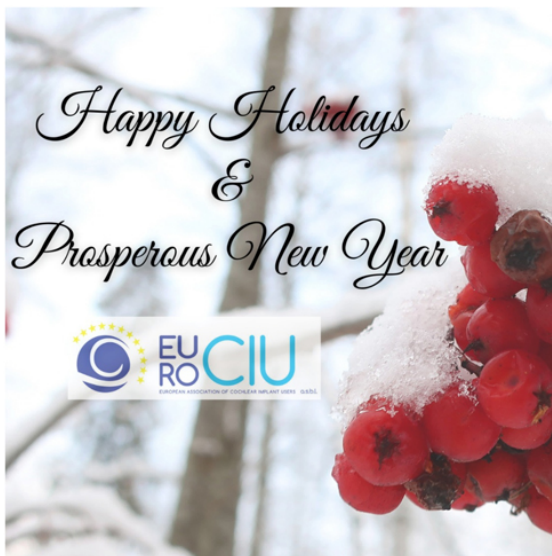


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- MED-EL – New Design Covers to suit every style
- OTICON MEDICAL – Successful 3rd International Symposium on Music and Cochlear Implant Research

Message from the President



I'm writing these lines on a plane during one of my few trips "after the pandemic" (if we can affirm it's under control), and I realize how much I miss these face-to-face meetings, the exchange of views between EURO-CIU members that enrich our associative movement so much.

Sad feelings come over me for not being able to celebrate EURO-CIU's 25th anniversary as planned. But we haven't been inactive, if anything we have used our synergies to bring together projects we had in mind and that made us check documentation and share it together, as we prepared along with CIICA a brochure about dementia and cochlear implants, which will be made available to everyone for its translation and distribution.

We must remind that making WHO's "Hearing Report" available for everyone allows our members to inform about cochlear implant with reliable information ready to be used by governments from each one of our countries.

Our MOSAICS project continued its course and we're already present in European and global areas that confirm our visibility and our friends on this journey.

Hearing provided by cochlear implants is no longer questioned in any area and it's time for governments to invest in connectivity and technology that can enhance the value of the device.

We're aware of the challenges posed by opaque masks, endless videoconferences, subtitles and captions almost impossible to read or follow, remote meetings, overwhelmed teachers and inexistent family and work reconciliation. Despite all this, we see how users figure out innovative solutions and professionals keep defending their ideas to thrive in these times.

That's why I encourage you to stay tuned for upcoming updates we're preparing for our next online Annual General Assembly early next year and the symposium our Dutch and Belgian friends are preparing in Rotterdam. Once again, we'll be able to vibrate together as we feel a contagious feeling of excitement and illusion from each and every one of us.

Happy holidays and happy new year. Take care!

Teresa Amat (President)

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Message from the Newsletter Editor



(Photo: Carol singing around our village tree - those who attended the EURO-CIU Symposium in 2007 may remember going to the village pub on the right!)

May I first of all say how honoured I was to receive one of the AICE Awards as Editor of your newsletter, and it was lovely that Joan Zamora presented it to me. Please see details of the Awards in the separate article below.

The number of readers of the newsletter keeps growing, but I rely on you all to provide articles that are of interest to our readers - so many thanks to you all!

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 March 2022, so please let me have your articles and jpg photos by Monday 7 March 2022. Just e-mail them to me at newsletter@eurociu.eu

It just leaves me to wish you good health; and with every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Brian Archbold (Editor)

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For members of EURO-CIU, please note that the General Assembly will again be held on-line, and the date is Saturday 5 February 2022. Members will receive further information nearer the time, but please put the date in your diaries.

We look forward to meeting up in person in Rotterdam in November - please see the next article.

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[EURO-CIU – 13th European Symposium of EURO-CIU: Cochlear implants now and in the future: What do we know and what can we expect?](#)



First announcement

SAVE THE DATE

**11-12 November 2022
Rotterdam, The Netherlands**

We are pleased and honoured to invite you to the 13th European congress of EURO-CIU entitled

'Cochlear implants now and in the future', which will take place in Rotterdam, The Netherlands on 11 & 12 November 2022. On Friday 11 November 2022 the EURO-CIU congress, and on Saturday 12 November 2022, the general assembly of EURO-CIU will take place in the Postillion Convention Centre of Rotterdam. (see photo)

The congress is a joint initiative of OPCI from the Netherlands (CI-users association of the Netherlands) and ONICI from Belgium (Independent Information Centre on Cochlear Implants). International leaders in the field of Cochlear Implants will explore several interesting topics related to 'Cochlear implants now and in the future'.

We look forward to welcoming you in Rotterdam on 11-12 November 2022.

Hennie Epping, Peter Helmhout, Henk van Rees & Leo De Raeve (the EURO-CIU 2022 steering group, a joint initiative of OPCI and ONICI)

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EURO-CIU Newsletter receives AICE Media Award



One of Federación AICE's main goals has been pushing media organizations to reach cochlear implant users on equal terms. This award is always given to a media organization which had a key role in this task in the last year or because of its tenure.

On this occasion, the jury of XXIV AICE Awards decided that the Media Award should be given to Brian Archbold as Editor of EURO-CIU Newsletter.

EURO-CIU Newsletter spreads news and information about the field of cochlear implants. Brian Archbold has been the editor of EURO-CIU Newsletter for 13 years now. During this time, the newsletter went from 117 to 1700 readers, that is, the number of readers increased tenfold.

After devoting a lot of his life to banking, he was Chief Executive of The Ear Foundation and Honorary Treasure and Company Secretary of the UK Council on Deafness. Always true to his convictions.

In his mission to reach more people, he thinks the most important thing is to encourage all members to share their experiences with cochlear implants, whether they are adults or parents with children who have cochlear implants. At the same time, he considers it is essential to tell

other parents and adults what it feels like to have a cochlear implant. Under this inclusive, organic and relentless line of action, every day more and more readers use EURO-CIU Newsletter as their informative reference in the field of cochlear implants.

Laia Zamora (AICE)

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EURO-CIU – INTERNATIONAL COCHLEAR IMPLANT DAY



As we did last year, we would like all members of EURO-CIU to send some video messages for the Cochlear Implant Day, which is 25 February. These should be sent to info@eurociu.eu

The videos should be one of the following two options:

OPTION 1:

- In front of a famous part of your city or somewhere important for you. An example could be in front of a famous building.
- Not longer than 20 seconds
- It must include a message "Happy Cochlear Implant Day from " or some kind of "positive" message about the cochlear implant such as: "I love to hear with my cochlear implant" and show your own cochlear implant processor to the camera in the beginning or the end of the video.

OPTION 2:

- In your work / education place.
- Not longer than 20 seconds.
- You must say something like:
 - "I am a nurse and I turn on my cochlear implant to attend to my patients"
 - "I am a singer, thanks to wearing a cochlear implant"
 - "Thanks to my cochlear implant I can hear the intercom when I deliver the letters and packages" (dress up as a postperson).
 - "I use connectivity with my cochlear implant in my workplace to hear my clients."

Please, in any case, when you send the video include:

YOUR NAME

YOUR COUNTRY

YOUR ASSOCIATION

THE TEXT TO MAKE THE SUBTITLE, especially if you said it in another language (in that case write it on your own language as well as English!)

PLEASE SEND YOUR VIDEO BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER to info@eurociu.eu

Thank you
Best regards,

Teresa Amat
President EURO-CIU

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[CI International Community of Action \(CIICA\) – nearly one year old – and new important research](#)



CIICA will be celebrating its first birthday on International CI day, 25 February, and thanks to all from the Steering Group and CIICA team for all the support we have had, particularly from EURO-CIU members and President Teresa Amat, Vice President Robert Mandara and Secretary Beatrice Cusmai.

We now have 330 individual members and 74 organisations globally supporting our goal of making CI and lifelong services available for all who could benefit. If you haven't joined, please do...[by clicking here](#); and have a look at the website. We will be asking you to help us celebrate in the New Year and look to the future.

We have some important new research: Cochlear implants in deaf and deafened adults: A global consultation on lifelong aftercare. CIICA is delighted to have got a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada, via York University, Toronto with the Principal Investigator being Professor Connie Mayer.

These are our objectives:

1. To gather global information on the rehabilitation provision and needs of deaf and deafened adults after cochlear implantation.
2. To identify the long-term technical support provided and required after implantation in the views of adult CI users.
3. To analyse the information by country, age at implantation, and length of time implanted to ensure that support is responsive and sensitive to contextual and cultural differences.
4. To develop a report on the range of services and supports currently provided, and those that adults users identify as areas of need, with recommendations.
5. To channel knowledge and insights gained from the proposed research directly into the work of CIICA and to the existing academic research on cochlear implantation in adults.
6. To work collaboratively with the global community of adult CI users to empower user-led advocacy to influence governments and health funders in addressing CI provision.

In January we will be sending you the invitation to participate – so asking CI users - what have you received following implantation – and what would you like? This will be an opportunity to influence lifelong Adult CI provision – an often-neglected area.

info@ciicanet.org

[Click here](#) for website.

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New Briefing paper from EURO-CIU and CIICA on healthy ageing by mitigating against the effects of cognitive decline and dementia

BRIEFING PAPER

WHY HEARING WELL MATTERS FOR HEALTHY AGEING

The Impact of Hearing Loss on Cognitive Health and Dementia

“

Hearing loss is the largest potentially modifiable risk factor for age-related dementia.
([World Report on Hearing, WHO, 2021, page 46](#))

HEARING LOSS, COGNITIVE DECLINE AND DEMENTIA: WHAT WE KNOW

As the ageing population grows, the numbers of those with hearing loss, cognitive decline and dementia are increasing across the world, leading to urgent public health and social challenges.
([Kingston et al., 2018](#))

- In 2019 age-related hearing loss was the third largest cause of Years Lived with Disability globally, and the leading cause for adults older than 70 years. ([World Report on Hearing WRH, WHO 2021](#))
- “By 2050, it is estimated that some 2.5 billion (1 in every 4) people will experience hearing loss, with nearly 700 million (1 in every 14) living with moderate or higher levels of hearing loss. . . urgent public health action is needed to mitigate this projected growth.” ([WRH, WHO, page 139](#)). The cost of unaddressed hearing loss is over \$980 billion annually ([WRH, WHO 2021](#))
- Over 50 million people above 65 years of age have been diagnosed with dementia, and that number is expected to triple by 2050 due to the rising number of older people.
- The cost of caring for those with dementia in 2015 was approximately \$820 billion, and 85% of those costs were related to family and social costs. ([Livingston et al., 2017, World Alzheimer Report 2016](#))
- Over 60% of adults living with dementia will also have a hearing impairment ([Nirmalasari et al., 2017](#)) and over 90% of adults living with dementia in aged care will have a hearing impairment. ([Hopper et al., 2016](#))



Hearing loss and its association with cognitive decline and poor health therefore presents one of the largest public health challenges we face but the implications often go unrecognised and unaddressed. We need to address this growing challenge, in line with the recommendations of WHO World Report on Hearing ([WHO, 2021](#)) and to develop new approaches to hearing care in the context of updated approaches to healthy ageing.
([Beard et al., 2016](#))

Authors: Prof Brian Lamb OBE and Sue Archbold PhD

Note. Some degree of cognitive decline (loss of thinking and memory abilities) can be normal as we age. When a cognitive impairment becomes severe enough to interfere with daily activities, a person is considered to have dementia.



Healthy Ageing is linked to addressing hearing loss

EURO-CIU with the Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CIICA) launched a new

briefing, WHY HEARING WELL MATTERS FOR HEALTHY AGEING, on how addressing hearing loss could help support healthy ageing by mitigating against the effects of cognitive decline and dementia. Reviewing recent research, the briefing concludes that early intervention in the form of using hearing aids could mitigate the progression of cognitive decline and possibly dementia in older people.

