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Message from The Editor



At last, meetings and conferences are taking place again! We have all missed the face-to-face contact.

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

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

The next edition of the EURO-CIU Newsletter will be due in September, so please let me have your articles and jpg photos by Monday 5 September 2022. Just e-mail them to me at newsletter@eurociu.eu

With every good wish - and have a good Summer!

Brian Archbold (Editor)

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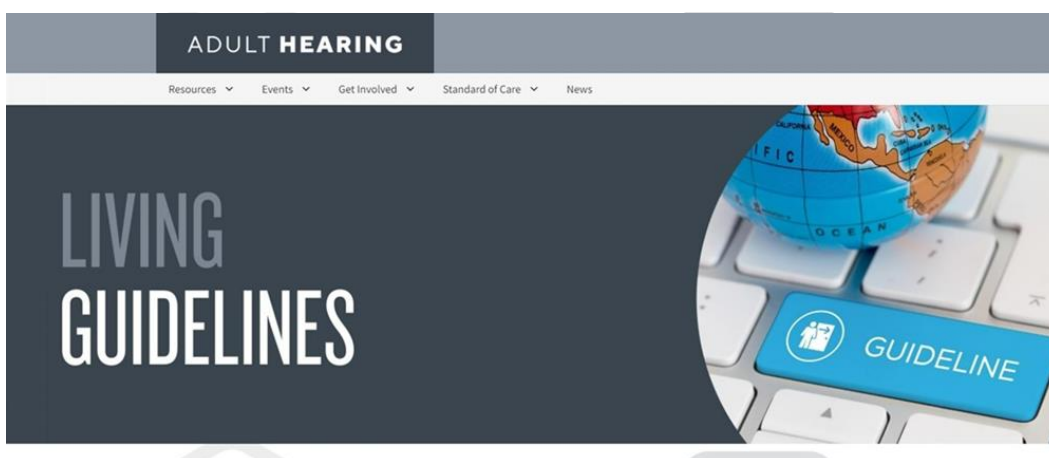
[EURO-CIU - World Hearing Forum](#)



EURO-CIU is proud to be a member of the World Hearing Forum for the period 2022 to 2024.

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[EURO-CIU - Living Guidelines project: update](#)



In the previous EURO-CIU newsletter, I informed you about the Living Guidelines initiative, which is an essential step in addressing the significant unmet need as well as improving outcomes for adults with hearing loss around the world. The guidelines will help ensure that those who need CIs have a consistent pathway to access the right treatment for every individual at the right time. CI User advocacy organisations like EURO-CIU and all local country associations of CI users can play an important role in disseminating information about the guidelines and to ensure that consumers are empowered with knowledge about CIs as a treatment option.

In April 2022, **the Guideline protocol on PROSPERO was published**, which is an International register of systematic reviews. This is the link to the published Guideline protocol: https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?RecordID=325393

At this stage HT Analytics, the third party employed to manage the Living Guidelines project, started **the literature review** and abstract screening. In total, there are 13,738 citations across nine guideline questions, covering the whole patient journey from hearing screening to rehabilitation and assessment of outcomes. Until now 51% of citations at title/abstract screening have been reviewed. We also hope to identify solutions to assist in improving the implementation of the Living Guidelines in each country separately.

Everyone in the broader hearing community has a role to play in the process and we welcome your involvement, for more background information about the Living Guidelines Initiative and the Task Force head to the following link: <https://adulthearing.com/living-guidelines/> or please [contact me](#).

Dr Leo De Raeve
Scientific Advisor to EURO-CIU

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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?



11-12 November 2022

Rotterdam-the Netherlands

Independent Platform Cochlear Implantation-the Netherlands (OPCI) and Independent Information Centre on Cochlear Implants-Belgium (ONICI) 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.

CI users themselves will play an important role at this conference, as 1 out of 3 of the presenters will be CI-user or parent of a child with a CI. **You can find the conference programme below.**

Registration will be possible from the end of June 2022 and all EURO-CIU associations will receive a personal email with more detailed information concerning their reservation.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact us at: info.eurociucongress2022@onici.be

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

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday 10 November 2022

18.00-19.30H Opening reception (only for EURO-CIU members)

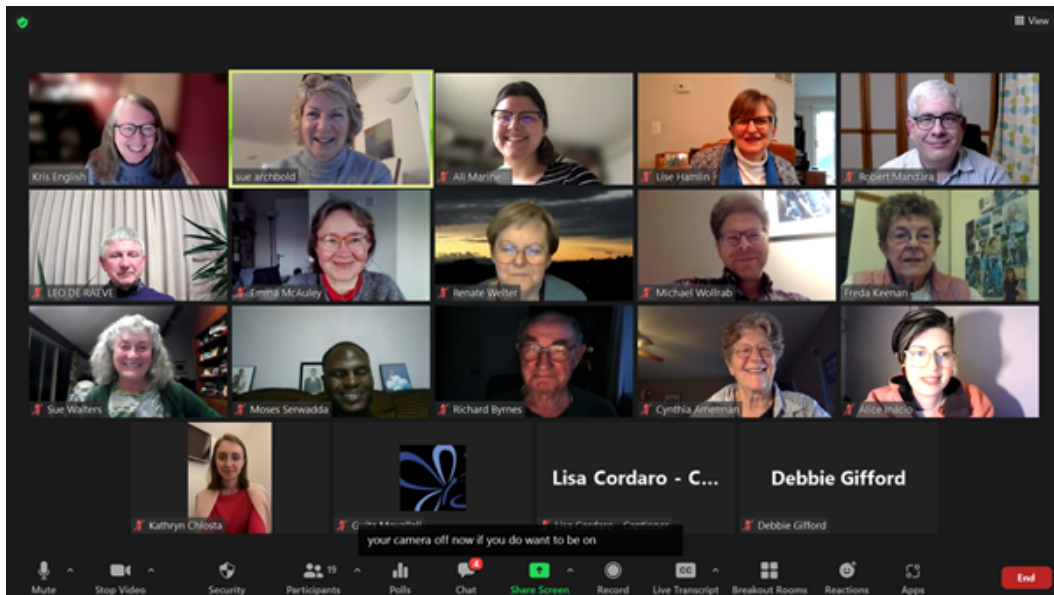
EURO-CIU members attending the 13th EURO-CIU symposium are welcome at the opening reception.

Friday 11 November 2022

- 8.30-9.00h **Registration & coffee**
- 9.00-9.10h Hennie Epping, OPCI (NL) Welcome + introduction
- 9.10-9.22h Teresa Amat, EURO-CIU (ESP) 25 years Euro-CIU
- 9.22-9.35h Representative Rotterdam Welcome by the city of Rotterdam
- 9.35-9.55h Mark Laureyns, WHO (B) How can we leverage the World Report on Hearing (WHO) to minimize the impact of untreated hearing loss?
- 9.55-10.15h Prof. Johan Frijns, LUMC, Leiden (NL) Cochlear Implants in the future: what can we expect?
- 10.15-10.35h Robert Mandara, EURO-CIU (FI) The importance of CI advocacy
- 10.35-11.05h **Coffee break & Exhibition**
- 11.05-11.25h Presenter OPCI (NL) Adult cochlear implant advocacy in the Netherlands
- 11.25-11.45h Anita Grover, AV (UK) Habilitation after CI
- 11.45-12.05h Harald Seidler, ZAB Neunkirchen (D) Good practice in rehab after CI in adults
- 12.05-12.25h Katrien Timmerman, KIDS, Hasselt (B) Output without input?
- 12.25-13.35h **Lunch & Exhibition**
- 13.35-13.55h André Goedegebure, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam (NL) Impact of CI on the brain in adults & children
- 13.55-14.15h Enrico Migliorini (It), MOSAICS project Unravelling speech errors may lead to improved speech understanding
- 14.15-14.35h Aimée van Loo, University College Zuyd, Heerlen (NL) What to do in rehabilitation after cochlear implant?
- 14.35-15.05h **Coffee break & Exhibition**
- 15.05-15.25h Prof. Astrid van Wieringen, KULeuven (B) CI in children with single-sided deafness: longitudinal data of language and hearing
- 15.25-15.45h Brian Lamb, CIICA (UK) What does a CI costs ?
- 15.45-16.05h Leo De Raeve, ONICI (B) Closing Session
- 16.05-16.25h David Aris (NL) DJ with two CI'S

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[CIICA: Adults with CI: what do they get and what would they like? And CIICA Conversations: Listening to Adults with CI – and Young Adults!](#)



Many thanks to all who completed our Survey for Adults with CI on what services they receive after CI and what they would like. Thanks to you, we received over 1,200 responses, with the oldest being 91! Thanks to all the user groups who shared the survey, and congratulations to Germany which had the most respondents!

We are currently analysing the figures and the insightful comments and will be able to share these soon. The final report will provide a really useful document for groups to use for advocating for lifelong adult services.

