleus, and the elliptical logo are either trademarks or registered trademarks of Cochlear Limited.

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[COCHLEAR - What Tina loves about her new Kanso® 2 Sound Processors](#)



(Photo: Tina Tjäder)

For Swedish Cochlear Volunteer, Tina, the advice she was given in deciding whether to get a second cochlear implant was highly significant.

“To have access to other people – people who have a cochlear implant and who understand the hearing journey – that’s incredibly valuable,” says Tina. “That makes it easier to come to a decision.”

As a volunteer, Tina is happy to share her personal experience of becoming bilaterally implanted with candidates and other recipients thinking about undergoing the same surgery. She is also keen to explain why she chose to get the new Cochlear™ Nucleus® Kanso 2® Sound Processors for both ears and the improvements they have enabled in her work and family life.

Learn more about why Tina found the Cochlear Volunteer community so helpful in her own hearing journey, and what she loves most about her new Kanso 2 Sound Processors.

Click here to watch the video or type <https://bit.ly/CochlearTina> into your browser.

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

For further information, precaution and warnings, please consider to read instructions for use.

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

The Cochlear Nucleus Kanso 2 Sound Processor is compatible with Apple and Android devices. For compatibility information visit www.cochlear.com/compatibility

ACE, Advance Off-Stylet, AOS, AutoNRT, Autosensitivity, Beam, Button, CareYourWay, Carina, Cochlear, 科利耳, コクレア, Cochlear SoftWear, Codacs, ConnectYourWay, Contour, Contour Advance,

Custom Sound, ESPrit, Freedom, Hear now. And always, HearYourWay, Hugfit, Hybrid, Invisible Hearing, Kanso, MET, MicroDrive, MP3000, myCochlear, mySmartSound, NRT, Nucleus, Off-Stylet, Slimline,

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MED-EL - Back to school: getting ready for a successful year



Another school year is here, with new lessons, new classmates, and new teachers. And for many kids, it will also have been a long time since they've been in the exciting, busy, and noisy classroom setting.

The classroom can be a challenging listening environment for children with hearing loss, especially in specific situations for instance when there is increased distance to the teacher, when many people speak at once or no visual cues are given.

To set your child up for success at school this academic year, it's helpful to **share key information about your child, their hearing technology, and simple communication tips with their teachers and school staff**. To help you to put together and share all of this key information on one page we have prepared an '**All About Me**' handout that you can easily download and personalize by adding pictures and information about your child.

There are many strategies teachers and staff can use to improve the listening and learning environment at school.

Here are **10 easy tips to share with your child's teacher**:

1. Move closer to the child to make it easier to hear, listen, and understand.
2. Reduce noise wherever possible (for example, music, chairs, hallways, outdoor noise). A quiet classroom helps children focus. The addition of carpets, curtains, and rubber caps on chair legs can help to significantly reduce background noise.
3. One person speaks at a time.
4. Seat the child close to the main talker and away from noise.
5. Allow for flexible seating so that the child can move around during different activities to best hear and see the teacher or others speaking.
6. Face the class when speaking to provide lip-reading cues, facial expressions, and the best possible auditory signal.
7. Give visual cues (for example, write keywords or homework on the whiteboard, use natural gestures, and provide pictures to assist learning).
8. Gain their attention first.
9. Check for understanding by asking open-ended questions (for example, "What will you do next?").
10. Appropriate use of the FM System or Sound-Field System throughout the day so that the child can hear your voice clearly (if a system is available).

To download the 'All About Me' handout and for more information and ideas to support your child to get off to a flying start this school year, [take a look at our blog article](#).

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MED-EL - MED-EL Experts explain our Hearing Technology



(Photo: Jennifer Robinson, Senior Product Manager and Audiologist)

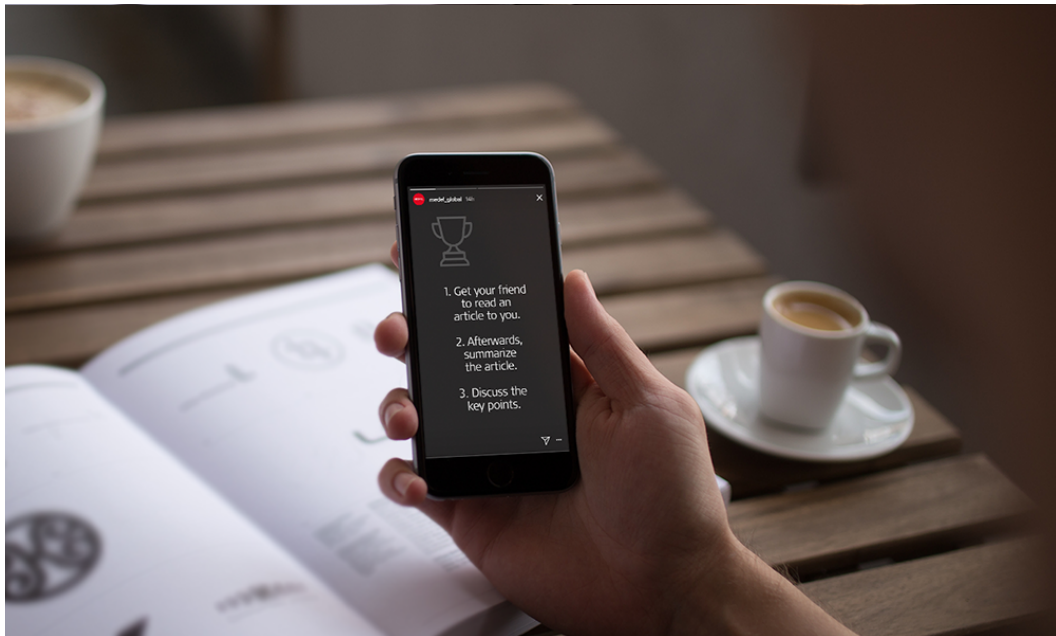
Ever wondered how bone conduction implants work? Or how hearing aids and cochlear implants can work together? Ever heard of safety capacitors and how they help us in creating safe and reliable hearing implants?