It also reviewed growing evidence which points towards Cochlear Implants (CI) having the potential to arrest cognitive decline for many CI recipients. This in turn suggests that Cochlear Implants, and other hearing instruments, combined with appropriate rehabilitation, could positively impact on the progression of dementia while not necessarily being able to reverse it.

Dr Leo De Raeve, Acting Chair of CIICA comments:

"During the last decade, the relationship between hearing loss, cognitive decline and dementia has become clearer. This document brings together the recently published evidence related to the impact of hearing loss on cognition, of hearing technology, of not addressing hearing loss and dementia, and offers several suggestions for action. Not only for professionals in the field of hearing care, but also for users' associations (such as EURO-CIU) and advocacy groups (such as CIICA), this is a very valuable document which can support them in their actions."

Teresa Amat, President of EURO-CIU says:

"This topic has concerned us for some time, and we wanted to pursue it for our members. Thanks to CIICA and EURO-CIU collaboration we have this strong document which brings all the evidence together to make the case for addressing hearing care and preventing hearing loss as well as invest in hearing technology. This is a must for all countries, administrations and organizations interested in hearing care and ageing well."

The authors conclude:

"While future research is needed to better evaluate the mechanisms, **hearing loss is the most important potentially reversible risk factor for dementia**. (WHO, 2021; Livingston, 2020). Professionals, Health Authorities and those with hearing loss should be aware of this association. If we can mitigate the onset or effects of dementia through addressing hearing loss early, this could make a large impact on reducing the overall costs associated with dementia and the burden on caregivers and society."

Do have a look and share this important briefing with your members! The briefing can be downloaded [here](#), and also accessed on the [EURO-CIU website](#).

Notes:

CI International Community of Action (CIICA) is a global network of 74 organisations and 330 individuals who aim to improve access to cochlear implantation and lifelong services for all who could benefit.

For more information on the impact of hearing loss globally see World Health Organization (2021). World Report on Hearing www.who.int/health-topics/hearing-loss

For more information on the link with Dementia and hearing loss see; Livingston G, et al., (2020). Dementia prevention, intervention, and care: 2020 report of the Lancet Commission, Lancet, 396, 413-446. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30367-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30367-6) and [https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736\(20\)30367-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736(20)30367-6/fulltext)

Prof Brian Lamb: brian@ciicanet.org
Sue Archbold, PhD: sue@ciicanet.org

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[EURO-CIU – MOSAICS: ESRs news](#)

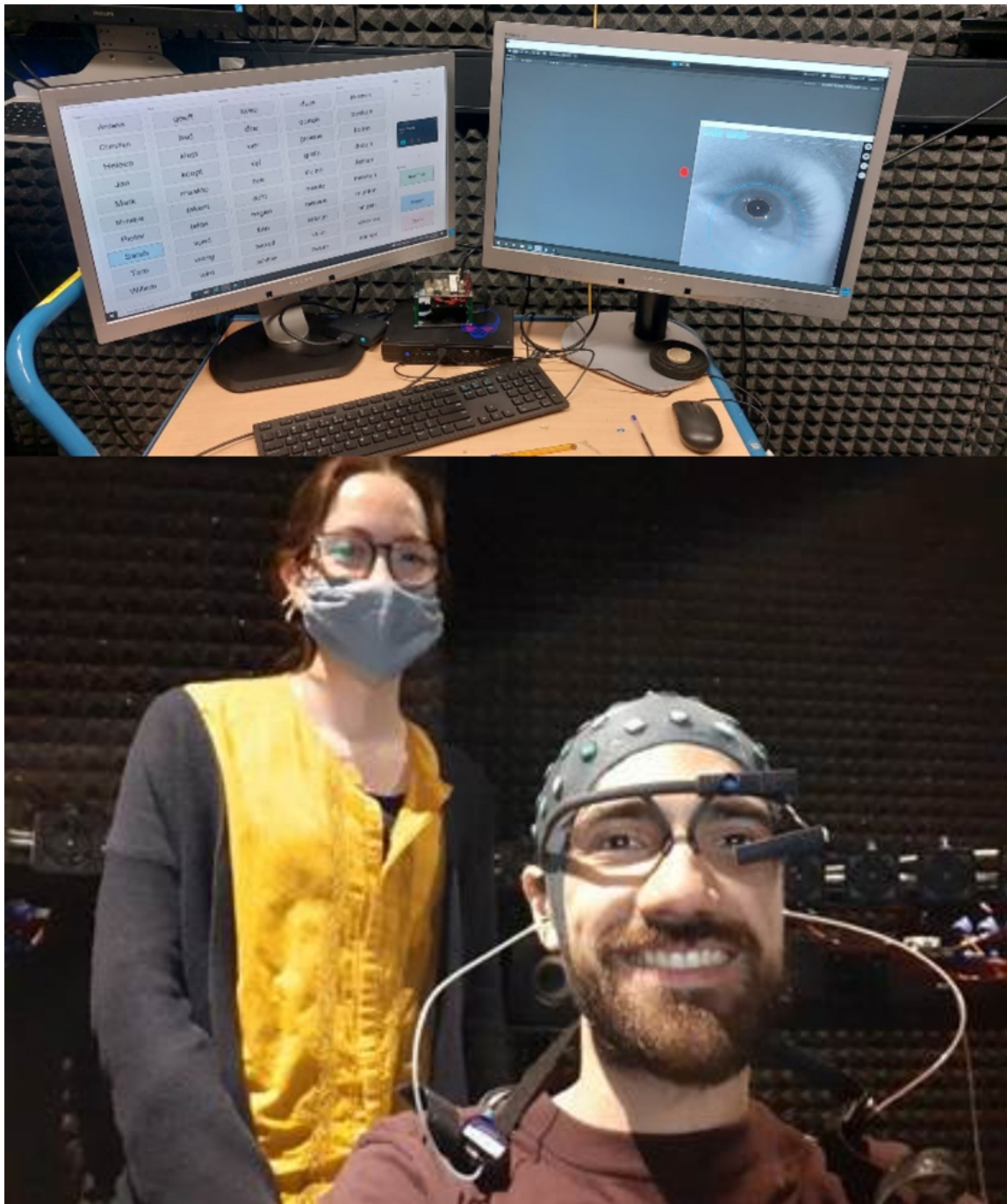


Figure A (top image): Nikki Tromps' pupillometry setup, including speech assessment (left screen) and pupil tracking system (right).

Figure B (bottom image): Loes Beckers testing her combined EEG-pupillometry setup

MOSAICS (Minimized Outcome Spread and mAXimized partiCipation in Society) is a European Industrial Doctorate project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 framework programme for research and innovation. The objective of MOSAICS is to understand, predict, identify, and intervene in the variability in outcomes among adult cochlear implant (CI) users, by using a holistic approach. The project involves ten partners from seven countries, including EURO-CIU. Four Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) are carrying out their research in the project, looking at the problem from various perspectives. In this article, we get a hint into what they're currently doing.

Ignacio Calderon De Palma (ESR 1) has finished data collection from his study involving the assessment of auditory nerve conditions in adult CI users. Currently, he is analysing the results from these measurements. Why are we looking at the auditory nerve? A bottleneck for the flow of speech information, from the cochlea to the brain, is the interface between the electrode and the auditory nerve. Already at this early stage, factors such as the position of the electrode, tissue formation around it and the overall health of the neurons could have an impact on outcomes. By

presenting controlled electric pulses to the auditory nerve, it may be possible to infer conditions of the auditory nerve near the electrode. The next step is to relate the results of this study to patient outcomes and use this information to inform fitting and/or rehabilitation.

Loes Beckers (ESR 2) has been piloting a study that assesses different cognitive skills, and is now setting up this study for adult CI participants in Germany. During this study, the participants will be asked to perform an auditory memory task. They will have to remember spoken digits. At the same time EEG, so electrical activity of the brain, will be measured. This study will give more insight into how different adult CI users, whether their speech perception is very good or a bit less good, cognitively process auditory information with their CI. Next to this, her goal is to link this information to information that has been gathered about these participants before, about how much auditory input they receive, to sketch a better picture of individual CI listeners.

Nikki Tromp (ESR 3) has just kicked off her pupillometry study with adult CI users. Pupillometry is a measure of how the pupil grows and shrinks in response to a stimulus. In this case, that stimulus is sentences presented in various levels of background noise. Research shows us that pupillometry is a good measure for listening effort. In other words, how effortful is it for CI users to listen to speech in various levels of background noise, and does this listening effort change as CI users get accustomed to their device over time, or does listening remain effortful? She hopes to test 20 CI users, both 3 months and 12 months after they have been implanted. Stay tuned for results in Summer 2023!

Enrico Migliorini (ESR 4) has spent a good part of the last year working on a deep data analysis into more than twelve years' worth of records, looking for fitting parameters which may correlate with unexpected variability in outcomes. In parallel, we are planning a clinical study to collect insightful data into each recipient's unique response to the implant so that we may develop an equally unique, personalized fitting and (through the involvement of ESR 3) rehabilitation program. This will fit in the overall goal of his research project, that is the development of an Artificial Intelligence system which will assist clinicians and recipients to find the fitting that allows them to reach their highest potential.

You can keep updated by checking the project's website (www.mosaics-eid.eu) and follow their news in Twitter ([@MOSAICS_2020](https://twitter.com/MOSAICS_2020)).

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[EURO-CIU – Helmets and Cochlear Implants](#)



EU
RO CIU



Introduction

Regularly, Cochlear Implant Users associations are contacted by their members with the question:

“which bicycle helmet should I buy, so I can wear the helmet without any problems using my cochlear implant?”.

So we have contacted our EURO-CIU members to inform us about the suggestions they give to their members in their country.

This document is a summary of the answers we received from Austria, Belgium, Finland, Sweden, Spain, the Netherlands and United Kingdom.

General trend and suggestions

There is a big change in the availability and choice of helmets today. More and more people are using the bicycle for daily transport or as a leisure activity, which results in the fact that we have a lot of choice today when we want to buy a helmet.

A decade ago, more CI-users could not find a helmet that fits well and they searched for a company to make a personal helmet. In most countries this is an expensive solution, because there is no reimbursement for personalized helmets.

Today with a lot of choice in the shops, most of the CI-users find a helmet that fits well (after some search). We suggest to visit several shops and try them out. It is important that the helmet can be fastened properly.

An obvious problem for helmets + CI is that the CI position is different from person to person, so it's hard to make a helmet that will fit everybody.

Sometimes it is even necessary to carve chunks out of the side of it to accommodate the processor or the implant magnet. Using hot knives and soldering irons can make it. The obvious problem with this kind of modification is that it might compromise the integrity and safety of the helmet.

When cycling, the blowing wind in the microphone of the CI can be very annoying and it will disturb speech perception. Wearing a bandana under the helmet, which covers the microphone helps a lot. Of course most CI-processors today also have automated wind reduction in the programming of the device.

Several of our members suggested to look for more information at the interesting American website <http://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/helmets/> .

In Sweden CI-users also use a special airbag for cycling or skiing. For more information visit the website: <https://hovding.com/hovding3/> .