CIICA regularly hosts one-hour Conversations on specific themes; these have included Conversations particularly for Adults with CI -and also for Young Adults – 18-30's. The last issue of the newsletter contained an account of the first 18-30's Conversation by Zahra Lalani -and the following conversation was equally interesting, with a discussion about how to advocate for oneself and how difficult this can be in school, higher education and in work. One young person commented how important this is:

"I had to do a meeting with all the teachers and explaining what the implant was, the way I hear, why I needed more help... and stuff like that. It was a bit scary because it was like who am I... I was kind of scared because I didn't know how they would respond. But at the end it was super ... I was really grateful for that opportunity because it was like learning to advocate for myself."

The young people talked with two educators and are planning to develop sessions with educational professionals to share what they need in the classroom... and later at work too.

As one summarized: *"Communication is key, to make awareness you know. If you don't have anything to say, how would people know, they can't read our minds, we have to speak up for ourselves."*

For the older adults similar topics emerged, and particularly that of listening and communication fatigue:

"Yeah, definitely there, you mention before the listening fatigue, so that is something that we do talk about and try to reiterate that it is hard work, listening, you have to concentrate, you have to pay attention and sometimes you just get tired"

This will be the theme for the next CIICA Conversation for Adults: 12th July – Managing Listening and Communication Fatigue, led by Kris English, Lise Hamlin and Emma McCauley. How do you manage this when you are also managing a family and work? All our CIICA Conversations are on our website, and summaries of the issues raised are there after each Conversation to share at www.ciicanet.org/events/

Do join us in Conversation – and join CIICA to get access to them and support us in advocating for change for access to CI and the lifelong services needed. With the recent EuroTrak German survey for 2021 (available from on the EHIMA website at <https://www.ehima.com/surveys/>) reporting that 69% of the population in Germany have never heard of Cochlear Implants and only 18% of the hearing aid owners with severe/profound hearing loss have been informed about CIs by a medical professional, we clearly have a lot of awareness raising to do.

Join us at www.ciicanet.org

(Note that EURO-CIU is a Founder Member of CIICA)

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EURO-CIU's CANDIDATE FOR EDF - Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö



I am EURO-CIU's candidate to EDF (European Disability Forum). I was born deaf and I'm mother of three children. Our family consists of users of different hearing devices; hearing aid, Cochlear Implants and bone anchored aid. My eldest son was born without ears. I'm a bilateral cochlear implant user from 2005 and 2017. These implants gave me impact to change my career. After working several years at museums and the Accessibility Adviser for Espoo City, I took up further education to be a practical nurse. At this moment I work at Senior's Service House, persons who have disabilities like hearing or visibility or physical injuries.

I have attended several EDF meetings over several years. It is wonderful to see which European City wins Year's Accessibility City Awards, because their good practises affects

the lives of people with disabilities. It is important to meet all the potentials of technical solutions at this time, because it helps them to get connected to anywhere and also to communicate. Now we can talk from mobiles with SMS or use WhatsApp to connect with friends and family members. Using face to face callings, there is huge difference if you think about connections ten years ago.

We still have to remind ourselves that there is still a lot of work to do. We need to continue with the Accessibility Act to make technology more accessible. An example from my country; according to the Accessibility Act, public television broadcasters use captioning for all television programmes. A commercial channel uses the "google-based" subtitles which include wrong words which makes the quality of captioning worse. It is difficult to follow such programmes because captioning loses the sense of conversation. The company has got a warning from the Ministry. There are challenges to work with EDF, at this moment several associations collect information about people with different disabilities, how they would move on to get better services at the war in Ukraine. So even there are the laws and regulations, it is our work to ensure that regulations like the Accessibility Act are followed.

Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö

(From the European Disability Forum Facebook page, we can see that Sari's candidature was successful in representing EURO-CIU. Congratulations to Sari. Editor)

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AUSTRIA - CIA - Austrian choir singer with CI wins award!



Photo: Margret Popper-Appel "ChorForum Wien", Sylvia Reitmann and Erika Jaworsky. © Gesangverein der Steirer in Wien

When Sylvia Reitmann went deaf, it became impossible for her to sing properly. Thanks to a cochlear implant, she can sing again and has even received an award for it.

"At home it was common to sing while washing the dishes", Sylvia Reitmann remembers about her childhood. She had to give up playing the accordion due to lack of time, but she always found time for singing. When the native Styrian came to Vienna to study, she joined the choir "Gesangverein der Steirer in Wien" ("Singing Club of Styrians in Vienna") in 1995. With the choir she took part in numerous performances and concerts, as well as

choir tours in Austria and neighbouring countries.

When she lost her hearing, she couldn't control her voice enough and had to stop singing. After her cochlear implantation in 2002, it took a while before she could sing properly again. *"With songs that I already knew, it went faster. When it comes to new songs, I still need one or two more repetitions before I can get the melody down."* With bilateral CIs, she is now able to enjoy music and sing again: *"Before choir rehearsals and especially before performances, I make sure that I always have fresh batteries in my devices."*

Whenever her choir rehearses, Sylvia Reitmann is fully involved again. In December 2021, the CIA member was honoured by the Association of Vienna Choirs "ChorForumWien" for 25 years of commitment as a choir singer and board member. We are proud of our member, and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate her!

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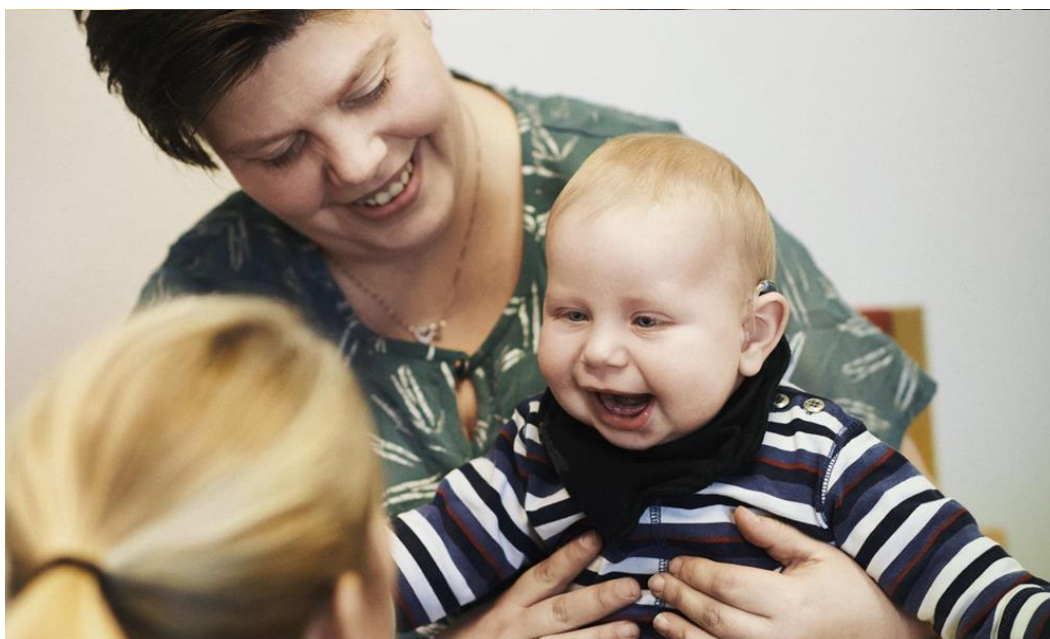
AUSTRIA - CIA - Finally, there are meetings again!



After months of lockdown, partial lockdown and restricting rules for meetings, the Austrian group CIA Lower Austria had its first meeting in May. About 30 members met at Mostheurigen, a typical Austrian tavern offering cider, spirits and snacks. Everyone enjoyed meeting each other in person, and even accordion-music was given. This meeting was the restart of regular meetings, we all hope.

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DENMARK - Decibel - The Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT) program – Evaluation of the 3-year AVT-program 2017-2021



Authors: Christina Schiøth, Maria Hallstrøm, Ingibjörg Sigtryggsdóttir, Stella Dyrberg and Sara Maria Cordtz.

Link to complete English resume of the evaluation, the Danish evaluation and a socio-economic analysis: <https://decibel.dk/evaluation-of-the-3-year-auditory-verbal-therapy-avt-program-2017-2021> .

The Danish AVT-program has proven that 84% of the children acquire age-equivalent spoken language after 3 years of AVT (previously only 30%). Thus, the AVT treatment means that the children can be fully included in the school system, in the labour market etc. These are the results of an evaluation of the Danish AVT-program.

According to the evaluation, the vast majority of children with hearing loss and deaf children today, have the potential to develop hearing with hearings aids or cochlear implants (CI). But advanced hearing technology is insufficient on its own. The children need early intervention in form of highly specialized rehabilitation with Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT) to ensure development of spoken language.