We asked three of **the experts behind our technology** to answer some of the common questions we get asked about our hearing implants. Martin Zimmerling, Head of Implant Development, Christine Mühlöcker, Senior Product Manager, and Jennifer Robinson, Senior Product Manager and Audiologist, explain these interesting topics in **very short videos**.

[Take a look at the videos here](#) to learn more.

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[MED-EL – Join our Listening Challenge, train your hearing and have fun](#)



September always brings new challenges and this year we are delighted to challenge you with something fun that will also help you to start new habits or bring together existing ones: a **Listening Challenge!**

Over eight weeks we will be posting **selected listening exercises** to help you get the best out of your hearing. Complete all eight, you could win a MED-EL goody bag.

Are you ready for the competition and would you like to know more?

Visit our [MED-EL Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) channel to take part!

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OTICON MEDICAL – Safe MRI scans with your Neuro Zti cochlear implant



At some point in our lives, many of us will need an MRI scan. MRI stands for Magnetic Resonance Imaging and this type of scan uses powerful magnets and radio waves to create detailed pictures of your body. MRI scans are often used to make a diagnosis or to see how the body is responding to treatment.

With the updated Neuro Zti cochlear implant from Oticon Medical, you can have the MRI scans you need without worrying about your cochlear implant. This applies to both the most commonly used MRI scans of 1.5 Tesla, as well as the more powerful 3.0 Tesla scans.

Your comfort and safety first

The innovative Neuro Zti is designed so the internal magnet in your implant can be left in

place during the scan. In other words, no surgery is required to remove the magnet and your hearing will remain unaffected before and just after the scan. The implant magnet can withstand scans of up to 60 minutes, which gives the radiologist ample time to perform the scan. Even if you need multiple MRI scans, the Neuro Zti implant and the magnet are designed to remain securely in place.

Easy to remove the magnet, if needed

During head scans it might be necessary to remove the internal magnet as it could interfere with the MRI scan image. If this is the case the Neuro Zti magnet is easy to remove. This can be done under local anaesthetic in a process that does not take long.

Oticon Medical – your long-term hearing partner

For almost 50 years, Oticon Medical has been delivering hearing health solutions that meet the challenges people face in daily life. This includes being able to have an MRI scan safely and easily.

Find out more about the Neuro System and MRI scans at oticonmedical.com/ci-mri

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OTICON MEDICAL – FDA approval Neuro Cochlear Implant System from Oticon Medical



Oticon Medical announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved their Neuro Cochlear Implant System to treat severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss. The premarket approval (PMA) was published on 24th June this year and marks a major milestone in the recognition of the safety and effectiveness of the Neuro System. The PMA states that the Neuro System is indicated for individuals 18 years or older, with bilateral severe-to-profound sensorineural hearing loss, who obtain limited benefit from appropriately fitted hearing aid(s).

With the expansion of its cochlear implant solutions to the US market, Oticon Medical is well positioned to consolidate their position as world leading hearing experts within implantable hearing solutions. People with severe to profound hearing loss in 51 countries already benefit from the Neuro System: an innovative cochlear implant system delivering premium sound quality, award-winning aesthetic design and outstanding reliability ⁽¹⁾. The Neuro System is expected to be made available to US hospitals and clinics in 2021.

As part of the Demant Group, a global leader in hearing healthcare, Oticon Medical is one of the world's fastest growing hearing implant companies with the capabilities and resources needed to bring its proven expertise in cochlear implantation to the thousands of deaf and hearing-impaired people in the US. Global reach, combined with local contacts with clinics and users, gives Oticon Medical the ability to continue to build the long-term relationships critical for the successful delivery of services and support of the highest

quality. For more than a decade, Oticon Medical has brought pioneering bone anchored implant solutions to patients with conductive and mixed hearing loss and single-sided deafness in the US.

The Neuro System with the Neuro Zti implant and the Neuro 2 sound processor is the first new cochlear implant technology to earn FDA premarket approval in more than 20 years. The Neuro System is designated as a Class III device by the FDA, a category that receives the highest level of regulatory scrutiny. Products in this category undergo a rigorous and thorough review process to determine safety and effectiveness.

The Neuro Zti is the most compact implant on the market, providing a powerful future-proof electronic platform that enables patients to enjoy the wide variety of sound in everyday life today and in the future. The Neuro Zti implant has been optimized to enable a minimally invasive surgical procedure that is designed to reduce the time needed for surgery and to minimize complications associated with healing. The Neuro 2 sound processor is the smallest behind-the-ear processor on the market and has been awarded numerous design prizes for its aesthetic design and usability. The sound processing technology is built on an Oticon Hearing Aid platform that integrates advanced hearing aid technology based on more than a century of audiological and sound processing expertise.

(1) Neuro System Reliability Report 2020

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OTICON MEDICAL – Oticon Medical new Branding – Because Sound Matters 2.0



Oticon Medical is the fastest growing company in the hearing implant business.

Learn more about our vision and who we are by watching our new company film. ([Link](#))

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