Leo De Raeve
Scientific Advisor EURO-CIU

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[EURO-CIU – WORLD HEARING FORUM – MEMBERS' UPDATE](#)



EURO-CIU is a member of the World Hearing Forum. The Members' update took place on December 6, and many people found it really informative. If you or your colleagues were unable to attend, you can access the recording and the slides to the webinars by clicking on the links below:

[Webinar recording](#)

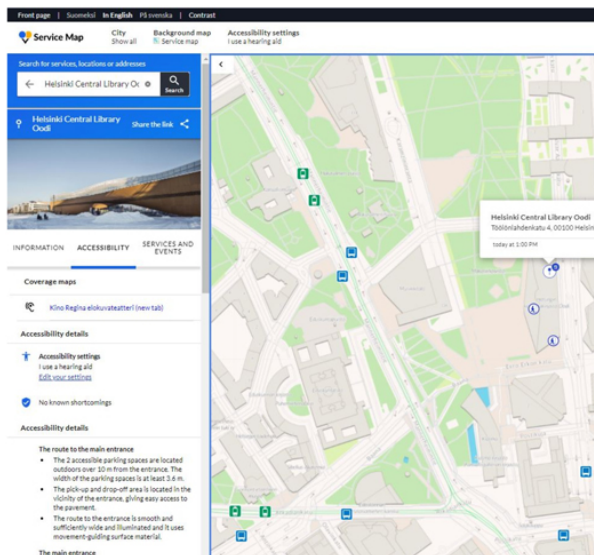
[Slides](#)

You can find all activities carried out recently by the WHO Ear and Hearing Care Programme, information about the World Hearing Day 2022 and how to apply for membership in the [1st Issue of the WHF newsletter](#).

If you would like to make your submission to the News from the WHF you can make it [here](#) or write to us at whf@who.int

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[FINLAND – Access City Awards 2022](#)



(Images: An example of Hearing Map of Cinema of Helsinki City Library Oodi; and Materialbank, MyHelsinki: Laura Oja)

Helena Dalli, EU Commissioner for Equality, welcomed all to join virtually the Access City Awards 2022 ceremony, which was held at 3rd of December, International Day of Persons with Disabilities. She highlighted in her speech that Accessibility is an enabler of rights. Autonomy and equality, she would say it another way, is also the possibility of happiness and freedom. An award gives the opportunity to share the work with other cities in Europe and other parts of the world. As well to be inspired further development around accessibility.

Accessibility Awards for the Cities were created by the Commission to cities to improve accessibility. 70% of the population live in cities and towns - where we travel, rest and play. The Access City Award is encouraging accessible benefits to the 87 million Europeans living with a disability.

For this 12th edition of the Access City Award, the Jury received 40 applications from across Europe. Over the last 11 years, the EU has recognised cities that are making efforts to improve accessibility and offer better access to city life for persons with disabilities and older people. Over a dozen years there have been 704 applicants and 78 prize-winning cities.

EURO-CIU has connections to all three winners' cities.

This year's shortlisted cities are Barcelona (Spain), Helsinki (Finland), Leuven (Belgium), Luxembourg City (Luxemburg), Palma (Spain), Porto (Portugal).

The six winners of the Access City Award 2022 will join their predecessors in becoming symbols of commitment, innovation, and progress towards creating genuinely accessible cities and serve as inspiration to others across the EU and beyond.

To celebrate the European Year of Rail there is one special mention category on improving the accessibility of train stations, which went to Porto. Special Mention for the Physical Environment including natural areas for inclusive tourism was given to Palma.

The 3rd prize went to Barcelona, the jury noticed that it has developed accessibility policies in transport service. Luxembourg got the first prize with low-floor buses equipped with ramps are present across the city, as well as visual and audio announcements on busses and at bus stops. Helsinki won the 2nd prize.

All three winners are somehow connected to EURO-CIU. In Barcelona there is the office of AICE and chairman Teresa Amat. In Helsinki there was held the EURO-CIU conference in 2017 and in Luxembourg City there is the office of EURO-CIU association.

Helsinki got the 2nd award. Helsinki City Deputy Mayor Anni Sinnemäki in her speech mentioned the Service Map, which is a remarkable digitally accessible application or website. The Service

Map shows accessibility information of the service points, and it is owned by Helsinki. Accessibility information is provided via accessibility application which is also owned and developed by Helsinki and this application is in use as a nationwide service with the Suomi.fi service. The Service maps has public services of the metropolitan area as well as private companies that have recorded their information of accessibility. To the hearing impaired there is digital information of providing loop inductions e.g., at theatres, schools and the meeting places. It also includes Induction loop quality-mapping of facilities via kuulokuvat.fi where there is information to find the best seat or location to listen with hearing aids and CI's.

I interviewed my previous co-worker, Helsinki City Accessibility Representative Pirjo Tujula, who has worked a long time with accessibility of the City. She has cochlear implant and readily tells her CI's all new people she meets specially children, according her they are so genuine and eager to learn more. She co-operates with the City of Helsinki Council on Disability and National Disability of Associations. She also takes feedback and answers about accessibility of City.

Pirjo uses at her work accessibility and planning guidelines which contains criteria for evaluating the accessibility of outdoor locations and instruction cards for applying them. She and the Council on Disability discuss with architects and other planners, who are designing the buildings. Pirjo said that she worked almost two weeks on the application to Access Award.

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the City of Helsinki Council on Disability granted its accessibility accolade for 2020 to the accessible nature trail located on Lammassaari (Sheep Island) in Vanhankaupunkilahti (Old Town Bay) area.

The importance of natural and green park areas has risen during the pandemic. This attractive rail goes along a place which is important bird area, you can spot there dozens of different birds' species.

Helsinki has won the 2nd prize for the second time. This time there is also 120.000 Euros for the prize. Pirjo hopes that this money is used to improve accessibility in practice by installing benches and exercise equipment at the parks for people with disabilities and getting more induction loops to buildings owned by the City of Helsinki. She says that this award makes accessibility more visible and inclusive to all citizens on EU.

Accessibility work continues with new projects with the audible signs for the visually impaired, the sounds should suits also to hearing impaired. The Deputy Mayor requested that the City certainly want to learn more from the other cities and be inspired by the others.

Congratulations to all winners! The video of ceremony Access City Awards are seen on the website.

Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö

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[GERMANY – BayCIV – Call for travel reports](#)



Travelling is wonderful. With hearing loss, being on the road can also be challenging. We would like to report on this topic in the next issue of our magazine HörGut.

What experiences have you, dear readers, had while traveling by train or coach, on a ship or plane, at the airport or at your place of residence?

Please share these experiences with others.

We look forward to receiving your letters by Jan. 31, 2022 at the latest. Please send your report and some pictures to Reinhard.Zille@BayCIV.de

Thank you very much for your participation!

[Reinhard Zille](#)

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GERMANY – "Barrier-free Disaster Management for People with (Hearing-) Disabilities" hosted by the German Cochlear Implant Society e. V. (DCIG) and the Bavarian Cochlear Implant Association e. V. (BayCIV)



During the two-hour webinar, six different presentations were given that examined the issue of barrier-free or at least low-barrier disaster management for people with hearing impairment from different perspectives.

The event was chaired by Mr. Rudi Eckmüller from BayCIV.

Annalea Schröder: View of a self-affected person.

In her presentation, Ms. Schröder, political advisor of DCIG, described her view on the topic of accessible disaster management. Ms. Schröder is deaf, she is using a hearing aid and a cochlear implant. At night, however, she does not wear her hearing aids and is therefore completely deaf. As a result, she would simply not be able to hear a smoke alarm, the doorbell or even sirens or loudspeaker announcements from outside. However, at least for the smoke alarm and doorbell there is a solution: A light signal system in her apartment is connected to the doorbell, smoke alarm and alarm clock, so that in case of an emergency she is warned with bright flashing light. These light systems are unfortunately still far too little known, complained Ms. Schröder. The costs are covered by the legal health insurance as a rule. Thus each hearing-impaired person could try with a prescription of the ENT physician to receive a light signal system. Point of Contact could also be the CI clinics or local acousticians.

The situation is different for alarms from outside the house: Alarms that are given via sirens or loudspeaker announcements to wake up and warn as many people as possible as quickly as possible are not audible to hearing-impaired people. Here, she said, it is necessary that further supplementary warning options must be applied for people with hearing impairments.

If you are interested in the contributions of the other speakers, you can download it in English here:

<https://admin.bayciv.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Barrier-free-Disaster-Management.pdf>

Manfred Ländner, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Municipal Issues, Internal Security and Sports of the Bavarian State Parliament: Barrier-free disaster control - challenges for politics and society.

Fabian Wirth, Ministry of the Interior of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), department of hazard prevention, responsibility warning of the population and crisis team of the state government: Warnings of the population, report from practice.

Claudia Middendorf, State Representative for People with Disabilities and Patients in North Rhine-Westphalia: Disaster prevention for all.

Rosi Steinberger, Chairwoman of the Committee for the Environment and Consumer Protection in the Bavarian State Parliament: What are the effects of climate change?

Prof. Dr. Christiane Drühe: Why is accessible disaster control so important for people with hearing impairments? The psychological perspective.

Special thanks to Bettina Dumbsky and Regine Zille who mainly organized this event.

Text: Annalea Schröder, Translation: Reinhard Zille

About the Deutsche Cochlea Implantat Gesellschaft e. V.

The federal association represents the interests of hearing-impaired people in Germany who communicate predominantly by spoken language. It includes eight regional associations and about 140 self-help groups. In addition to political activities, the DCIG has been primarily active in self-help since its founding in 1987, advising those seeking advice and organizing events.

About the Bayerischer Cochlea Implantat Verband e. V.

The Bayerischer Cochlea-Implantat-Verband e.V. is composed of 31 self-help groups in all regions of Bavaria, is the Bavarian regional association of the DCIG and a founding member of the Netzwerk Hörbehinderung Bayern (NHB). It represents the interests of hearing aid- and Cochlear Implant users, promotes, supports and advises people with hearing impairment, performs public and political work and organizes training courses and seminars. Since its foundation in 1997, self-help has been an important pillar of the association.

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POLAND – Stowarzyszenie Słyszeć bez granic (SSBG) – "We hear – we don't hear. How does it play in our ears?"



We have completed the project "We hear - we don't hear. How does it play in our ears?"

The project was a response to existing stereotypes in society that perceive disabled people, including people with hearing impairment, as socially inferior. We want to dispel myths and show that "different" does not mean "worse".

The topic of the workshop for teachers was to find methods and forms of working with children with disabilities, including hearing impairment. The idea was to raise awareness of the problem in the way of communicating with pupils.

The workshops for children, on the other hand, were devoted to demonstrating life skills in different social groups, including those with hearing impairments, and awareness of the otherness of people with disabilities, including hearing impairments.

Continuously, we develop the hearing aid bank. We are pleased that more and more children are benefiting from the hearing aids we provide free of charge, moreover, we are accompanying them on their journey to hearing.

As an Association, we are developing through participation in various training courses and webinars. As an organisation of patients, we have an increasing influence on legislative processes. We are currently working to improve the situation for adults with implanted hearing loss - to shorten the long queues for sound processor replacements.

At the end of this year our Association received the status of a Public Benefit Organisation.

It is no secret that an organisation is based mainly on voluntary work which needs support. Membership' fees are not enough to operate dynamically and provide assistance to those patients in most need. Our goal is to establish a Hearing Implant Program that will regulate the allocation of adequate funds for bilateral implants and processor replacement for each patient groups. We would be grateful if you join us in this task and make your contribution to creating a better tomorrow.

We encourage you to support our initiatives.

For more information about our activities, please visit our website at www.slyszecbezgranic.pl,

<https://animani.pl/slyszecbezgranic/?fbclid=IwAR0I022Jsu4c-QHNUSREhZc6QzwMqxqSnekdu5HNhmWSNa1MKuD22AxqVcM>

https://allegro.pl/charytatywni/stowarzyszenie-slyszec-bez-granic/cele/integracja-srodowiska-pacjentow-uzytujacych-implanty-sluchowe?fbclid=IwAR207303Z5q9rwNKPxSZY3X853y10_geD_gS5mWNdoNIhyA9MnFItoQ5DxY

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[SPAIN – Federación AICE – 25th Anniversary Ceremony](#)



Federación AICE celebrated its 25th anniversary on November 13, an event which coincided with XXIV AICE Awards, a ceremony which took place in Hotel Catalonia Barcelona Plaza, along with 250 people, friends and important public figures in the field of cochlear implants, like Prof. Bernd Hose, implanting physicians from all over Spain and politicians related to cochlear implant and its regulations like Senator Susana Díaz Pacheco, who joined us on such special day.