AVT is a well-documented rehabilitation intervention, with the purpose of preparing the parents in the best way possible, to strengthen the impaired auditory area in the brain in children with hearing loss. The goal of AVT is for the child to achieve age-equivalent spoken language skills before starting school.

The 3-year-old AVT-program has been part of the Danish healthcare system in the period 2017-22. In this period three audiology clinics in Denmark have offered AVT to children with severe hearing loss and bilateral hearing loss.

A partnership between the audiology clinics and **Decibel** - the national association for children and young people with hearing loss – have recently completed an evaluation of the AVT-program.

The AVT-programs most important results

- The AVT intervention has been extended from the previous one year to three years and successfully implemented in Rigshospitalet, Aarhus and Odense University Hospitals in Denmark. Thus, it has been proven that the 3-year AVT treatment works well in clinical practice.
- 360 children and their parents have received a 3-year highly specialized AVT intervention in close interaction with the additional audiological treatment of children's hearing loss.

- 84% of the total group of children achieve age-equivalent spoken language after three years with AVT. Previously, only 30% achieved age-equivalent spoken language.
- 92% of children from Danish-only speaking families, achieve age-equivalent spoken language.
- 87% of the families have completed all three years of the AVT-program.
- 83% of the parents are satisfied.

Recommendations

These are the most important recommendations from the evaluation:

- The 3-year AVT treatment must be continued and permanently anchored in the healthcare system.
- AVT treatment should include all children with hearing loss (HL) and not only children with severe HL and bilateral HL.
- An overall plan for the children with HL must be prepared and a nationwide monitoring must be established.
- More knowledge needs to be gathered about children who do not benefit sufficiently from the AVT treatment.
- Enhanced cooperation between the AVT centres and the municipality.

Copenhagen, February 2022

On behalf of the steering committee of the AVT-program

Stella Dyrberg

Director, Decibel - The national association for children and young people with hearing loss

Translated Copenhagen, June 2022

Mette van Amerongen

SLT consultant, Decibel - The national association for children and young people with hearing loss

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[FINLAND - Kuuloliitto / CITO - Planning for the future](#)



(Photo: L-R Maria Smeds, Robert Mandara, Markku Kunnas, Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö, Maria Kananen, Anneli Salmevaara, and Roope the hearing dog.)

The CI committee, CITO, of the Finnish Federation of Hard of Hearing, Kuuloliitto, once again held a productive and entirely face-to-face meeting in May. The committee currently comprises Maria Kananen (Chair), Maria Smeds (Vice-Chair), Sari Hirvonen-Skarbö, Markku Kunnas, Robert Mandara (EURO-CIU 1st Vice-President) and Anneli Salmevaara. Our regular schedule of elections was much delayed by COVID-19, so although we finally held elections in March, the terms will be shorter than usual, to try to bring elections back on track.

We made many plans and actions to promote CITO and the work that it does in Finland, including via Kuuloliitto's periodical magazine, Kuuloviesti.

We took the opportunity to choose our candidates to attend to international symposia and, this time, selected Maria Smeds to attend the EURO-CIU symposium in Rotterdam, alongside Robert Mandara.

On 15th and 16th October, we will once again be hosting an informal in-person event in Tampere, Finland, where existing and future CI users will be able to meet, discuss and learn new things. These weekends are really important for providing peer support and for bringing together Finland's CI community.

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Photos of Ukraine children sent to us by Maks Teriushin

A short time ago we celebrated International Cochlear Implant Day and World Hearing Day. Both days are known in Georgia and more and more organizations celebrate them. This year, on their own initiative, more parents congratulated each other on International Cochlear Implant Day. Both days are very precious to me, and I am very happy and proud that it was I who first celebrated them here in Georgia and contributed to their popularization.

This year we were also preparing and planning. Ukraine was also preparing and planning. This year, for the first time, WHO material was prepared in the Ukrainian language. And it is the effort of our member - Ukrainian association for CI Users and Maks Teriushin. My respect to him.

But today I am powerless. For the first time I feel that all this has faded into the background, and today I have the same feeling of war as our friend Ukraine. Ukraine today is fighting to protect its homeland, its home, and its lives from the evil empire. Ukraine is fighting for me, for my country, and for the entire free world.

I don't know what I can do today. How to express my support in addition to the fact that we, as Aures, issued a statement and expressed solidarity, in addition to the fact that we are all united in our attitude, we stand at street rallies and say that this must end. Georgians are in solidarity with his concrete actions. Hotels, ordinary citizens gave shelter free of charge to all citizens of Ukraine who were here and can't return to home, etc. But what can I do but shed tears, sleepless nights and pray? What can we do as a community?

We know that you are all concerned, we know that you support Ukraine. And here, in Georgia, we feel exactly what our Ukrainian sisters and brothers feel.

I am not a Soviet citizen, I am a Georgian, and today I am a Ukrainian too. I was born in the Soviet Union, in the Russian Empire. Who, if not us, knows what Russian aggression is, who, if not Georgia, knows what war is. Not the terrible war that the world survived and defeated evil together several decades ago, which no normal and free nation would agree to repeat, not the war that I saw only in the movies. No, I'm talking about the war that has plagued my country since the 1990s. Even today, part of Georgia is occupied and is a victim of Russian aggression. Even today people are kidnapped and killed.

Today everyone should know that this is not a Russian-Ukrainian conflict, it is not a conflict at all. This is a real fascist war that recognizes neither children, nor the people with disabilities, nor the elderly, a war that does not recognize rules. It destroys schools, kindergartens, hospitals. That kills civilians.

I don't want war! and Ukraine does not want it! Normally, nobody wants war!

We do not know the situation of children or adults in Ukraine who use CI or hearing aids. For example, If they still have batteries, can they have their devices in order that connect them to the world? What kind of needs do they have?

Please, forgive me for my emotions. I have no other weapon than to scream wherever my voice can go. Today Ukraine needs solidarity, and I think that together we can support our Ukrainian friends, express solidarity, and tell the world that all our communities are in solidarity, we want to live in freedom, respect the rights of humans and just do our job, make the world a better, inclusive, accessible, protect the rights of people with hearing loss. Let's take care of our children for a better and more equal world.

On behalf of the Aures Foundation:

Ekaterine Tortladze

Chair of Fund

+995598441218/+995595626947

<https://www.facebook.com/aturesfoundation/>

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[ROMANIA - Ascultă Viața - WaveforMe, for you, for us!](#)



VAR Cultural Association, Romania, with a wide experience in implementing and developing projects with a strong socio-cultural character launched, in February 2022, the first international project WaveforMe dedicated to promoting the creative potential of youth with hearing impairments, cochlear implant/ hearing aids.

The project was created due to the positive impact of the previous approaches. An emblematic item, "Sound Imprint" (2021), a medium-length film which captures the portraits and presents the voices of 29 youth with hearing impairments, cochlear implant/ hearing aids, the protagonists and makers of the film, is available for free in English too. <https://www.varcultural.eu/proiecte/amprenta-sunetului/> (a project supported by the Community Foundation and MOL Romania).

WaveforMe develops on three directions and in different stages: social, educational and cultural.

In the first stage, the interdisciplinary team formed of professionals, coordinated and held three workshops with five meetings (visual arts, public speaking and percussion) that 20 Romanian youth with hearing impairments (aged 14-18) benefited from. The character of the meetings was a recreational one, meant to encourage creativity and innovation. The activities that were organized during the workshops helped the youth to discover and potentiate the inner resources in order to value them. They were encouraged to take initiatives, express their views so as to improve their communication strategies. Last but not least, the aim was to support and strengthen the process of commitment, resilience and adaptation.

The second stage requires the production of six podcasts with hearing- impaired adult guests from Romania and abroad who work in various cultural fields. So far, four podcasts with guests from Romania have been broadcast (available for free, with English subtitles:

<https://waveforme.org/podcast/>). The series will be completed with two more guests from Austria and Belgium. By means of these materials, we wish to bring together people from different geographical backgrounds with similar experiences, interests and needs, giving the teens with hearing impairments the chance to discover exactly the type of influencers they need.

At the same time, **the third stage** has started, a stage in which we've set up the platform that will also host the visual art gallery - an exhibition area dedicated to youth with hearing impairments in the country and abroad. Even if the open call was addressed to young people aged 12-18, there was also a demand from those aged 18-30. Taking this into account, **on the 1 June 2022 with the launch of the virtual gallery**, there will be an exhibition area reserved for them as well. For more information, please see the article which follows.

We encourage young people all over to join us, participating with artwork, the WaveforMe platform being an open and constantly improving area. By means of WaveforMe project we wish to promote diversity and tolerance, increasing the awareness and acceptance of reality for these talented young people.

The evolution of the whole project can be followed on the [Facebook WaveforMe page](#) and on Instagram, where you can find us as [waveforme.var](#).

An article by Vero Nica (project manager/representative of VAR Cultural) și Magda Cernea (psychologist, audiologist, drama therapist).