We started being a small group of people in a copy room handed over by a school which integrated deaf children, then went to have our own central office with members from all across Spain, defending and representing cochlear implanted deaf people's rights.

In 25 years we accomplished auditory neonatal screening, a transformation in social security services which cover the cost of cochlear implant, the bilateral cochlear implant, an updating of external processors and their maintenance cost.

We haven't stopped working in accessible communication and improving living standards for cochlear implanted deaf community. We've grown as an association movement leading in EURO-CIU, collaborating in World Health Organization (WHO), World Hearing Forum (WHF), European Disability Forum (EDF), and we're founders of Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CICCA).

This ceremony was made in recognition of everyone who joined us on this journey.

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[SPAIN – Federación AICE – XXIV AICE Awards](#)



AICE Awards are given to people and organizations that have accomplished one of the goals Federación AICE considers to be important in the field of cochlear implant users, deaf community and/or disabilities in general. This year it was a special edition because we celebrated simultaneously the 25th anniversary of AICE, as we mentioned in the previous article. Health conditions on November 13 allowed us to celebrate a big ceremony with 250 people with preventive measures. As a result, award-winners and audience members attended the event safely.

These are the 2021 edition award-winners:

Institutional Award

Senate of Spain. Senator Francisco Manuel Fajardo Paralea accepts the awards, for the Institutional Declaration made on the occasion of International Cochlear Implant Day and our 25th anniversary celebration.

Medical Award

Dr. Miguel Arístegui Ruiz, for his leading work in the field of cochlear implant as Head of ORL in Hospital Gregorio Marañón and Professor in Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Accessibility Award

Comedian, writer, actor, musician and TV presenter Ángel Martín Gómez, for including subtitles in his video contents.

Media Award

Brian Archbold, editor of "EURO-CIU Newsletter". As many as 33 associations from 23 countries are part of EURO-CIU.

Volunteering Award

Each year, Volunteering Award is given to one of the collaborators of our organization. The winner is not revealed until the ceremony. This year the winner was speech therapist and audiologist in Hospital Son Llàtzer Eulàlia Juan.

“Pedro Berruecos Villalobos” Audiology Award

This award is given in memory of Mexican audiologist Pedro Berruecos, who dedicated his life to making audiology and phoniatrics an independent medical speciality. This year it was awarded to Dr. Hortensia Sánchez Gómez for her professional work and educational inquisitiveness.

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SPAIN – Federación AICE – 2021 Youth Meeting



Our young cochlear implant users from across Spain have participated in the annual meeting organized by Federación AICE that took place in Barcelona from 12 to 14 July, in order to encourage an exchange of experiences and knowledge acquired from their daily lives.

These days of activities started with the conference titled “Teenagers and Disabilities: Protect your rights / The importance of participation”, conducted by two teenagers with disabilities on behalf of “Talent for the future” and “Europe Talent”. It was followed by a technology workshop. Depending on the brand of their devices, they discovered rarely adopted uses and accessory technical tools like microphones, plus they checked their connectivity.

Access to the labour market is an important issue for young people. It was a long awaited and enriching activity as they figured out ways to improve their CVs to expand their job options. They were also involved in a “Auditory Role Playing”, as well as “Problem Solving” to keep developing their social skills.

In the last session, they participated in a Film Workshop where they could make short films which aimed to raise awareness about gender violence or communications barriers.

Encuentro de Jóvenes 2021 (Youth Meeting)

<https://www.facebook.com/180592051959270/posts/4850048395013589/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CWqMYvTN5Dp/>

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WORLD NEWS – ‘Living Practice Guidelines’: A standard of care for treating adult hearing loss with cochlear implants



Currently only 5% of adults who may benefit from a cochlear implant receive one, often due to lack of clear guidelines and awareness amongst professionals, users, and society.^{(1), (2)}

The aim of this 2-year project, which commenced in October 2021, is to create a consistent global standard of care for adults with severe to profound hearing loss, to access referral pathways and treatment with cochlear implants.

An international independent Task Force consisting of cochlear implant users and key hearing experts from Otological and Audiology backgrounds will engage with the Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CIICA), representing cochlear implant users, other consumer organisations and professional societies to ensure the perspectives of adults with hearing loss are included throughout the process.

The aim is to develop global living practice guidelines and guidance that can be adapted and adopted for each country, to optimise the standard of care for adults eligible for CI locally. As ‘living’ guidelines, they can be updated continuously as new evidence becomes available, as a real-time repository of guidelines under the governance of the Task Force.

The Task Force is guided by three Co-Chairs: Meredith Holcomb, Au.D, Director, Hearing Implant Program, University of Miami (US), Leo De Raeve, Acting Chair of CIICA, Scientific Advisor of EURO-CIU and Director of ONICI (Belgium) and Ángel Ramos Macías M.D., Dept. of Otolaryngology, University of Las Palmas, School of Medicine (Spain).

Health Technology Analysts, an independent healthcare consultancy, will coordinate the Task Force and provide technical expertise to bring the guidance and guidelines to fruition. As the guidance and guidelines will need to be updated as new evidence is published, the aim of the Task Force is therefore for continuity and evolution over the long-term. Developing a consistent approach to optimizing the care for hearing impaired adults who may not receive adequate benefit from hearing aids will help raise awareness and better define referral and treatment pathways, so patients can receive information about a treatment option that may help them.

For more information on this project and the Task Force head to <https://adultheating.com/living-guidelines/>

[Dr Leo De Raeve \(Scientific Advisor, EURO-CIU\)](#)

⁽¹⁾ International Consensus paper; Buchman et al. (2020) Unilateral Cochlear Implants for Severe, Profound, or Moderate Sloping to Profound Bilateral Sensorineural Hearing Loss: A Systematic Review and Consensus Statements. <http://www.adultheating.com>

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WORLD NEWS – International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2021



As part of the recognition and celebration of International Day of Persons With Disabilities, there was a very exciting event on Friday December 3rd.

For those who watched it “live” you could join with the World Bank and a panel of experts; but you can now watch this event by clicking on: [“Leadership and Participation of Persons with Disabilities”](#).

The event featured leaders from government, the private sector, and civil society, in addition to an exciting performance by deaf rapper and performer, Wawa. It commemorated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities with a discussion on how we can move toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable future in a post-COVID-19 World. ([Watch trailer here](#))

From the United Nations:

- Watch a 2 minute very powerful [video](#) which highlights the 5 things we need to know about people living with disabilities.
- Read an [article](#) about “Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible, and sustainable post-COVID-19 world”.

[Reinhard Zille](#)

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WORLD NEWS – The European Symposium on Paediatric Cochlear Implantation: ESPCI 2021



15TH EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON PEDIATRIC COCHLEAR IMPLANTATION

ESPCI 2021

Online

27-30 October, 2021.

Online from Budapest: October 2021

When Prof Josef Kiss and his colleagues first began planning ESPCI 2021 they imagined welcoming delegates and the Board to Budapest in person and organising a successful event which engaged people in person to share their scientific work and experiences. Thanks to COVID of course this was not to be, and earlier this year the Board made the decision to make it entirely online – and to make this work to its advantage and enable some new approaches and make it accessible for some who would never have been able to visit Budapest in person.

The mission of the Board of ESPCI is to promote knowledge and skills on paediatric cochlear implantation through the organisation in Europe of a biennial symposium. This symposium continued the mission with over 200 presentations, 11 roundtables, 4 keynote speeches, 4 symposia, 8 workshops and we cannot forget the 3 wonderful Head-to-Head sessions where experts in their field argued about contentious issues such as Just because we can, does it mean we should? – entertaining and enlightening! ESPCI has a high scientific content and the plenary sessions have been watched by 230-250 people on average which is a huge success. The virtual exhibition spaces were well used, and the videos provided by industry gave us access to their latest developments and enabled us to have discussions online – meeting old friends too. All made possible by an excellent and enthusiastic technical team.

Our objectives for ESPCI are:

- a multi professional approach, including scientists, otologists, audiologists, psychologists, therapists, educators and researchers
- promotion of good practice, challenging current thinking and stimulating fresh ideas
- promotion of recent outcomes of research
- promotion of knowledge and skills on the latest scientific and medical developments
- the inclusion of keynote speeches, plenary sessions, discussions, specialist workshops and free paper and poster sessions
- the inclusion of learning opportunities for students in related sciences and disciplines
- the inclusion of parents, carers and the young people/children themselves

This symposium fulfilled all these – and created new space for discussions on advocacy work by family and user groups and a Civil Societies session about the impact civil societies and NGO's can have on public policy on CI. We created new traditions in the history of ESPCI meetings through this online symposium and the opportunities it offered to be creative – we are delighted we made the decision.

Our next meeting will be in June 2023 in Rotterdam led by Prof Emmanuel Mylanus, and he is planning a hybrid meeting so that we can have the best of both worlds. We look forward to seeing you there and thanks to the Board, our presenters, our delegates and industry partners for all their work and enthusiasm in making this possible.

Prof Dr J Kiss, Dr Sue Archbold, Prof Emmanuel Mylanus, Dora Horvath

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[WORLD NEWS – European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association \(EHIMA\) – MEDICAL DEVICES Proposal for a European HTA law clears final hurdles in the legislative process](#)

ehima



Throughout November, the bill for an EU Regulation on health technology assessment (HTA) has passed the last steps in the legislative process and is now short of becoming law around Q1 2022.

A legislative procedure, which had been dragging on for nearly four years, thereby nearly concluded. Originally launched in January 2018, the European Commission (Commission) had proposed a new EU Regulation, which would expedite the market entry of medical devices and pharmaceuticals by removing the need for duplicate HTA procedures in Member States. The bill would have replaced the more than 30 separate national and sometimes even regional HTA procedures in Member States with a single EU-uniform procedure (the “joint clinical assessment”) for certain, high-impact health technologies (such as medical devices in risk classes IIb and III). Although the Commission’s proposal did not prescribe in any way how the joint clinical assessment would inform pricing and reimbursement decisions by Member States, they would be bound by its verdict about the clinical benefit. Divergent national opinions would only have been

admissible in individual cases of overriding public health grounds.

The European Parliament (Parliament) and the healthcare industries welcomed the proposal, as it would remove lengthy, duplicate conformity assessment and therefore speed up market access for new technologies **(1)**.

The Council of Member States, however, was divided from the outset. A core group around Germany, France and the Czech Republic opposed the bill, as they feared “scope creep” from the Commission proposal: That it would lead to a gradual loss of national decision-making sovereignty in their HTA procedures and preclude the outcomes of national pricing and reimbursement decisions. As a result, the text stalled in the Council for years **(2)**.

(1) Although MedTech Europe did voice severe reservations against individual elements: The group was concerned that the Commission's bill has been drafted with pharmaceuticals in mind, but did not take into account the value generation of a medical device throughout its life-cycle, which may distort medical devices' value propositions to payors.

(2) Both chambers, the Parliament and the Council, must agree on a compromise text.

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WORLD NEWS – AUSTRIA – Usher News & Highlights relevant for the CI Community



by Dominique Sturz, Patient Advocate Usher Syndrome & Rare Diseases, Usher Initiative Austria

I am delighted to provide you with information relevant to the CI and Usher Community and with an update of USH related events in 2021 and 2022.

1.

Why awareness of Usher Syndrome matters for the CI Community:

10% of children with congenital profound hearing loss/deafness have Usher Syndrome Type1 (USH1).

1/3 of the genes involved in hearing loss account for Usher syndrome.