Partners: The National Association of People with Hearing Impairments from Romania- "Listen to Life", "The European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children" (FEPEDA), "Audiosofia" Association, "The Immigration Research" Forum (IRF), Washington D.C., "Koala Auditive and Verbal Rehabilitation" Association, Aures Foundation, ASTRA County Library- Sibiu, Hermes Association for contemporary Art (Calpe Gallery)- Timisoara, National Museum Centre "Moldova"- Iasi, ATELIER 030202" Gallery- Bucharest, B-Critic, FM Bucharest, IQads, Modernism, Propagarta, the magazine "Culture", Radio Romania Cultural, Viva FM

** Cultural project, co-funded by The National Administration of Cultural Fund.*

*** The project does not necessarily represent the position of The National Administration of Cultural Fund. AFCN is not responsible for the project's content or the way the results of the project can be used. They are entirely the beneficiary of the funding sole responsibility.*

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[ROMANIA - Ascultă Viața - Visual art gallery WaveforMe an international online exhibition area dedicated to youth with hearing impairments](#)



VIRTUAL ART GALLERY

WaveforMe

THE LAUNCH OF THE ONLINE EXHIBITION

June 1st 2022

21:00 EEST



www.waveforme.org

It is hard to imagine that you cannot communicate normally, that you are not able to hear familiar sounds or the voices of the closest ones, and, besides all these, to be included without wishing it in a category of people who are, to some extent, undesirable.

VAR Cultural Association (Romania), with a wide experience in implementing and developing projects with a strong socio-cultural character, has launched, this year in February, the first international project **WaveforMe** dedicated to promoting the creative potential of young people with hearing impairments, cochlear implant/ hearing aids carriers.

WaveforMe develops in three directions and in different stages:

1. **Social** (podcasts with hearing-impaired adult guests from Romania and abroad who work in various cultural fields),
2. **Educational** (workshops) and
3. **Cultural** (a visual art gallery- an exhibition area dedicated to youth with hearing impairments in the country and abroad).

The **WaveforMe** virtual art gallery was launched on the 1st of June with an international group exhibition - available for free: <https://waveforme.org/en/>

"Hearing loss is NOT invisible" states one of the 40 hearing impaired young people who took part in the project titled WaveforMe, organized by VAR - an exhibition featuring photography, drawing and objects.

"The creators are aged between 12 and 27 and they are from Iran, India, Ukraine, the USA, Philippines and Romania and they founded - without realising it - a distinct artistic community which is not formed around their disability but the common topics, being preoccupied similarly by their wish to inclusion, and by the issues adapted to their age group: their family, the close friends, their first love, nature, hobbies, but also interests which can become professions. Being isolated, discriminated and bullied made them become reclusive, unconfident and without a bright perspective. WaveforMe managed to inculcate the youngsters the wish to belong to a group with the same artistic goals and same personal generational aspirations.

"There are extremely moving works that express the simple joy of being able to hear - thanks to the cochlear implant or the hearing aid - "It Feels Good to Hear" is the title of one of the works created by a young Iranian. The recounts are alike, the pain is shared. The feelings and the approaches are similar as well. You can see drawings representing David by Michelangelo wearing a hearing aid device or portraits of kids happy to be able to finally hear again.

"Even if sometimes the differences between the participants are major, the diversity make this exhibition to be not only a remembrance of the ones close to us who have the same hopes, dreams and desires even if they lack one of the senses, but a great example of resilience, ambition and the pleasure of doing what you enjoy no matter the circumstances of the contingencies.

"We can undoubtedly say that the visual language can build complex systems of refined and sensitive links between worlds hard to put together, can encourage and heal, and most importantly can turn hope into a palpable and possible way."

Andreiana Mihail

We encourage young people all over to join us, participating with artwork, the WaveforMe platform being an open and constantly improving area.

This year in July there will be an itinerant exhibition with a selection of works exhibited in the virtual gallery, contributions created during the visual art workshop that will artistically summarize the whole project. It will be opened for the public in four cities of Romania: Sibiu, Timișoara, Iași and Bucharest, where members of the hearing impairments community, experts in the educational, socio-cultural and medical field will be invited.

The evolution of the whole project can be followed on the [facebook WaveforMe](#) page and on instagram, where you can find us as [waveforme.var](#)

** Cultural project, co-funded by The National Administration of Cultural Fund*

***The project does not necessarily represent the position of The National Administration of Cultural Fund. AFCN is not responsible for the project's content or the way the results of the project can be used. They are entirely the beneficiary of the funding sole responsibility.*

Partners: The National Association of People with Hearing Impairments from Romania- "Listen to Life", "The European Federation of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children" (FEPEDA), "Audiosofia" Association, "The Immigration Research" Forum (IRF), Washington D.C., "Koala Auditive and Verbal Rehabilitation" Association, Aures Foundation, ASTRA County Library- Sibiu, Hermes Association for contemporary Art (Calpe Gallery)- Timisoara, National Museum Centre "Moldova"- Iasi, ATELIER 030202" Gallery- Bucharest, B-Critic, FM Bucharest, IQads, Modernism, Propagarta, the magazine "Culture", Radio Romania Cultural, Viva FM

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UK - National Cochlear Implant Users' Association (NCIUA) - Summer Conference and Annual General Meeting



Photos: Nigel Williams & Sue Archbold, and Sue with some delegates

On Saturday 11 June, members of NCIUA were delighted to be able to meet together once more for their Summer Conference and Annual General Meeting. The meeting was held in London at The National Council for Voluntary Organisations, and it was good to see so many members there.

After an Introduction and opening remarks by the Chairman, Nigel Williams, the cochlear implant manufacturers were invited to give members an update. Yvonne James spoke on behalf of Advanced Bionics, followed by Jane Humphries (Cochlear) and Charles Dippenaar (MED-EL).

There was then a fascinating presentation on “Using vibration on the wrists to enhance cochlear implant listening” by Dr Mark Fletcher who is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research and University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service.

After lunch, Dr Helen Cullington, Chair of BCIG and Professorial Fellow of Southampton University, gave an illustrated talk on Cochlear Implants and Artificial Intelligence. This was followed by Brian Archbold, updating members on EURO-CIU and the EURO-CIU Newsletter.

To conclude the day, Dr Sue Archbold’s subject was “Improving access to cochlear implants for adults and lifelong services. Sue promoted the Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CIICA), of which EURO-CIU is a Founding Member.

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[WORLD NEWS - The International Federation of the Hard of Hearing Young People \(IFHOHYP\)](#)



The International Federation of the Hard of Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP) has an exciting opportunity to share! We are inviting aspiring hard of hearing leaders from your community to apply for this unique fully funded learning opportunity in Hungary this summer.

Created and led by international advocates from around the globe, hard of hearing youth will have the opportunity to build leadership and project management skills necessary for creating social change as well as for life-changing connections, and much more!

To apply for the event “**Advocating for Rights Through Leadership**” click here:

<https://forms.gle/NntjqPhxuXnfnUx5>

Do you know young adults who could benefit from enhancing their capacity to effect positive change in their local and global neighbourhoods? Help spread the word! Hurry before the deadline ends.

If you require additional information, see below for details.

Hope to see you there!

Nicole Leung

On behalf of the IFHOHYP 2022 Study Session Committee

For further questions please reply to: ifhohyp.sts@gmail.com

Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) @IFHOHYP

Check us out at <http://www.ifhohyp.org> and www.facebook.com/ifhohyp

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[WORLD NEWS - KYRGYZSTAN - Two teachers for the deaf from Kyrgyzstan enjoyed internship at the rehabilitation centre, CIC Rhein Main, Germany](#)



Under the grant program “Cochlear implantation and long-term support for deaf children”, received by the Lehnhardt Foundation from GIZ (German Association for International Cooperation) Anastasia Naimanova and Larisa Kovaleva came to study at one of the largest rehabilitation centres in Germany. Here are their impressions:

Yvonne Seebens, Gunther Haschker and the whole team welcomed us warmly and organized intensive and highly interesting 12 days of training.

We were introduced to the structure of CIC and received valuable information about documentation management, which is the basis of the centre’s interaction with patients and parents and also with other centres and clinics.

Individual and / or group sessions are planned for every child including ENT doctors’ examination, hearing tests, technical inspection and fitting of speech processors, as well as consultation for parents. We attended individual and group classes, music lessons and lessons for the development of psychomotoric skills.

In order to improve our pedagogical skills and deepen our theoretical knowledge, gained during the first week, we were offered to conduct classes with a boy from a Russian-speaking family, followed by a video analysis which was very beneficial.

Working with parents is the focus of CIC. Questionnaires are filled in, to reflect the dynamics of the child’s development and the parents’ expectations. They come several times a year and benefit from communicating with each other, exchanging experience and thus supporting each other.