Over 50% of individuals with combined vision and hearing loss leading to deaf blindness have Usher Syndrome Type1, 2 or 3 (USH1, USH2, USH3).

Up to 40% of all reported Usher cases account for USH1, up to 60% for USH2, up to 3% for USH3.

Up to 25% of all reported Usher cases account for USH1b, up to 50% for USH2a.

Each individual with USH1 (characterized by congenital deafness and early onset vision loss) is a

CI candidate as a baby.

Each individual with USH2 or 3 (born with mild or moderate progressive hearing loss and later onset of vision loss) might become a CI candidate earlier or later in their lives.

Detection rates of genetic hearing disorders (syndromic or non-syndromic) are expected to rise due to Newborn Hearing Screenings - standard of care in most European countries - and to referral of families to genetic analyses after a hearing disorder has been diagnosed, or later in life, when first signs of vision loss occur in deaf or hearing-impaired young children or teenagers.

Why a genetically confirmed diagnosis and counselling consultation are important:

With a genetically confirmed result, you have clarity and/or a differential diagnosis for yourself or your child.

You can get referral to a University Medical Centre, an expert centre and/or member of the European Reference Network Centres for Rare Diseases, (ERN-Eye for Usher Syndrome) or you can ask your expert to submit a request for virtual consultation via the Clinical Patient Management System (CPMS) established by the European Commission for ERNs, if you have inconclusive or atypical results, in order to get further clarification.

You receive more reliable information about prognosis, progression of the disease, perspectives for your or your child's future, about registries, research & development of therapies, and how and where to participate in natural history studies, clinical trials and get access to upcoming treatments.

You can connect to the wider Usher and Retina Community, reach out to support groups and other families, who are a valuable source of information and experience in dealing with the disease.

You might want to get engaged in peer-to-peer support and get involved more actively in research and development of therapies and promote access to upcoming innovative treatments.

2.

This year we have seen several high-quality conferences on Usher Syndrome despite the impacts of the pandemic.

USH2021 Usher Connections Conference 12-15 May 2021

This year's USH2020 Connections Conference organised by the US based Usher Syndrome Coalition was a virtual event from 6-11 July. It was a joint event with the Usher 1F Collaborative hosting a two-day Scientific Workshop, supported by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, on Therapeutic Strategies for Large Protein Coding Genes in Usher Syndrome.

USH2022: Next year's **Usher Connections Conference** is planned as a hybrid event (in person and live-streamed) in Austin, Texas, **9-10 July 2022**, registration will open in January 2022.

FFB USH1B Scientific Workshop

The Workshop, hosted by the Foundation Fighting Blindness and supported by Save Sight Now, was held virtually on September 13, 2021. This full day meeting 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, to discuss openly, and in detail, what is known about Usher 1B disease pathology, disease models, clinical characteristics, and therapeutic approaches.

Presentation slides can be accessed here: <https://www.fightingblindness.org/usher1b-workshop#presenters-1009>

Usher Info Scientific Symposium 6-8 Oct 2021, 15.00pm-18.30 CET each day online

The symposium was co-chaired by Prof. José-Alain Sahel and Prof. Christine Petit and gathered outstanding experts (ENTs, ophthalmologists, residents, young scientists, students, patient associations) in the field of sensory disorders. The recordings are available here:

<http://pro.usherinfo.fr/usher-info-symposium-2021/replay-vod/scientific-symposium/>

Usher Info Patient Symposium, 9 Oct 2021, 14.00-18.00 CET, online

The goal of this afternoon was to inform patients with Usher Syndrome and their families about

recent breakthroughs in the scientific field, including social and human sciences and lived experiences. Conference language was French, French simultaneous transcription & French sign language were offered. Translated-captioning into 23 languages was kindly provided by the [Usher Syndrome Coalition](#)

A summary should be available soon at <http://pro.usherinfo.fr/usher-info-symposium-2021/>

Dissemination of this information to your interested network is highly welcome.

Thank you to our members, friends and followers, to our advisors and supporters for your continuous support and highly appreciated collaboration! Have a merry and safe Christmas time and a happy new year!

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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.hearing.com/>).

Single-sided deafness (SSD), which is often also referred to as unilateral hearing loss, means that the person affected has normal hearing in one ear and moderate-to-profound hearing loss in the other ear. SSD is mostly based on damage to the cochlea caused by infections or head trauma.

People with SSD have trouble with binaural hearing which is the successful interaction between both ears to enable natural hearing. The lack of binaural hearing results in major issues in everyday life. People with SSD have difficulties localizing sound sources, which means hearing where a voice is coming from or hearing which direction a car is coming from. They also have difficulties participating in conversations in demanding listening situations (e.g., background noise), which may affect social life and, as a consequence, quality of life and psychological well-being. Listening effort can also be a problem when engaging with people or listening in noise, which may result in exhaustion and frustration.

There are three conventional treatment options for SSD:

1. hearing aids with contralateral routing of signals (known as CROS),
2. bone-conduction devices, and
3. cochlear implants.

Cochlear implantation, which provides sound processing in both ears, as opposed to the first two treatment options has shown to be the only effective way of restoring binaural hearing in people with SSD. Whichever treatment is chosen, a structured and systematic rehabilitation programme will be required to ensure the optimal auditory outcome.

The HEARRING group established quality standards for adult cochlear implantation in SSD and asymmetric hearing loss (AHL, defined as moderate to profound hearing loss in one ear and mild to moderate hearing loss in the other ear). The guidelines encompass all steps of the hearing rehabilitation process, including referral criteria, cochlear implant candidacy criteria, preoperative assessment and counselling, postoperative fitting and tuning of the audio processor, postoperative

rehabilitation and assessment, and follow-up care and long-term device maintenance.

<https://www.hearing.com/quality-standards-for-adult-cochlear-implantation-in-single-sided-deafness-and-asymmetric-hearing-loss/>

Prof Dr Wolf-Dieter Baumgartner

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WORLD NEWS – KYRGYZSTAN – Two doctors from Kyrgyzstan made it to Germany and Austria for internships



Obtaining the necessary visas was a hurdle that we hadn't expected. An invitation from the KMG Güstrow for training purposes was not sufficient due to the changed regulations as a result of COVID-19. Also, the information that this internship is part of a project funded by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) - "Clinic Partnerships" - in which the KMG Clinic, the National Center of Maternity and Childhood Care, Bishkek, and the Lehnhardt Foundation are involved, didn't help. In a personal phone call with a helpful member of the German Embassy in Bishkek, I was able to clarify that the purpose of this trip had to have a business background. With the grateful support of the managing director of MED-EL Germany, it was possible to get the visa literally on the last day before the planned departure.

For the two young ENT doctors - Aylai Kargabaeva and Shirin Zhumabaeva - this fact meant a considerable amount of stress. Turkish Airlines brought them to Berlin via Istanbul on September 18, where they were picked up by Dr. Iryna Driamina, a Ukrainian ENT specialist from the team of Prof. Dr. Tino Just. This fact was very reassuring for both of them, knowing Dr. Driamina from our stay in Bishkek in December 2020. At that time, Prof. Dr. Tino Just, Dr. Iryna Driamina and I travelled to Bishkek (the German magazine "Die Schneck" reported about this) to provide CIs to 10 Kyrgyz children.

Tired, but at the same time excited and happy, Akylai and Shirin arrived on the same evening in Güstrow - the Barlach town in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. A very busy programme started at the clinic on Monday morning. The KMG Clinic has been caring for foreign, hearing-impaired children in close cooperation with the Lehnhardt Foundation since 2015. Our common, long-term goal is to train Kyrgyz specialists (doctors, audiologists and therapists) in such a way that they can ensure, in the future, competent early detection of possible hearing disorders shortly after the birth of the child as well as prompt and long-term care in Kyrgyzstan.

During their more than two-week stay, the two doctors had the opportunity to observe numerous ear operations in the modern operating rooms of the KMG Clinic. At the same time, they also did practical exercises on artificial temporal bones.

Discussions with radiologists and sterilization staff broadened their horizon. Dr. Dörte Fischer, Head of the Audiology Department, trained the two women intensively in the use of various audiological examination methods and in the evaluation of hearing diagnostic findings.

The training programme also included an insight view of the operation planning process with the selection of implants, radiological diagnostics before and after the Cochlea implantation, the initial adjustment of the speech processor and the follow-up control.

Prof. Dr. Tino Just stated during our stay in Güstrow: "The surgical procedure is the easiest step bringing children into the world of hearing. The aftercare, the technical, postoperative adjustment of the speech processor and the training with the children is the essential part of the work. I am, therefore, very pleased that we can give the Kyrgyz colleagues in Güstrow the opportunity to learn this comprehensive process. It is an important part of our work to bring this know-how to the countries so that they can act independently of us and help the children on site".

Akylai and Shirin also had the opportunity to see how children are already being taught in the kindergarten and in the School of the State Support Center "Focus on hearing". At the Cochlear Implant Center, named "Lehnhardt", they were able to familiarize themselves with the organization of hearing rehabilitation.

Towards the end of this two-week internship, my husband and I travelled to Güstrow not only to get a personal impression, but also to take Akylai and Shirin by car from Güstrow to Hamburg, from there by flight to Vienna and again by car to the University Clinic in St. Pölten.

For the unfortunately only three remaining days, Doz. Dr. Astrid Magele and Phillip Schörg also had organized a comprehensive and demanding programme. Here, too, all aspects of the care of severely hard-of-hearing and deaf children were treated - from neonatal hearing screening, to the indication for the CI, the selection of the implant model, the surgical techniques, fitting of speech processors and rehabilitation including music therapy.

Free time was very limited, but allowed at least one weekend to visit Berlin and one to visit Vienna. Akylai and Shirin got a small impression of these two cities before flying back to their hometown Bishkek on October 10th.

They were the first of a total of 6 specialist women who can come to Germany and Austria as part of our cooperation project. We expect two therapists in March going to the CIC in Friedberg, certainly being looked after by Yvonne Seebens excellently.

Two more doctors are planning to come to the KMG in Güstrow in May, and Prof. Dr. Tino Just and his team have already prepared a similarly demanding training programme for them.

We all have one common goal in mind: the development of a comprehensive programme to care for deaf children, which can be carried out by Kyrgyz doctors, audiologists and therapists on site.

Dr. Monika Lehnhardt-Gorany

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WORLD NEWS – KYRGYZSTAN – Intensive rehabilitation training and counselling in Bishkek



Marina Gureva from St. Petersburg was there November 4 – 7, 2021

It was not my first trip to Bishkek, but it was very important for me to meet all the specialists, teachers, parents and children with whom I had regular Online contact over the last couple of months. It was three days of hard work, but very rewarding.

For the first time I held a seminar for specialists from schools for the deaf and hearing impaired children, a target group of professionals who had practically no knowledge about cochlear implants.

Using the example of our centre in St. Petersburg, I demonstrated to these specialists that it is possible to change the negative impact of a severe hearing loss by providing powerful hearing aids and / or cochlear implants accompanied by adequate professional rehabilitation. We discussed various options on how to expand their activities and thus facilitate inclusion of deaf children into the world of hearing. Unfortunately, the majority of the seminar participants were not really interested in the topic of the development of auditory perception and preferred to get practical tips on the development of speech. They did not realize that these advanced technologies also rely on auditory perception in our work. However, some of the teachers were inspired by the opportunity to change something in their work.

I also had a very individual consultation for Marzhana, a little 6-year-old girl. She has been wearing hearing aids for two months and she can understand and express some words in Kyrgyz. However, the phonemic test showed insufficient discrimination of high-frequency speech sounds. The hearing aids are classified as suitable for severe hearing loss, and we considered the possibility of suboptimal fitting. However, there is high risk that her hearing might deteriorate. The girl is very inquisitive, active, keeps her attention well and tries to repeat everything what the teacher does / says. She did an excellent job with the logic task (to decompose a series of

pictures of 3 and of 4). She understood the “plot”, repeated it after the teacher, and having listened to the whole story, she understood and showed pictures fitting for some phrases. I recommended cochlear implantation as we can expect the dynamics to be much faster, the development of speech to be more successful.

In the National Center of Maternity and Childhood Care – partner in two projects “Clinic partnership” with the GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and where cochlear implantation surgeries took place over the last couple of years – the German Embassy funded the equipment of two rooms with the necessary tools and furniture. During my stay in Bishkek, Torge Matthiesen from the German Embassy came to open the rooms together with the ENT doctors of the clinic and the president of the International Association of Hearing Rehabilitation Specialists Anastasia Naimanova. My “contribution” was two suitcases of manuals, books, games and toys which I brought from St. Petersburg (sponsored by the German Embassy).

We conducted nine diagnostic sessions with children from a second group of children, who receive intensive training. We made video recordings of these lessons to help analysing the pedagogical techniques and methods. Three local specialists (the teachers of the intensive course) - Anastasia Naimanova (teacher for deaf children), Irina Karamurzina (speech therapist) and Veronika Belozerova (speech therapist) – attended these sessions.

We also organized fittings of speech processors for three children (Marsel, Ayar, Dayan) together with Dr. Shirin Zhumabaeva and Luisa Mirgijazova.

One day later I held a seminar for specialists "What makes a teacher a professional: the secrets of diagnostics and the possibilities of universal didactic games" (five lesson hours). This seminar was held simultaneously offline and in zoom. It was very well attended (40 participants) and many teachers gave very positive feedback.

We had excellent discussions with Dmitrij and Svetlana Zaiyka (experts in the field of technical support and rehabilitation from Kiev) and teachers of the Parents Association “Hear Together”.

With the team of NCMCC we agreed to meet online regularly to discuss various documents (course plans, extracts, recommendations for parents and specialists) in detail.

Finally, I was very pleased to meet “my little students” Bata, Chingiz and Havsanur – whom I have known for quite some time and whom I taught locally and Online during the last four years, since 2017. I was delighted by their positive development: they speak fluently and understand speech very well. Now they are attending regular schools.

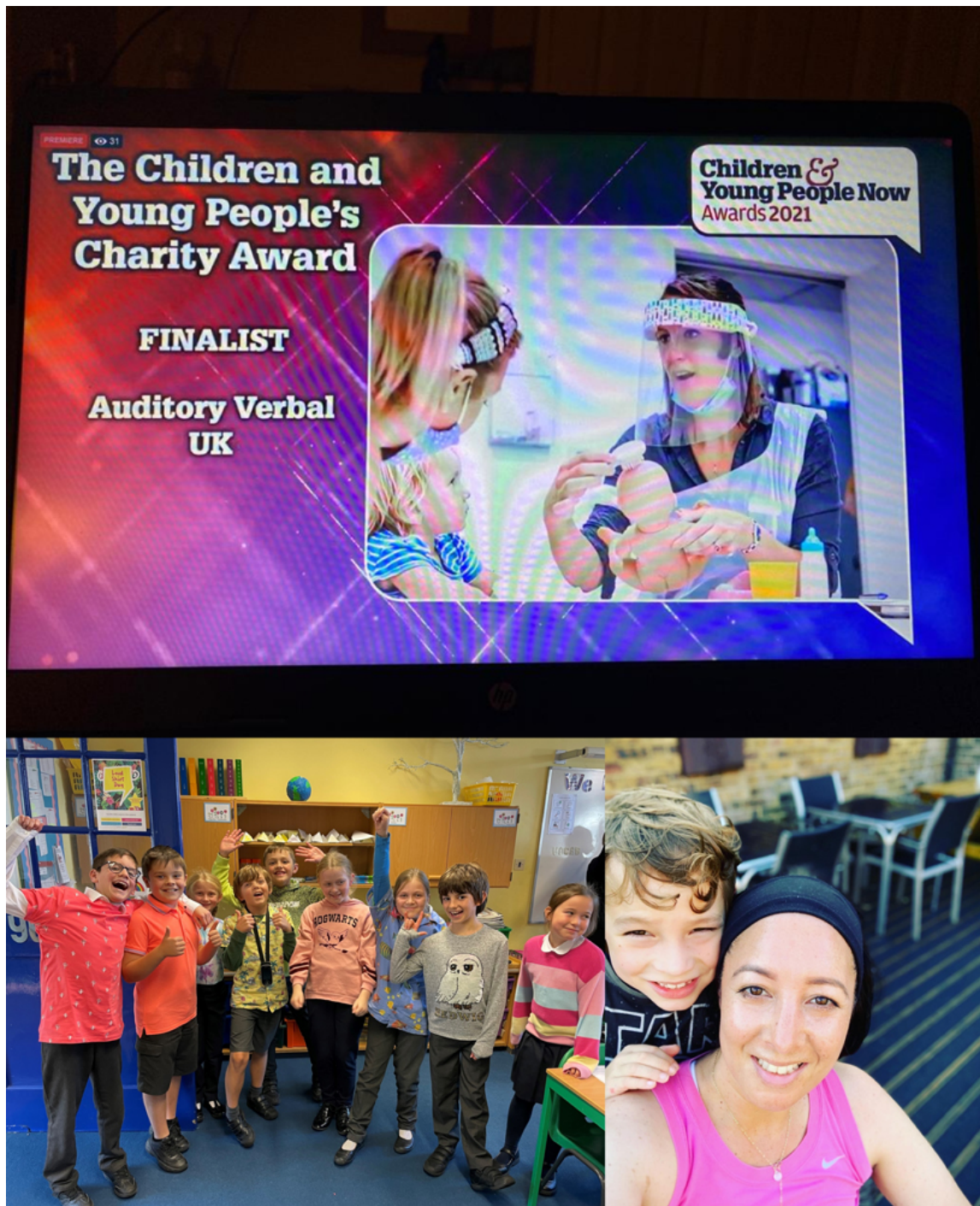
This trip was very intensive and required a lot of energy. But it was more than worthwhile; we have achieved a lot with the local team, and I am determined to come back in the not-too-distant future. I would like to add that this trip was fully supported by the Lehnhardt Foundation, and I would like to thank Monika Lehnhardt-Gorany for this.

Marina Gureva

***Surdotherapist in City Children's Surdological Center in St.-Petersburg, Russia
Member of Lehnhardt Foundation***

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[WORLD NEWS – UK – Auditory Verbal UK](#)



2021 has continued to be a busy year full of challenges and Auditory Verbal UK is looking forward to continue to support deaf babies and children learn to listen and talk and professionals working with them in 2022.

Highlights of our Impact in 2021:

- We have supported a total of 100 families across both of our centres and online platforms throughout the pandemic and have moved to a hybrid model of delivering services to suit families, professionals and our staff. More than 355 professionals and families attended 26 free online events which have focused on delivering virtual Auditory Verbal therapy, practical support for families currently on our programme and information for families of deaf children.
- 71% of children on our programme received bursaries so they could attend therapy sessions
- Launched an enhanced family support programme through the recruitment of our Family Support Manager. A pathway of care has now been introduced to ensure that family support is available to every family on the programme.

- Auditory Verbal UK trains professionals from nations around the world, including Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Ireland, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri-Lanka and United Arab Emirates. This year we have collaborated with Leo De Raeve, Director of the Independent Information and Research Centre on Cochlear Implants (ONICI) to deliver Auditory Verbal training in Belgium and the Netherlands.

We were delighted to be a finalist in the Children and Young People's Charity of the Year Award in recognition of the support provided to deaf babies and children, their families and professionals working with them throughout the pandemic

LOUD Shirt Day

At the end of October Loud Shirt Day was celebrated across the First Voice network from Australia to the UK where AVUK welcome wonderful support from families and deaf children who have learnt to listen and speak through the charity's Auditory Verbal therapy programme.

From LOUD shirt events in schools to an online dance party and fitness challenges it was fantastic to get LOUD and help create a sound future for deaf children.

Support and development continues in an online world

We have continued to support colleagues working with deaf children through online platforms around the UK and Europe. We have several new training opportunities for speech and language therapists, Teachers of the Deaf and audiologists coming up in 2022. '[Parent-coaching in early intervention](#)' on 27th January and [Meet an AVT for Professionals](#) on 20th January.

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

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WORLD NEWS – UK British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD)



BATOD has had a busy few weeks. The findings of BATOD's joint survey, conducted in June 2021, with the National Deaf Children's Society has now been published. BATOD will continue to work closely with partners to raise the concerns highlighted in the [report](#) and support the profession in overcoming challenges.

This week BATOD in partnership with Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) and Vision Impairment Education Workforce (VIEW) published a [document](#) regarding specialist support during Covid times for professional supporting children and young people who are deaf and/or

have a vision impairment.

Also BATOD, in partnership with the d/D Teacher of the Deaf group launched a new publication '[Moving towards using positive language around Deafness / Hard of Hearing](#)'.

The webinar event, hosted by BATOD Scotland, was very successful with attendees learning about an audiology curriculum for deaf learners, developing verbal humour in deaf children and exploring visual communication. The remaining two webinars in the series in January and March also have interesting content. Visit the [BATOD website](#) for more information.

BATOD partnered with the Scottish Sensory Centre (SSC) to deliver, on 8th December, a [webinar](#) on Auditory Processing Disorder, a hearing disorder as identified by WHO in their 2021 report. The event was recorded and available to purchase in early 2022 via the SSC website.

The Audiology Refreshers co-ordinator interviews took place. Once the usual post interview processes are complete, we will be announcing details of the launch of the Audiology Refreshers project. Look out for updates on the BATOD website.

Safe and fun festive wishes from BATOD.

Safe regards

Teresa Quail
Co-National Executive Officer and Magazine Editor
British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD)

Tel: 07506 400280. For general BATOD enquiries please use exec@batod.org.uk . For all enquiries and submission of articles please use batod_aneo@icloud.com . To contact the President please use president@batod.org.uk .

www.batod.org.uk

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



British Cochlear Implant Group

The last few months have been a busy time for BCIG Trustees with several new projects taking shape along with Business as Usual!

Unai Martinez de Estibariz and Martin O'Driscoll had a great time at the BAA conference where our stand attracted a lot of interest – delegates were able to hear about our Champions Scheme and see our new poster highlighting the latest NICE TA566 guidelines. The poster will be available shortly from our [website](https://www.bsig.org.uk) – please feel free to download and display.

Our new badges were very popular, too – please email info@bcig.org.uk if you would like some for you and your department.

The BCIG CI Referral Report is an Auditbase report that we are asking audiology departments to run. We have given the report to 45 audiology departments, and we would love to do a national audit to ensure that all adults who could benefit from a cochlear implant are offered the opportunity of a referral. We have presented the report at the British Society of Audiology conference ([BSA](https://www.bsa.org.uk)) as well as at conferences of the British Academy of Audiology ([BAA](https://www.baa.org.uk)) and the Cochlear Implant Group of India ([CIGICON](https://www.cigicon.org)).

After advice from the UK National Immunisation team (October 2021), we now have [guidelines on our website](https://www.bsig.org.uk) for people with cochlear implants considering a nasal flu vaccine.

A Special Interest Group is meeting regularly to update the important Quality Standards document – there is a lot of work going into this not only because a review is overdue but because there are various changes to Best Practice that have evolved due to the pandemic. A draft document will be available early next year.

Another SIG has been looking into the challenging problem of MRI scans and CI patients. A Patient Information sheet is being prepared which explains clearly how risks can be managed safely – it is hoped that there will be a wide take-up of this document amongst professionals.

The CI community is taking a big step closer to a national audit as the Government has chosen this field as one of five National Registries to be supported. Discussions are continuing regarding the data to be collected; the balance of useful, relevant output and ease of input is being negotiated by Dan Jiang and Katherine Wilson.