We have familiarized ourselves with the Marte Meo method which is focused on strengthening the child-parent relations and developing parental skills within the framework of correctional assistance to the child. Marte Meo means “with my own power”. The founder of this method – Maria Aarts – is convinced that any parent has a significant positive potential for the development of their child, but not everyone can analyse their interaction with the child from outside. Videos allow one to analyse the interaction between adult and child, identify positive aspects and improve them.

We learnt about the concepts of Natural-Oral Method, Auditory Verbal Therapy, and “Theory of Mind”. We met with representatives of the parents’ association “Little Listeners” and we were inspired by their vital activity and mutual assistance.

We visited a school for hard of hearing children and learnt about “Early Support Programmes”

Representatives of the companies Cochlear and MED-EL presented to us their new products and their benefits for CI recipients. They wanted to hear from us which difficulties

CI recipients are facing in our country and whether a governmental CI program will be established in Kyrgyzstan in the near future.

Full trust and cooperation are the basis of all work done in CIC. All members are open to dialogue and ready to discuss various methods to improve the quality of education for deaf and hard of hearing children.

The main achievement and success of our trip is the acquisition and expansion of our theoretical base and pedagogical self-confidence.

The message we take home with us is the necessity to:

- establish a system of methodical work
- to train specialists who are willing to engage in self-education, self-development and to improve their professional competence and culture
- to create an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual support

We are determined to work on this and make it happen!

Anastasia Naimanova and Larisa Kovaleva

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WORLD NEWS – THE NETHERLANDS - Musi-CI Parel-award



Award-winning **Musi-CI** project in the Netherlands. Joke Veltman, musician/CI user developed a musical ear training in cooperation with 37 participating CI users and two CI teams.

A special award for a special musical ear training made for and by CI users

Joke Veltman has been awarded the ZonMw Parel-Prijs (Pearl Award of ZonMw, a major healthcare subsidy provider in the Netherlands) for setting up musical ear training for CI users. She combined her own experiential knowledge as a musician with a CI and the musical wishes of CI users with the scientific knowledge of therapists and researchers from two Dutch CI teams. This formed the basis for an intense process of co-creation. The result is a musical ear training – the Musi-CI training – that will become available for CI users who have completed the process of audiological adjustments of the CI.

Joke Veltman (1955) is a professional pianist, Master of Music and experienced music teacher, who gradually lost all her hearing. Since 2013 she listens with a CI (unilateral). Music is her profession and more. She herself experienced that after implantation a dedicated brain-training-by-music was necessary in order to find music enjoyment again.

Why a musical ear training?

The brain needs time and especially sufficient and dedicated input to get used to the new sounds of music, produced by the CI. This urged Joke Veltman to further explore her ideas for music with a CI. There had to be opportunities to help the brain adapt to the new, distorted musical sounds produced by the CI. Too many CI users experience listening to music as a challenge, so that they cannot fully enjoy music, or worse, they feel sheer aversion to it. They withdraw from situations where music is played and/or noisy surroundings, what may lead to some degree of social isolation, feelings of loss and grief, and a reduced quality of life.

The *Musi-CI* training aims to support CI users on their way to get closer to music. The training consists of exercises with all components of everyday music (rhythm, pitch and timbre of instruments) and approaching music in a variety of ways, with additional online exercises. We are often capable of more than we initially think, and with stamina, focus and attention you can learn to use your potential.

A short impression of the Musi-CI training: *(Editor: this is in Dutch, but you can change subtitles to your own language in YouTube settings)* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGk2pHqZJJg&t=67s>

The next step is to make the *Musi-CI* training available to as many CI users as possible. A lot of research needs to be done to validate the Musi-CI training. The work of co-creation with CI users and CI teams has only just begun. By joining forces with as many CI users as possible, we can get that job done.

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



Various photos from the BCIG Annual Meeting, including Catherine Birman with Patricia Fraser (bottom right)

BCIG face-to-face conference in Cardiff

The BCIG Annual Meeting in Cardiff was a HUGE success! It was fantastic to see so many enthusiastic people at the event – over 160 registrations! It was a packed programme over two days with 83 high quality presentations.

One of the highlights is always the **Graham Fraser Memorial Lecture** – this year was no exception with a thought-provoking presentation by Catherine Birman on “Optimizing outcomes in cochlear implants”.

Louise Craddock and Robert Nash presented the latest work on the new Quality Standards and, on a practical level, the mock Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) session was appreciated by many. Alongside the main sessions, the Champions enjoyed a special programme and the Exhibition Hall was packed.

Helen Cullington will be the Chair of BCIG for a further year – due to the pandemic – and Manohar Bance will be taking the reins from the AGM next year. Manohar will be hosting next year’s meeting in Cambridge.

MRI information sheet

The BCIG work on an information sheet for cochlear implant users who have been referred for an MRI scan has now been published and has been awarded the Plain English Campaign’s Crystal Mark for clarity. The information sheet is freely available for download from the **BCIG website** and it is hoped that the resource will be widely disseminated. It seeks to reassure patients by explaining head splinting and possible complications, with an emphasis on following the manufacturer guidelines for the specific cochlear implant.

CPD training videos for radiologists

A series of [training videos for radiologists](#) has been produced by BCIG in conjunction with Manchester Royal Infirmary. Continuing Professional Development certification (CPD) is available from the Royal College of Radiologists for these videos – please ask your local radiologists to view them!

Rehab webinars

Helen Peebles has organized a series of rehab webinars which started on 11th May with [“Motivation in Adults”](#). The second was on Tuesday 7th June and is an evaluation of [Talking Mats](#) as a communication tool for children. Further details are available on the BCIG website and recordings of the events will also be made available here. The third webinar will be announced shortly – these events are free and all are welcome to join live!

Grants available

Manohar Bance announced at the Annual Conference that BCIG will be setting aside some money to offer small grants to promote research and collaboration within the British cochlear implant community. The programme is intended as a catalyst or seed fund to encourage research that improves CI outcomes through better diagnostics, evaluation of existing treatments, or development of new treatments. The Lead Applicant needs to be a BCIG member – further details are available on the [BCIG website](#).

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WORLD NEWS - UK - William Ogden BEM



(The three ages of William Ogden!)

My name is William Ogden, I currently work at a University as an Academic Affairs Adviser. During the pandemic, I have spent many hours listening, speaking, and advising anxious students online as they speak about the impact of COVID-19, as we slowly navigate ourselves through a new era of lockdowns into a post pandemic society.

I received the news on the 2nd June that I have been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for my 'hands-on' service that has made a significant difference to the lives of people in the local community.

As someone who is profoundly deaf and partially blind, a person who has always, using personal experience, wanted to make a positive difference through my professional work

and volunteering, I am lost for words. To be recognised and honoured by Her Majesty, The Queen, for my services to the Education and Accessibility sector, during her 70 years reign is just staggering.

I had the opportunity to work at The Ear Foundation as my first volunteering experience and this ignited my desire to continue volunteering for other similar charities. I am sad to hear that the charity it is no longer operating, not least because of the support the charity provided myself and my family when I received my cochlear implant 26 years ago. I continue to volunteer, cooperating with and advising a variety of different organisations, recommending positive working practices to be reflected and put in place to embrace the diverse and inclusive world we live in today. It is always deeply gratifying to receive updates from organisations thanking me for my input as they implement the new approaches.

I've also been very fortunate to have unexpected work opportunities arise, such as writing articles sharing my (good and bad!) experiences, for many media outlets, from The Sunday Times, BBC Education, Microsoft (X-Box), The Guardian, Channel 4 and Time Out to name but a few.

Typically, I wouldn't usually share this news; as some people that know me well might say, I am too modest to speak up about my achievements, but I am learning to take more pride in the work that I have done. Nevertheless, unbeknownst to me, my name was put forward to be considered to receive this award and here I am!

I would like to dedicate this award to my Mum, Judith; my Dad, Philip; and my sister, Harriet. They have supported me every step of the way since I was born, and my family have always fought my battles besides me to ensure I am given equal access everywhere I go and they have always encouraged me to follow my passion, and my dreams. Having such pride in my disabilities, feeling such huge passion for the arts, achieving two degrees and a third degree underway – their support and my drive to succeed has certainly paid off! I have been inspired to take on the role of an advocator; to take our family's desire to ensure that everyone else has equal access and that everyone can embrace their own barriers. I stand with people of all disabilities, abilities, and differences; together, we will fight for a fairer future for all.

Long may my journey to help others continue but there is still a lot more work to be done. I am looking forward to the opportunities this award will bring, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds.

Thank you,

William Ogden BEM

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[WORLD NEWS - UK - Auditory Verbal UK - Deaf Awareness Week - YouGov Survey](#)



As part of our work to challenge expectations of what deaf children can achieve in Deaf

Awareness Week (May 2nd to 9th) we commissioned a YouGov survey of the UK public. It revealed that more than a third (35%) of adults have no idea that a child born profoundly deaf can learn to speak as well as a hearing child. And more than a quarter (27%) believe a child born profoundly deaf cannot learn to speak as well as a hearing child. [Read more.](#)

The figures highlighted the lack of understanding and awareness of what deaf children can achieve and we are sharing this information as part of our [#HearUsNow](#) campaign with Parliamentarians and across the sector.