The BCIG Conference will be held next year on 26th and 27th April in Cardiff. [Further details available on our website](#) **Save the Date** – it will be great to all meet up in person again!

Last, but not least, the [BCIG website](#) is going to be overhauled! With a wider remit and clearer navigation, the new BCIG website will become the go to site for information about all things to do with cochlear implants.

[Laura Manning](#)

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[WORLD NEWS – USA – Tips For Cochlear Implant Recipients to Enjoy Music](#)



Music tips for CI recipients was authored by two music enthusiasts-- CI surgeon Charles Limb MD of UCSF and CI recipient and ACI Alliance Executive Director Donna Sorkin. This article continues our series on adult rehabilitation with The Hearing Journal in the magazine's November 2021 issue. Click below to read the full article. [Click here](#) for more information on Music with a CI. [Click here](#) for more information on Adult Rehabilitation.

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WORLD NEWS – USA – Listening @ ACI Alliance



Listening is a vehicle for us to share information on cochlear implants and hearing loss with hearing healthcare providers, adult CI recipients (and those exploring CI), parents and family members interested in CI, educators who work with deaf and hard of hearing children, and anyone wanting to learn more about cochlear implants.

ACI Alliance is a not-for-profit organization created with the purpose of eliminating barriers to cochlear implantation by sponsoring research, driving heightened awareness and advocating for improved access to cochlear implants for people of all ages. There is a wealth of information on our [website](#).

Our work at ACI Alliance follows our mission encompassing research, advocacy, and awareness. Accordingly, Listening covers all three.

We encourage you to share [sign-up](#) details for this free e-newsletter with patients, family members, colleagues or anyone who may be interested.

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RELATED CONGRESS – HeAL (Lake Como, Italy)



Cernobbio, June 16-18, 2022 (LIVE EVENT)

Our next **HEAL Conference** (live) will be held on June 16-18, 2022 at our historic venue, the gorgeous Villa Erba Conference Center, on Lake Como in Cernobbio.

In the 2020 Conference that had to be cancelled a few months before the start, the quality of the approximately 320 communications (oral and poster), divided into four parallel sessions, would have been among the highest ever in the history of the so-called Como Conferences, also

considering the very interesting special sessions and mini-symposia that had been scheduled.

In HEAL 2022 the Program promises to be just as exciting and fulfilling as in the previous meetings if we assume that the submissions scheduled for the 2020 meeting will be confirmed, while we expect many other quality submissions by the deadline of the Call for Abstracts (December 15th, 2021).

The Program will be complemented by comprehensive exhibits. Ample time will be allowed for all participants to visit the exhibits and speak with exhibit representatives.

Most promising, and not to be missed, should be also the presentations included in the New Technologies Area.

We sincerely hope you will be able to join us for another exciting conference in Cernobbio which is ready to host our conference once again, with all its charm of a cozy, little frequented and safe town on the Lake Como!

Ferdi Grandori (Chair)

CNR-IEIT

Institute of Electronics, Information Engineering and Telecommunication

Dept. of Electronics, Information and Bioengineering, Polytechnic of Milan, Italy

Sophia E. Kramer, PhD

at the Amsterdam UMC – location VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

Important deadlines

New deadline for abstract submission/modification: December 15th, 2021

Notification of acceptance for new or modified abstracts: January 17th, 2022

New deadline for authors' registration: March 31st, 2022

New early registration fee: March 31st, 2022

If you have any queries, please contact meet@meetandwork.com

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**RELATED CONGRESS – The International Federation of ORL Societies (IFOS) –
IFOS 2022 VANCOUVER**



IFOS 2022 VANCOUVER

June 18-22, 2022

ENT WORLD CONGRESS

The Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery is thrilled to host **IFOS 2022** in Vancouver, Canada, June 18-22, 2022, promoting the coming together of otolaryngologists and allied health workers to share knowledge and understanding of global OHNS diseases and their treatment in a relaxed and festive environment.

“Globalization of Healthcare”, the prospective theme, was envisioned prior to the pandemic and has only increased in relevancy. As we enter the post-pandemic period, we will ensure the meeting’s relevancy to delegates attending from all over the world with educational updates in all areas of our specialty, improving access to care worldwide, plenary sessions on artificial intelligence and machine learning, equity, diversity and inclusion, and the global impact of climate change with personal lived experiences from Canada’s North.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Abstract Submission Open: Now OPEN
- Abstract Submission Early Deadline: Jan 12, 2022
- Late breaker period opens: March 2022
- Late Breaker Period Closes: April 2022

To know more about the topics and the process, please review our submission [guidelines](#).

Dr. Brian Westerberg

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RELATED CONGRESS – 26th FEAPDA Congress in Tallinn, Estonia



Next autumn, on **September 30th and October 1st 2022**, the 26th congress of the European Federation of professional associations of Teachers of the Deaf (FEAPDA) is going to take place in **Tallinn, Estonia**.

The congress is a key element of FEAPDA's work and it is organised by the members every 2-3 years. These conferences provide a valuable opportunity for professionals working in deaf education to share their research and innovative practice on an international platform as well as to meet colleagues from all over Europe.

The focus of the next year's congress is ***Innovation, Opportunities and Challenges in 21st Deaf Education: Technology inside and outside the classroom.***

The call for contributions is now open and all interested parties are invited to present their work in

one of the three following categories:

1. technology in teaching and learning activities;
2. technology based solutions and services to increase the access to information, education and participation in the society;
3. technology as a tool for improving the quality of communication.

Abstracts for a possible paper presentation, workshop or a poster presentation are welcomed. The submission date is **January 31th 2022**.

Further information about the congress and submission details can be found on the congress website: <http://www.feapda.eu/congress-22.html>

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[RELATED CONGRESS – USA - American Cochlear Implant Alliance In-Person Conference: CI2022 DC Emerging Issues in Cochlear Implantation in Children and Adults](#)



(Photo: Congress logo and René Gifford)

We welcome our CI community to join us at CI2022 DC Emerging Issues in Cochlear Implantation in Children and Adults. The symposium will take place **May 18-21, 2022**. The conference will feature a number of plenary keynotes and panels, complete with live discussion. You won't want to miss the discussion as we explore important emerging issues in CI with key thought leaders.

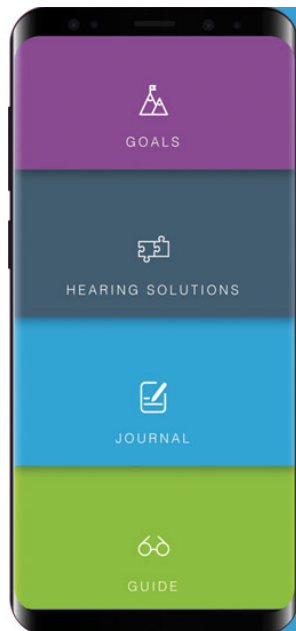
Dr. John Niparko Memorial Lecture: The Evolution of Cochlear Implant Care

René Gifford, PhD, CCC-A, an audiologist, researcher, and Professor in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, will deliver the 2022 Niparko Lecture at the Opening Session on Thursday morning. Dr. Gifford is the Director of the Cochlear Implant Research Laboratory, Director of the Cochlear Implant Program in the Division of Audiology, and Director of Research for the National Center for Childhood Deafness and Family Communication (NCCDFC) at the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center.

Dr. Gifford has contributed notably to the evolution of CI care in wide-ranging ways including enhancing our knowledge of auditory perception via combined electric and acoustic stimulation, identifying patient-specific variables that may impact outcomes, and exploring spatial hearing abilities of individuals using hearing aids and cochlear implants.

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[ADVANCED BIONICS – Empowering families in their journey towards better hearing](#)



MAKE A PLAN

Listen to others, consider what the future should look like and set goals — all from the comfort of your home

FIND THE RIGHT SOLUTION

Everything you need to know about the steps towards better hearing and choosing the right technology

KEEP TRACK OF PROGRESS

Save your memories in the journal and celebrate every little step taken!

READ AND LEARN

Find information and answers to your questions and get connected to useful resources

“What if you could provide a service that is so appropriate for a particular person, that it is exactly what they need at this moment of time?” (J. Pine) And help them and their family on their journey to hearing choose a hearing solution based on their needs, wishes and dream, as well as on the level of hearing loss? And then continue supporting them in the future with information, practical tips and tools. Wouldn't that be something?

At the British Association of Audiology meeting in Manchester (18th & 19th of November), AB introduced their new myHearingGuide™ hearing journey coach app which provides support to families learning about hearing loss and helps them take those first steps on their journey (back) to hearing.

And more importantly, it shows them that hearing loss does not need to be a barrier to connections, confidence & participation!

It doesn't stop there though. The app also aims to

- Help families figure out what they want and need, and how they can reach for the stars while keeping their feet on the ground
- Find the right hearing solution for them
- Keep track of the progress made and capture memorable moments (and celebrate them!)
- Inform them about hearing loss and other hearing technologies
- Provide support before and after receiving their hearing technology and connect them to helpful resources

Moreover, the myHearingGuide helps professionals gain awareness of solutions when hearing aids are no longer sufficient, increase their confidence when talking about cochlear implantation, implement family-centred care in their practice, and provide remote hearing care.

The app is currently only available in English in a few selected countries, but will be adapted to other languages in the coming year and rolled out globally.

If you like more information, please reach out to your local AB representative.

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

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ADVANCED BIONICS – Help your child connect to their world with Sky CI M



We want to give our kids the world. That desire includes all the experiences that teach them how to talk, think, and connect with everything and everyone around them. We want our children to reach every milestone and enjoy every moment, and this is why we have introduced **the world's first CI solution dedicated to children and their needs** —Sky CI™ M sound processor.

Offering a wide variety of **wearing options, child-preferred colours, and waterproof accessories**, Sky CI Marvel offers flexibility for a growing child's adventures, whether at the pool or in school. Its integrated Roger™ technology help kids hear their teachers and conversation partners in classrooms, cafeterias, and auditoriums directly in their ears, bypassing noise in the environment. Plus, direct smartphone connectivity via Bluetooth® and the intuitive AB Remote app help kids stay connected with the world around them throughout their day.

AutoSense Sky OS™ 3.0 operating system **automatically senses the sound and setting you are in and makes the appropriate adjustments instantly**. First introduced in Phonak hearing aids, AutoSense Sky 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 Sky OS 3.0 works by analysing 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.

Visit AdvancedBionics.com/SkyCIM and find out more about our new Sky CI M sound processor.

(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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[COCHLEAR – Celebrating 40 years of inspiring hearing health professionals](#)

Did you know?

Since Cochlear was established
40 years ago, hearing health
professionals have helped
people access more than
650,000 hearing implants?

Forty years ago, Professor Graeme Clark realised his dream to bring the first multi-channel cochlear implant to people around the world. A journey that was sparked by seeing his father's experience with hearing loss.

What started as one man's desire to help people hear, has now helped hundreds of thousands of people around the world. But this dream couldn't have been realised without a community of like-minded individuals.

Hearing health professionals do amazing work every day. These heroes know that helping someone with hearing loss is much more than treating their hearing loss. The hearing care profession can be a challenging field, but it's one that's full of reward.

In this video, we asked hearing health professionals what inspires them...

For Eva Keil-Becker, a hearing health professional from Germany, the key aspect is helping people make informed choices.

"We can be the interface to ensure that the great technology actually reaches the end customer. And that's where I see myself in a very crucial role.

To use an analogy, in former times, people would not have desired cars but would have desired faster horses. No one would have got the idea to desire a car.

When the cochlear implant is switched on for the first time, then the eyes of the user light up, that is very very special. And then also my eyes are shining."