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[WORLD NEWS - UK - Auditory Verbal UK - Blog](#)



Photo: Sophie Williams

Sophie Williams, who is currently based at the Yorkshire Cochlear Implant Centre and is training in Auditory Verbal practice with AVUK, reflected on the survey results for her second blog following her training journey. [Read more here.](#)

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[WORLD NEWS - UK - Auditory Verbal UK - 'Perspectives on.....' series](#)



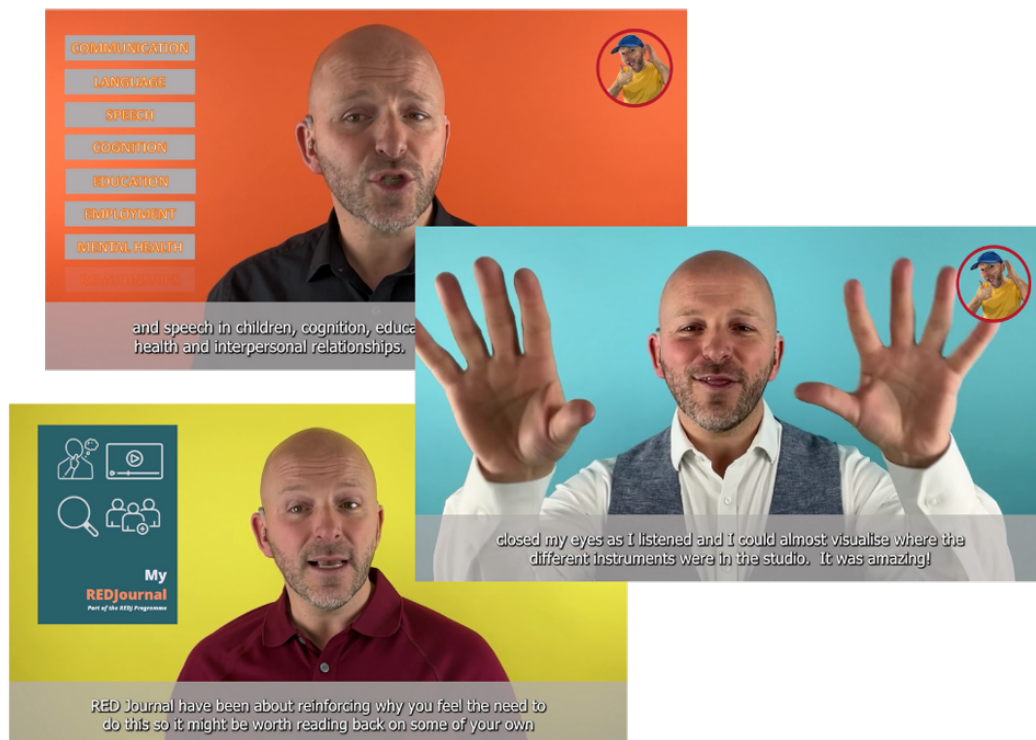
Photo: Hattie & Bea Cadman

Our 'Perspectives on.....' video series has continued with sisters [Hattie and Bea Cadman](#) talking about Bea's hearing journey and time at AVUK as well as what hearing means to them and their favourite sounds.

[Mia and her Mum Rayan](#) also talked about what a difference to their lives the wearing of cochlear implants has made and why for Rayan her favourite sound is listening to her daughter.

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[WORLD NEWS - UK - Cochlear Implant provision should include psychological support](#)



As we continue our work to increase cochlear implant provision, we need to talk. The very definition of provision is 'the action of providing or supplying something for use'. But is this enough?

I have met countless individuals across the world whose cochlear implants haven't been programmed optimally, who have experienced a range of issues, who can't get appointments with their Centres. And this is before we've even considered the accumulated anxiety from many years of hearing loss prior to implantation.

Earlier this year, I spent months brainstorming a new concept to support adults and families psychologically. The Cochlear Implant Coach is a brand-neutral concept that puts people first. There is no focus on product. As part of my work, I invite people to REFLECT on their hearing loss, to EXPLORE how this is impacting them and DISCOVER things about themselves they never even knew.

I would be very interested in sharing this concept with other EURO-CIU Members so more adults and families can not only be provided for, but holistically supported.

Link: www.TheCochlearImplantCoach.com/redj

Stuart McNaughton, The Cochlear Implant Coach

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[WORLD NEWS - UKRAINE - Lehnhardt Foundation providing humanitarian help to Ukraine](#)



By June last year we submitted our third “Clinic Partnership” project with the German Association for International Cooperation. “Introduction of newborn hearing screening in 4 clinics and professional counselling of parents via Hotline” is the objective. Our partner is the Hearing Rehabilitation Centre AURORA (a medical, diagnostic and rehabilitation centre in Kyiv). We got the grant, and we held our launch meeting on February 4th this year Online with all team members from our side (Adrian Davis, Peter Zoth, Liubov Wolowik) and AURORA (Yuri Sokolov and Olena Sokolova from Canada, Anastasia Shusharina, Anastasia Tkachenko, Olena Golub, Olena Serbin, Oleksandr Radchenko and Vladimir Minaev from Kyiv). On that day we could not (hardly anyone could) guess that on February 24th the world would fundamentally change.

Shortly after this shaking event, a representative of GIZ contacted us and offered to quintuple the budget to €250,000 for us to purchase medical products and hospital supply for clinics in the Ukraine. Needless to say, we promptly agreed, not foreseeing the challenges we should face.

The first positive step was to share this wonderful news with our partners in AURORA, asking them to send us lists of medical products and hospital supply badly needed by our partner clinics in the region of Kyiv. It took only a couple of days, and we faced our first challenge by having to fill in rather complicated online spreadsheets requested by GIZ. Peter Zoth (co-founder of the foundation, Place, and member of our board) took on this responsibility. Soon it became clear that we needed a pharmacist to help us identify the correct active substances, brands, manufacturers and available sizes. Prof. Tino Just (head of the ENT department of KMG Clinic in Güstrow and member of our board) spontaneously suggested the pharmacy at his clinic and we started to work with Ulrike Wiechmann and her team. The other unexpected surprise was the fact that many of the requested medical products and hospital supply was not available at all, not in sufficient quantities or even was subject to an export ban. We quickly understood that we needed to contact additional pharmacies not only in Germany but also in Austria and possibly other countries. Michael Maiwald, owner of the Rosen Apotheke in St. Pölten, Austria is currently supporting our efforts very effectively. GIZ thankfully agreed that we could purchase products outside Germany.

The next challenge was to find partners for transporting the deliveries from the country where we bought to the border of Ukraine and further to the city of destination. Not an easy task but we found various solutions for various shipments. Some were even free of charge; some were rather expensive. With the demand increasing and the risk driving through the Ukraine getting higher prices went up to the point where we refused to pay.

But then we were extremely lucky: a well-known German transport company agreed to ship for free to the Ukrainian border and we became acquainted with a network of Ukrainian / Dutch / French foundations. Their volunteers provide logistical support without charging for it.

Two big shipments have already arrived safely at the place of destination; another is on its way.

We are very satisfied to contribute to the significant support of the German Government for the Ukraine.

At the same time, we sincerely hope that we can start the core activities required for the original objective of our project – donate necessary equipment for neonatal hearing screening and carry out intensive training sessions for the local personnel online and also on site in the beautiful country of Ukraine.

Dr. Monika Lehnhardt-Gorany

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AMERICAN COCHLEAR IMPLANT ALLIANCE

Research. Advocacy. Awareness.

CI2022 DC Wrap Up

CI2022 DC took place last month in Washington, DC with over 1,200 people participating in-person and virtually. It was wonderful to be together in-person sharing new research, exploring the exhibit hall and meeting colleagues. CI2022 content and CEUs are available online until June 21, 2022. <https://www.acialliance.org/page/CI2022>

The Opening Session of CI2022 DC included:

- honouring Dr. Terry Zwolan with the Lifetime Achievement Award
- hearing The Incredible Hulk Lou Ferrigno talk with ACI Alliance Executive Director Donna Sorkin about his life-changing cochlear implant
- celebrating with our ACI Alliance Board of Director Chair Dr. Oliver Adunka and Conference Program Committee Co-Chairs Drs. Matt Bush and Lisa Park
- listening to Dr. René Gifford deliver an inspiring lecture on the evolution of CI care over the past 25 years in honour of the late Dr. John Niparko

Stay tuned for the conference highlights to be shared this summer on our website.