Professor Helen Cullington, a Professorial Fellow and Principal Clinical Scientist in the UK, champions the opportunity for continuous personal and professional growth.

"Thinking about the hearing health industry going forward, I think we're entering a period of massive change.

The integration of advanced electronics with the human body. That's utterly enchanting.

I think for me, the most important thing, throughout my career has been to keep asking questions. Never accept the status quo.

And I cry still, when I do a cochlear implant switch on, even after nearly 30 years.”

Thank you to all the hearing health professionals around the world who have been inspiring us for 40 years!

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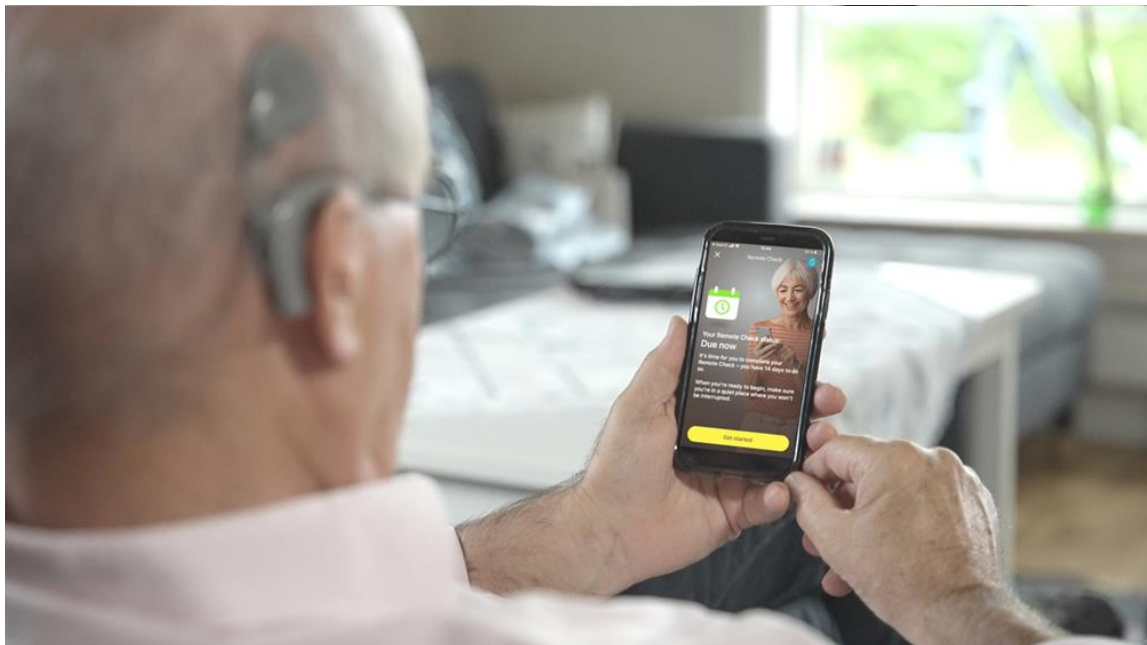
Please seek advice from your health professional about treatments for hearing loss. Outcomes may vary, and your health professional will advise you about the factors which could affect your outcome. Always read the instructions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information.

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

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

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COCHLEAR – Quality care, from anywhere



Introducing Cochlear™ Remote Check

If you have a Cochlear™ Nucleus® Kanso® 2 or Nucleus 7 Sound Processor and want to have a convenient, remote hearing review that can happen at a time or place that works for you, ask your clinician about Remote Check today.

Remote Check is an at-home testing tool that allows you to complete a hearing review using your compatible Apple or Android device and the Nucleus Smart App * - without having to travel to the clinic.

How Remote Check works:

1. Download the Nucleus Smart App on your compatible Apple or Android device *.
2. Your clinician will activate the Remote Check feature of the app so you can access it.
3. At a time that is convenient for you, complete the Remote Check activities your clinician has assigned to you.
4. Your results will be sent securely to your clinician for assessment.
5. If your clinician decides you don't need to attend a face-to-face appointment, you've saved yourself time.

6. If you do need a face-to-face appointment, you can contact your clinician to ensure you receive the care you need.

Watch how Remote Check helps Katie to manage her active life.

* The Remote Check feature of the Nucleus Smart App is available on iPhone and iPod touch. For compatibility information visit www.cochlear.com/compatibility.

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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.

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MED-EL – The Christmas Playlist and more tips to integrate music into your life



Christmas is approaching! For many of us the build up to the big day includes family and friends meet-ups, great food and of course our favourite Christmas music in the background. Our [Christmas Playlist](#) on Spotify was specifically created for cochlear implant users, making it a perfect way to get into the festive mood.

The role of music on the path to hearing

Whether it's Christmas carols, rock or jazz, classical or pop, music provides us moments of emotional and social happiness. It helps boost the mood, express feelings, connect or simply relax.

But music doesn't only give us joy, it also plays a key role on the path to hearing with an implant. With regular practicing, experimenting, and exploring musical variety, **musical activities can contribute to the improvement of auditory memory** and speech understanding.

“Melody, timbre, rhythm, pitch are parts of both—speech and music. They are very much connected and served by similar brain areas. The more you practice the one, the easier the other one is to learn.” says Joanna Shepherd, Head of Rehabilitation at MED-EL.

It's never too early or too late to practice music listening – you can do so right after the first fitting and those who have not dared so far can get onto it right now. Just try our simple tips!

Top tips to integrate music into your daily routine

- 1) **Choose a comfortable listening environment** (quiet, relaxing, no echo).
- 2) **Use headphones**, external speakers, or direct audio input via assistive listening devices.
- 3) **Ensure good sound quality** - if in doubt, check with normal-hearing friends or family members.
- 4) **Keep it simple** - start with solo instrumental pieces with lots of repetition, simple arrangements, strong beats, and clear voices.
- 5) **Start with the familiar** - by listening to familiar music, the brain can recall and relearn the information stored in the past.
- 6) **Use auditory-visual cues** - read lyrics and watch live performances or video clips in which you can see the music being played or sung.

When you are ready for more ...

- 7) **Broaden your musical taste.**
- 8) Use trial and error by **sampling different styles and practice**, identifying various sounds and instruments.
- 9) **Try it out yourself** - learn to play an instrument, join a community choir, or consider music therapy.
- 10) **Share your experiences** – and exchange your progress with others (hearing implant users on a [forum](#), audiologists, musicians, etc.).

Enjoy the “MED-EL Music for the Holidays” Playlist on Spotify and [read more about the MED-EL Playlist on our Blog](#).

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[MED-EL – Ready, Steady, Invent! MED-EL’s Children’s Invention Contest is open again](#)



The 5th edition of the ideas4ears children's invention contest was launched on World Inventors' Day, November 9th, 2021.

The **ideas4ears contest** invites **children aged 6 to 12 years from all around the globe** to unleash their superpowers and come up with ideas to improve the quality of life for people with hearing loss.

ideas4ears was inspired by its Head Judge Geoffrey Ball, Chief Technical Officer at MED-EL and inventor of the VIBRANT SOUNDBRIDGE, a revolutionary middle ear implant he invented to treat his own hearing loss.

As an accomplished inventor with over 100 patent filings to his name and many medical device products developed, Geoffrey has used his life experiences to act as a source of encouragement to the young ideas4ears inventors, many of whom are users of hearing implants themselves.

Since the first competition in 2017, **more than 850 children from 42 countries worldwide** have submitted their life-changing ideas. Why? There are plenty of reasons.

Some entered the competition to make things better for CI users, some to find ways to make their sister's or brother's life easier, others to do something great with their friends or school class, and some in the hope to win a laptop or even a trip to Innsbruck to meet the inventor of MED-EL implants, Ingeborg Hochmair, and the people that made their individual cochlear implant parts. It's very inspiring to read the winners' personal stories [on our Blog](#).

How to participate

Is your child also an aspiring inventor? Please submit your child's idea **until January 17, 2022, Kid Inventors' Day**. Entries can be sent as a video, drawing, or sculpture. The most important factor is for young people to think big and channel their ideas to support those who cannot hear.

Win fabulous prizes!

Of course, there will be great prizes again: every participating child will receive an acknowledgement prize and a certificate, while fabulous prizes such as notebooks, tablets, and special prize packs are waiting for the winners.

All ideas are welcome, from the crazy to the conventional. Just remember: inventions need to have the potential to help improve the lives of people with hearing loss at any age.

Want to get started? Head over to [ideas4ears](#) for more information and to enter the contest.

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[MED-EL – New Design Covers to suit every style](#)



Design Covers are a great way to change the look of your audio processor and adapt it to your style, the season, or latest fashion trend. Whether you prefer to blend in or stand out in a crowd, the new cover collection from MED-EL offers you the chance to refresh the look of your audio processor in an instant.

The covers are available for RONDO 2, RONDO 3, the SONNET series audio processors (DL-Coil), and SAMBA 2 and can be ordered from your local MED-EL team or MED-EL ecommerce webshop.

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OTICON MEDICAL – Successful 3rd International Symposium on Music and Cochlear Implant Research

Successful 3rd International Symposium on Music and Cochlear Implant Research

MUSIC & COCHLEAR IMPLANT SYMPOSIUM

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE William Demant Foundation Cambridge Hearing Group oticon MEDICAL | Because sound matters

There is no doubt that music is an essential part of social life, health, and general well-being – and that substantial research is still needed to give cochlear implant listeners better access to this dimension of life. Music initiates a large range of cognitive processes and brings forward emotions, memories, associations and makes us synchronize to the beat and makes us want to dance. Music is important for cognitive health. We were therefore delighted to bring together researchers, clinicians, surgeons, and people using cochlear implants from across the globe to join forces to bring music to people with cochlear implants at our [third International Symposium on Music and Cochlear implants](#). This bi-annual symposium was conceived by Oticon Medical in

dialogue with Prof. Charles Limb, from the University of San Francisco and Assoc. Prof. Jeremy Marozeau from the Danish Technical University. The first Symposium on Music and Cochlear Implants was held at Eriksholm Research Centre in 2016, and the second was hosted by McGill University in 2018, in Montreal.

This year's symposium was hosted by the [Cambridge Hearing Group](#) and was co-funded by the William Demant Foundation and Oticon Medical. The two-day event was held in a hybrid format, with 60 on-site attendees at St. John's College in Cambridge and more than 300 people joining virtually. This event included talks from world-renowned scientists about cutting-edge research in areas of musical rehabilitation and training, brain hearing, multi-sensory stimulation, and innovative signal processing approaches. An Oticon Medical sponsored session featured our contributions to many of these areas. Oticon Medical got the attention of several of the leading researchers in the field, and the discussion during the symposium about our ongoing research collaborations were fruitful and promising.

A highlight of the event was the CI user panel, led by Prof. Kate Gfeller from the University of Iowa, where CI users shared their personal experiences with music.

"This is a critical interaction because most of us music researchers can't actually hear the music through a cochlear implant, so we need to interact with them in this community in order to truly understand the problem and what and how we need to fix it." David Landsberger, New York University School of Medicine.

The bi-annual Music and Cochlear Implants symposium is part of our large portfolio within the area of Music and CI. Some key projects include:

- The development and testing of next generation sound coding strategies aimed to improve on several aspects of music perception
- The development of innovative and engaging music training games
- CT-image guided fitting using the Nautilus tool to optimize bimodal listening for music enjoyment
- Using vibrotactile input, with a wearable electro-haptic device, to enhance CI user's perception of rhythm and groove.

Improving music encoding and musical enjoyment are critical, and these challenging tasks require substantial research and technology development in the years to come. These projects are part of the department of Research and Technology in Oticon Medical. In R&T we are involved in research and concepts that help to provide the foundation for the next generation of products and services. At Oticon Medical, we are highly determined to bring a better music experience to CI users, because music matters and because sound matters.

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