Resources to Share

Would you like to have ACI Alliance resources for your patients, families, and others? Visit our website for printable PDF resources including informational cards, position papers, clinical guidance, our “Tips” series, and more. We are happy to order and ship materials to your clinic, hospital, or organization. <https://www.acialliance.org/page/resourcestoshare>

CI2023 - Save the Date

Plan ahead to save the date and join us next year for our conference in Dallas, TX from June 7-10, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency Dallas. Call for Papers for CI2023 will open in August. Plan now to submit. <https://www.acialliance.org/page/CI2023>

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[RELATED CONGRESS - Plan to Attend the AG Bell Global Listening and Spoken Language Virtual Symposium!](#)



The 2022 AG Bell Global Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) Virtual Symposium will focus on Excelling in a Transformed World. This year's virtual Symposium will take place June 29-30, 2022. The goal of the Symposium is to give attendees a diverse perspective on how listening and spoken language is being developed and pursued internationally. This year's programme features many presenters from around the world, including keynote speakers Amy Lederberg, Ph.D., Esteban Gómez, Ph.D., MSc., Susan Emmett, MD, MPH, and Dathan Rush, Ed.D., CCC-SLP.

The Symposium will be fully online, and integrate English and Spanish with oral translation and written captions. Communication access through other languages (via captioning) may be available upon request.

A key feature of AG Bell's virtual Symposium is that for one registration fee, attendees will gain access to both the live version and on-demand sessions. You may choose to join the live Symposium June 29-30 and interact with colleagues, or view later when your time allows. This year's on-demand sessions will be available July 20-August 31, 2022. Whether you want to attend the live Symposium, the on-demand Symposium sessions, or a combination of both, one registration is all that is needed.

Continuing education credit from the AG Bell Academy, ASHA, and AAA as well as certificates of learning are also available for both the live Symposium and on-demand content. AG Bell invites people from around the world to come and learn best practices around listening and spoken language regardless of where they live. Additional information about the programme and schedule are available at www.agbellsymposium.com.

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WORLD WITHOUT BARRIERS



Photos: Dr Ruth Warick & Dr Adam Kosa

We are glad to announce the new dates for the **International Federation of Hard of Hearing People's 11th World Congress** which was originally scheduled for the 27-29 of May 2020, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new dates for the Congress will be the 22-24 of September, 2022.

The Congress will take place in the historical city of Budapest which offers charm and interesting tourist sites. The new venue is the Ensana Thermal Hotel Margaret Island, Budapest, a contemporary facility in a lush natural setting.

We invite you to join us for Congress 2022. It will be a welcome opportunity to interact with friends and colleagues, focusing on issues of importance to improving the lives of hard of hearing persons. These issues include technological, medical, personal and social challenges as well as ways of addressing them and influencing public policy to advance the rights of hard of hearing people.

As part of the Congress, IFHOH's Biennial General Meeting will occur on the 10th of March along with the Annual General Meeting of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People. As well, the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People will hold its Annual General Meeting during the Congress.

The program will include social events and opportunities for connecting together with other hard of hearing persons, family members, professionals and corporate participants. This long-awaited for Congress is an opportunity not to be missed. We look forward to seeing you in Budapest from the 22-24 of September, 2022.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Ruth Warick
President, IFHOH (International Federation of Hard of Hearing People)

Dr. Adam Kosa
President, SINOSZ (Hungarian Association of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People)

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RELATED CONGRESS - ESPCI 2023



Only one year to go... until ESPCI 2023!

Photo: Dr. Marc van der Schroeffer, Prof. Dr. Emmanuel Mylanus (President of the Symposium), Dr. Ir. Jantien Vroegop and Dr. Ronald Pennings.

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we invite you to the 16th edition of the European Symposium on Paediatric Cochlear Implantation, 31 May – 3 June 2023, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The organization of ESPCI2023 is a joint venture of the Radboud university medical centre in Nijmegen and Erasmus MC Sophia Children's Hospital in Rotterdam. We are excited to put together a very interesting and innovative program. In addition, our aim is to become the greenest and most sustainable conference in hearing. We are looking forward to welcome you – in real-life again – in Rotterdam, the Netherlands!

Stay tuned with our newsletter and socials as we are soon introducing the first keynote speakers to you.

Click here to go to the website , or on one of the following links:

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ADVANCED BIONICS - The clear choice for hearing with both ears



Most cochlear implant wearers have only one implant despite having hearing loss in both ears. Hearing with both ears provides a better sense of where sounds are coming from, allows people to hear better in noisy situations, and makes hearing less tiring. [\(1\)](#), [\(2\)](#), [\(3\)](#)

Although Naída™ CI M and Sky CI™ M sound processors can work with any hearing aid, **combining it with the Phonak Link M takes your hearing to the next level.** This unique and dynamic duo is designed to maximize the benefit of hearing with both ears compared to any other solution on the market.

Dedicated to adults and children with no usable hearing in one ear and some in the other, the combination of a Marvel CI and a compatible Phonak hearing aid can help you or your child enjoy a more powerful connection to the world.

Find out more about our **Marvel CI Bimodal solution.**

[\(1\)](#) Koch DB, Soli SD, Downing M, and Osberger MJ. 2009. Simultaneous Bilateral Cochlear Implantation: Prospective Study in Adults. Cochlear Implants International (February 26), Cochlear Implants International, n/a. doi: 10.1002/cii.413

[\(2\)](#) Zeittler D, et al. 2008. Speech Perception Benefits of Sequential Bilateral Cochlear Implantation in Children and Adults: A Retrospective Analysis. Otology & Neurotology. 29 (3): 314-325.

[\(3\)](#) Dunn, C, et al. 2008. Comparison of Speech Recognition and Localization Performance in Bilateral and Unilateral Cochlear Implant Users Matched on Duration of Deafness at Age of Implantation. Ear and Hearing. 29 (3): 352-359.

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ADVANCED BIONICS - Hearing in Noise or Over Distance When Remote Wireless Microphones Deliver



Hearing aids and cochlear implants are life-changing solutions for people with hearing loss. But as many of those already using these devices know, there are frankly still situations where even these amazing technologies aren't enough to help them hear and understand speech.

When the noise in the room gets too loud, or when the speaker is far away on the other side of the auditorium, people struggle even with the state-of-the-art cochlear implant or hearing aids. On our blog, [CONNECTIONS](#), we spoke to **Cecilia Zugaib – Roger Marketing Manager** at **Sonova** – to learn more about why that is, and what we can do in those situations.

Make sure to visit our blog regularly. Explore it to find the powerful stories CI experts, CI recipients, or parents of children with CIs are sharing with us about their hearing journey and other helpful articles on hearing loss and cochlear implant technology.

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[COCHLEAR - App helps Shruti focus at university](#)



How ForwardFocus helped Shruti land her ideal job placement

Twenty-one-year-old cochlear implant recipient Shruti is studying for a Bachelor of Technology in metallurgical engineering and materials science. After graduation, her ambition is to change the lives of people with disabilities using the software technology she develops.

Having upgraded her sound processor to the CochlearTM Nucleus[®] 7 Sound Processor, Shruti is finding it easier to make friends and converse with her professors, teachers and peers. She says these aspects of life on campus “would have not been easy” with her previous device.

Shruti was keen to get a new Nucleus 7 Sound Processor for its many features, but most of all for the benefits of the Nucleus Smart App which, she says, is “easy to use all the time and everywhere.” Available as a free download from the App Store or Google Play, the Nucleus Smart App can be used to monitor and control your hearing experience with your Nucleus 7 or Kanso[®] 2 sound processor.

“With the Nucleus Smart App, you can just change the volume, change the programme easily using your mobile in one go,” says Shruti.

Another feature of the Nucleus Smart App that Shruti enjoys using is ForwardFocus[^], which reduces noise coming from behind so you can better hear the person talking in front of you. **(1), (2)** If you need additional support in noise, you can use ForwardFocus discreetly and conveniently via the app on your compatible smartphone* or Apple Watch.

“During the lectures, I switch to ForwardFocus ... because you just hear the professor rather than getting distracted through the students talking, whispering or gossiping around

me,” says Shruti. “Your mind is entirely focused on the professor, on your teacher.”

ForwardFocus is also helpful for Shruti in the campus cafeteria, where it enables her to hear the conversation with friends sitting opposite her.

“It makes my listening effort lesser because it just focuses on the people who are having a conversation with you,” she says.

Shruti also credits getting her first job placement to being able to use ForwardFocus in her interview, which took place in a noisy environment.

“Using ForwardFocus actually helped me lower my stress, because I was just focusing only on the interviewer without letting the disturbance to distract me during the interview process,” she says. “And that’s actually landed me in a multinational company!”

Watch the video: Hear Conversations in Front of You with ForwardFocus for Nucleus® 7

References

(1) Cochlear Limited. D1376556. CLTD 5709 Clinical Evaluation of Nucleus 7 Cochlear Implant System. 2018; Jan.

(2) Cochlear Limited. D1660797 CP1150 Sound Processor Interim Clinical Investigation Report. 2020; Jan.

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.

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** Cochlear Nucleus 7 and Kanzo 2 Sound Processors are compatible with Apple and Android devices. The Cochlear Nucleus Smart App is available on App Store and Google Play. For compatibility information visit www.cochlear.com/compatibility*

^ ForwardFocus is clinician-enabled within Custom Sound® Pro fitting software and user-controlled within the Nucleus Smart App.

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COCHLEAR - Remote Check is “the start of the story”



Photo: Kelvin Hawker

How Cochlear's Digital Health & Software team is working to improve your hearing health experience

Remote Check is a convenient service that allows you to have your routine checkup done via the Cochlear™ Nucleus® Smart App. That means you choose a time and place that suits you and you'll only need to visit the clinic if your clinician considers it necessary.

It's part of what Kelvin Hawker, Digital Health & Software Product Manager at Cochlear, calls 'Connected Care.'

"Connected Care is about providing flexibility and convenience in the way patients are supported by their clinics. Remote Check is an exciting breakthrough in that. Previously, it was necessary for Cochlear Implant recipients to attend their clinic for a routine review every year. I know from experience how stressful that can be; but, in the majority of cases, everything is stable and nothing changes. We wanted to find a better way to make sure clinics will still see the people who need to be seen in person but leave other people reassured and free to get on with life."

Remote Check allows a routine review to be completed from home through your mobile device. The service is widely available across the EMEA region for anyone who has a Nucleus® 7 or Kanso® 2 sound processor. You just need access to a compatible Apple or Android device and to have downloaded and paired your sound processors with the Nucleus Smart App.

About the Remote Check process

Remote Check needs to be activated by your clinician; this can be done remotely. The

clinic will send a Remote Check notification in the Smart App and you will have 14 days to complete it.

The activities in your Remote Check will be specifically selected for you by your clinician, for example:

- Take photos of your implant site(s)
- Questions about general health and your hearing/sound quality experience
- Audiogram
- Check understanding of speech in noise

"We've done our best to make Remote Check easy and intuitive," says Kelvin. "It's designed to help make life easier, after all!"

Although he is not able to disclose details, Kelvin is excited about how Cochlear's digital portfolio is growing. "Remote Check is the start of the story and the next stage of this technology is already in development. Cochlear is at the forefront of making digital technologies work to improve life for people with hearing loss."

Find out more

Once the Remote Check service is available in your country, it will be an option for all clinics to offer. Why not try it for your next routine hearing check?

Click here: [For more information about Remote Check.](#)

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.

ACE, Advance Off-Stylet, AOS, AutoNRT, Autosensitivity, Beam, Button, CareYourWay, Carina, Cochlear, 科利耳, コクレア, Cochlear SoftWear, Codacs, ConnectYourWay, Contour, Contour Advance, Custom Sound, ESPrit, Freedom, Hear now. And always, HearYourWay, Hugfit, Hybrid, Invisible Hearing, Kanso, MET, MicroDrive, MP3000, myCochlear, mySmartSound, NRT, Nucleus, Off-Stylet, Slimline, SmartSound, Softip, SPrint, True Wireless, the elliptical logo, WearYourWay and Whisper are either trademarks or registered trademarks of Cochlear Limited. Ardium, Baha, Baha SoftWear, BCDrive, DermaLock, EveryWear, Vistafix, and WindShield are either trademarks or registered trademarks of Cochlear Bone Anchored Solutions AB.

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[MED-EL – Hearpeers Initiative Goes Global](#)



The volunteer network of parents of children with implants and adult users themselves are on hand to offer support to people around the world; “together for a hearing future” as the slogan goes. The initiative, originally launched in the UK in 2015, can now count on volunteer mentors living in 15 countries.

Hearpeers is the place where you can connect with other people with hearing loss, share experiences on your very individual hearing journey, and learn more about hearing loss and hearing care solutions. Sounds interesting to you? Become a part of the international community and get free one-on-one support from MED-EL’s mentors directly or seek out information from the community in the forum. Whether you want to know when to wash your hair after surgery or which assistive devices to use, the international community of hearing implant users is there to help. Hearpeers is the platform to get all your questions answered.

“I believe I can inspire recipients and potential candidates to get the most out of their implants. I remember getting my first implant well, aged 13, and all the challenges, uncertainty, and practical difficulties that followed.”

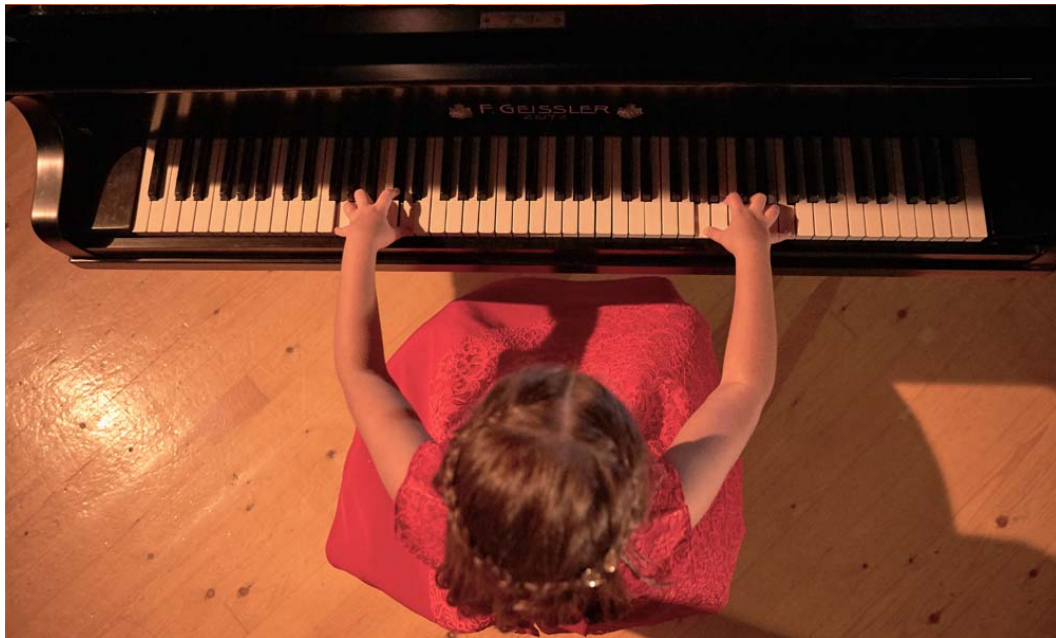
Ruth, CI user and mentor, UK

Check it out: <https://hearpeers.medel.com/en/>

Out for a shared hearing future.

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[MED-EL – Virtual Voices & Band – Call Out to Everyone](#)



Do you sing along to the radio at home? Have you just started to learn an instrument or maybe you haven't played in years? Don't worry, the Virtual Voices & Band is about bringing joy and uniting people around the world no matter what their musical talents are.

Have you heard about the Virtual Voices & Band project supported by MED-EL already? In the March 2022 edition we started promoting the event and now's the time to share more information with you.

Would you like to show the world that everyone can make and enjoy music? Then MED-EL wants you in its Virtual Voices & Band! This musical event will bring together hearing implant users from around the world – and not just them – for one huge virtual performance in October. It's open to everyone, and you can be a part of it...

An Ode to Joy!

Everyone who signs up will be invited to record a video of themselves singing or playing Beethoven's Ode to Joy. It's the perfect piece to show how music both brings joy and unites people around the world. And with loads of translations available, you can sing it in any language.

Every voice and instrument is welcome – no matter if you are a MED-EL recipient or if you use another hearing implant brand.

This is the link to sign up and take part: [Join Virtual Voices & Band \(medel.com\)](https://medel.com/virtual-voices-band)

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[MED-EL – Free Rehab at Home for Adults Video Series](#)



After the popular Adult Rehabilitation Kits MED-EL introduces its Rehab at Home for Adults video series, to help more adult cochlear implant recipients reach their full potential.

The new Rehab at Home for Adults [video series](#) follows the same format as our popular [Rehab at Home](#) pediatric collection which has received more than 85,000 views. In the above outtake you'll see John from Australia doing the Ling Six Sound Test. The Ling Six Sound Test covers the full spectrum of sound and is designed to tell us whether the person can hear the speech sounds that they need to build their listening and speaking skills.

“I wasn’t prepared for how much energy is consumed as your body and brain adapt, as the best results will come from wearing the processors as much as possible each day. I’ve also recently been working with Rebecca, a rehabilitation manager with MED-EL, and I was surprised to realize that my speech had been deteriorating over the years. The good news is that we are already seeing improvements since switch-on day. That’s another reason to take action on your hearing loss as soon as possible.” John, CI user, Australia

Access this video on YouTube: [Rehab at Home for Adults: What is the Ling Six Sound Test? | MED-EL - YouTube](#)

Subscribe to the MED-EL Professionals Blog to access the entire series: [Subscribe to Blog](#)

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